Argos Town Council – Regular Meeting
Town of Argos
October 14, 2026
201 W. Walnut St.
Argos, IN 46501

The Town of Argos Town Council met in Regular Session on October 14, 2026. President Ed Barcus called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were President Ed Barcus, Vice President Shawn Harley, Members Charles R. Snead, Erica Partin, and Robert Byers, and Clerk-Treasurer Lisa Mullaney. Town Attorney Derek Jones was absent. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MINUTES

The minutes from the September 23, 2026, Regular Session were presented for approval.
Motion – Member Byers made a motion to approve the minutes as written.
Second – Member Partin
Decision – Motion carried unanimously.

CITIZEN INPUT

President Barcus acknowledged citizens wishing to speak about the proposed 54% increase in Town Council compensation included in Ordinance 2026-17, the 2027 Salary Ordinance. He requested that speakers limit their comments to less than five minutes.
The following citizens spoke in opposition: Mark Umbaugh, 216 S. Michigan Street; Val Harley, 308 N. Michigan Street; Marilyn Byers, 408 E. South Street; Bill Reese, 870 N. Michigan Street; and Paul Stearns, 410 Albert Street.
Written objections were submitted by George Null, 427 N. Railroad Street; Alyssa Overmyer, 416 W. South Street; John Bradley, 108 E. Williams Street; Kim Ault Fishburn, 291 Broadway Street; Ken Gardy, 420 N. Michigan Street; Joe Kenz, 112 Smith Street; Kathy Eley, 17135 S. Kenilworth Road; Dustin Shidler, 309 Railroad Street; Louis Boroff, 114 Logan Street; Russ Alderfer, 404 Dewey Street; and Martin Quimby, 400 N. Maple Street.
Member Byers reiterated his opposition to the proposed 54% Council salary increase. President Barcus stated that no budget discussions took place before the proposed increase was added to the ordinance. Vice President Harley stated that Council compensation had not increased in six years and that he believed the increase was justified. Member Snead stated that he does not serve on the Council for the money but believed the increase was justified. Member Partin stated that she believed a 2% increase would be sufficient and that a workshop should be held before passage of the ordinance; she was in favor of a raise.

President Barcus announced the matter would be discussed at a public workshop on Oct. 28, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

Attorney Report
Attorney Derek Jones was absent.

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Police Commission – One Opening for a Democrat or Libertarian
The Council received a letter from Gary Schue, a Democrat, expressing interest in serving on the Police Commission. Following discussion:
Motion – Member Snead made a motion to appoint Mr. Schue to the Argos Police Commission.
Second – Member Partin
Decision – Four members voted in favor; Vice President Harley abstained because he serves on the Police Commission. Motion carried.

Plan Commission – Two Openings
Two openings remain for Democrats or Libertarians.

Redevelopment Commission – One Opening
Jared Schnitz expressed interest in serving on the Redevelopment Commission. Following discussion:
Motion – Member Byers made a motion to appoint Mr. Schnitz to the Redevelopment Commission.
Second – Member Partin
Decision – Motion carried unanimously.

OTHER OLD BUSINESS
The Council asked whether the Plan Commission had met to sign the resolution concerning a ban on solar facilities, data centers, and carbon capture. The Council was informed that the Plan Commission did not have a quorum at its last meeting.
President Barcus relayed Superintendent Lindstrom's suggestion that the Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA) conduct an informational workshop regarding data centers. There are no plans for data centers in Argos. Council members expressed interest in attending an informational session, to be scheduled later.

NEW BUSINESS
Ordinance 2026-17 – 2027 Salary Ordinance (Second and Third Readings)
Motion – Member Partin made a motion to table Ordinance 2026-17 until after the October 28 workshop.
Second – Member Byers
Decision – Motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance 2026-19 – Speed Limits in Deerfield and Colonial Estates (Second and Third Readings)
Motion – Vice President Harley made a motion to approve Ordinance 2026-19 as written.
Second – Member Snead
Decision – Motion carried unanimously.

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OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Insurance Renewal

Clerk-Treasurer Mullaney reported that she met with the Town's insurance agent, who obtained several quotes. The current insurance carrier remained the least expensive option. Liability insurance increased approximately $6,500, while workers' compensation insurance decreased approximately $1,500, resulting in an overall annual increase of approximately 4.5%. Following discussion:

Motion – Member Byers made a motion to remain with the Town's current insurance carrier for 2027.
Second – Member Partin
Decision – Motion carried unanimously.

Trick-or-Treat Hours

The Council discussed trick-or-treat hours for October 31, 2026.

Motion – Member Byers made a motion to set trick-or-treat hours for October 31, 2026, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Second – Member Partin
Decision – Motion carried unanimously.

CLAIMS

Claims from September 24, 2026, through October 12, 2026, totaling $698,450.14 were presented for approval.

Motion – Member Byers made a motion to approve the claims as presented.
Second – Member Snead
Decision – Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion – Member Snead made a motion to adjourn at 8:17 p.m.
Second – Member Partin
Decision – Motion carried unanimously.

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Ed Barcus, Argos Town Council President

Attest:

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Lisa Mullaney, Clerk-Treasurer