

CITY OF ARNOLDSVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

November 18, 2021

Council Present: Mayor George Spearing IV Norma Craddock Tracy Massey
Danny Morcom Jack Norman Danny Sniff
(absent)

Media: N/A

Visitors: W. Gilson, Mayor of Maxeys, Jake Willcox

7:00 PM - Meeting called to order

Minutes

On a motion from Norma Craddock, seconded by Danny Morcom, the minutes for the October 21, 2021 regular meeting were approved as submitted. Vote 4-0

General Fund Financial Report

On a motion from Jack Norman seconded by Norma Craddock, the October General Fund Financial Report was approved as submitted. Vote 4-0

Water Department Report

Water Superintendent, George Spearing, III reported that all wells are doing okay. One new tap has been installed with four additional meters installed at Shadow Lake Subdivision. One bid has been received so far regarding a new filtration system. This particular bid would require the expansion of a wellhouse. Spearing III will continue to look for additional companies to submit bids hoping to get something achieved sooner rather than later. Norma Craddock stated that the water budget looks good at this time. Mayor Spearing stated that he would like for the council to consider purchasing a backhoe and trailer. This is partly due to the possibility of not being able to continue to rent the needed equipment from The City of Lexington in the future. Renting the necessary equipment from a company would cost the city a minimum of \$300/day plus insurance. After a discussion regarding the need for a new wellsite in the future, with Water Superintendent Spearing stating that the city is almost at capacity and land located on the water system is currently being sold. He estimated that it would take \$60,000 to \$70,000 to get a new well online and that more water will be needed in the future. It was also mentioned that available property should be assessed for a possible new wellsite.

Danny Morcom made a motion to proceed on looking for estimates on loader equipment and backhoe trailer with a second from Norma Craddock. Vote 4-0

City Attorney Love stated that looking into property should be handled in Executive Session.

Water Fund Financial Report

On a motion from Tracy Massey with a second from Norma Craddock, the October 2021 Water Fund Financial Report was approved as submitted. Vote 4-0

Fire Department

Heath Baker, Chief of the Arnoldsville Fire Department, reported that the Bar-B-Q was a great success with a sell out in 2-1/2 hours, making approximately \$2,500. He also reported that a recent firefighter of the Beaverdam Fire Dept. was burned at a house fire and \$500 was raised to assist him. Baker stated that the recent pump test was good with a pass. This was for insurance purposes.

The fire department will be installing video cameras at the fire department, hoping to prevent burglaries. Recent damage to the driveway has prompted this step.

A new firefighter recently joined the fire department who was already trained and they used equipment already available. The extrication training is also done.

Baker stated that the next fund raiser will be a chicken mull to be held in February of 2022.

Air packs for the fire dept. need to be tested and they are waiting on parts for the repairs on one that failed. Baker estimated that the cost of four packs would come to \$32,600.00. The fire dept. has managed to save \$21,000 - \$23,000 so far toward this purchase. Mayor Spearing asked if it would be better to submit the whole year's budgeted amount to assist with the purchase of the new packs instead of dividing the payments into two. After some discussion, a motion was made by Tracy Massey with a second from Danny Morcom to give the fire department the full budgeted amount for 2022 in January. Vote – 4-0

Code Enforcement

Code Enforcement Officer, Lynn Shedd, reported that the plats previously submitted by Ashley Noggle had been approved. Jake Willcox also submitted two additional plats for approval.

Old Business

●City Hall Marker

Nothing discussed due to the absence of Danny Sniff.

New Business

●TSPLOST

Mayor Spearing gave a report from a meeting recently held with Oglethorpe County Commissioner, Jay Paul, Josh Hawkins and other mayors from the county. A timeline of August 2022 was discussed regarding the beginning of the TSPLOST road project. Mayor spearing reported that another meeting is scheduled for November 29 for more discussion. At that time, Mayor Spearing will talk with Jay Paul regarding the possibility of having the gravel on Pine Grove Rd. refreshed by the county.

●Firefly Trail Presentation (Tracy Massey)

Council Member, Tracy Massey, gave a presentation on the positive outcomes as a result of Arnoldsville being proactive in reference to the ongoing Firefly Trail. Mayor Gilson of Maxeys was also present at the request of Massey to say that the trail had been an asset to Maxeys and that it was a positive thing. Mayor Spearing pointed out that there are specific differences in Maxeys and Arnoldsville regarding the placement of the trail. In Maxes, the trail is between two streets whereas in Arnoldsville, the proposed site for the trail is directly in the front yards of residents. Tracy Massey also stated that she felt it would be better to be proactive by presenting an alternative plan to the NEGRDC as they had presented a letter formatted to ask for this plan which would have to come from the mayor. Mayor Spearing stated that it was his understanding that there will be a charge connected with this request based on the extent of the design etc.

As an observer, Jake Willcox stated that the city should not trust the Firefly Trail people and that he felt the city should try to control their destiny as much as possible. With more discussion, city Attorney Love stated that the city cannot legally stop the Firefly Trail and that the State of Georgia has the power to do eminent domain. He said the city may be able to “shape” the outcome and that the city should deal with NEGRDC toward this goal.

8:42 PM – On a motion made by Norma Craddock with a second from Danny Morcom, the council voted to adjourn the regular meeting to go into a brief Executive Session to discuss possible Litigation. Vote 4-0

EXECUTIVE SESSION

9:23 PM – On a motion from Tracy Massey with a second from Danny Morcom, the council voted to go back into the regular meeting. Vote 4-0

9:24 PM – Council resumed the regular meeting. Tracy Massey stated that she would be attending the mandated training for new council members, February 23 – 25.

City Attorney Love reminded the council that the annual insurance would be coming up for renewal in February. Hopefully he will have some information for the council to vote on at the January meeting.

On a motion from Danny Morcom with a second from Tracy Massey, the council voted to cancel the regularly scheduled December meeting due to the holidays. If something should come up that needs their attention, a Called Meeting will be held. Vote 4-0

9:30 PM – Meeting was adjourned on a motion from Norma Craddock with a second from Danny Morcom.

 _____ 1-20-22
George L. Spearing, IV Mayor Date

Minutes prepared and submitted by Debbie Love, City Clerk, January 20, 2022.