

**TOWN OF ARGOS  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2025**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Council President Erica Partin called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present for the meeting: Erica Partin, Ed Barcus, Charles R. Snead, Shawn Harley, Robert Byers, Attorney Derek Jones, and Clerk -Treasurer Lisa Mullaney.

**NOMINATION OF OFFICERS:**

Member Snead nominated Shawn Harley for President. No second was heard.

Member Byers nominated Ed Barcus for President. Member Partin seconded; motion carried 4 to 1 with Member Barcus abstaining.

Member Snead nominated Shawn Harley for Vice President. Member Byers seconded; Motion ended in a tie with Members Snead and Byers for the motion and President Barcus and Member Partin against. Member Harley abstained.

President Barcus then nominated Member Partin for Vice President. Member Byers seconded; motion carried with President Barcus, Member Harley and Byers approved the motion. Member Snead voted against the motion and Member Partin abstained.

Both candidates accepted their positions.

**MINUTES:**

Minutes from December 11, 2024, Regular Session. Member Byers moved to accept the minutes as written. Member Harley seconded; motion carried unanimously.

**CITIZEN INPUT –**

Managing Editor James Master from The Pilot News, submitted and read a letter about a Facebook post Councilman Byers did asking people to “politely boycott” Pilot News Group and its subsidiary companies. See attached letter. After Mr. Master was finished, President Barcus stated the matter should be referred to the Town’s Attorney Derek Jones and an Executive Session held. Member Harley motioned to refer the matter to Attorney Jones and schedule an Executive Session for a later date. Vice President Partin seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Rob Hurford stated a town employee is spreading lies about a conversation Mr. Hurford had with a current business owner who is involved in trying to start another business in Argos. Mr. Hurford stated that now he is being told this employee is trying to have him removed from the Argos BZA where he currently serves as President. Mr. Hurford denies saying that he would use his position as the President of the BZA to prevent a business that Mr. Faylor is a part of from coming to Argos.

President Barcus stated he was told by that same local business owner that the conversation did take place and that he was told that Mr. Hurford stated that the business would not be allowed if it went before the BZA. With that being said Mr. Hurford’s position on the BZA is up for reappointment later in this meeting. Reappointment is different from the Council choosing to remove him from his position.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Attorney Report:**

Attorney Jones has drafted a sidewalk ordinance that will go before the Plan Commission first then will be presented to the Council.

With no more business to present to the Council, Vice President Partin motioned to accept the attorney's report. Member Byers seconded; motioned carried unanimously.

**Other Old Business:**

None

**NEW Business:**

**2025 Meeting Schedule-**

After a short discussion Member Byers motioned to have the Council Meetings on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 7:00p.m. starting with the January 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting from January to October. The meetings November and December will be the first and third Wednesday's at 7 pm. A Public Workshop to be held at 6pm before each scheduled council meeting. Vice President Partin seconded; motion carried unanimously.

**Appointment of Utility Clerk-**

Vice President Partin motioned to appoint Clerk-Treasurer Lisa Mullaney to this position. Member Snead seconded; motion carried unanimously.

**Appointment of Development Director-**

Member Harley motioned to appoint Mark VanDerWeele as Development Director. Member Snead seconded; motion carried unanimously.

**Appointment of Fire Territory Board Member-**

Member Byers motioned to appoint President Barcus to the Fire Territory Board. Vice President Partin seconded; motion carried unanimously.

**Appointment to Marshall County Unsafe Board-**

Member Harley motioned to reappoint Ed Barcus to the Unsafe Board for Marshall County. Vice President Partin seconded; motion carried unanimously.

**Department Liaisons -**

President Barcus stated Member Harley will be liaison to the Plan and Development, Vice President Partin will be liaison to the Utility Dept., Member Snead will be liaison to the Park Board, Member Byers will be liaison to the Redevelopment Commission and Member Harley will serve as liaison to the Argos Police Commission. All Members accepted their appointments.

**Appointment of Various Board Members-**

Member Harley motioned to reappoint Rob Hurford to the Argos BZA, Val Harley to the Argos Park Board, Val Harley to the Argos Plan Commission, Erica Partin, Mark VanDerWeele, Scott Samuels and Paul Stearns to the Argos Redevelopment Commission. Member Snead seconded; motion carried unanimously.

**Other New Business-**

Member Harley requested to obtain quotes for a new IT company. The current company is short-staffed and IT support is slow. Clerk-Treasurer Mullaney and Development Director VanDerWeele are currently interviewing for IT support.

Vice President Partin informed the Council that she spoke with Jack Garman from the Marshall County Emergency Management about a full-scale train derailment training that will be taking place in the fall of this year. Mr. Garman will attend our February 12<sup>th</sup> Council meeting to explain what this will mean for us and our emergency services.

Member Byers thanked the Clerk’s office for their handling of the switching of trash services.

**Authorization of Payment of Budgeted Donations:**

Member Byers motioned to allow payment of all budgeted donations provided they submit a report on how the entities benefit the Town of Argos. Member Snead seconded; motion carried unanimously.

**CLAIMS**

The January 8, 2025, claims which totaled \$1,145,229.68 Vice President Partin moved to accept claims December 10, 2024, through January 6, 2025. Member Harley seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**Top 5 Claims:**

IMPA	\$231,992.75
Haskins Under Ground	\$217,198.50
Payroll #26	\$67,721.48
Town of Argos	\$59,702.00
Payroll #1	\$ 59,029.13

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no more business brought before the board Member Snead moved to adjourn the meeting and Member Byers seconded. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:45P.M.

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Ed Barcus, President

ATTEST:

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Lisa Mullaney, Clerk-Treasurer