

## COUNCIL MINUTES

July 21, 2025

The Archbold Village Council met in regular session on Monday, July 21, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers with the following members present: Gary Dominique, Vaughn Bentz, Kevin Eicher, and Aaron Babcock. Karla Ball was present remotely by phone. Chad Kern was absent. Mayor Brad Grime opened the meeting with a moment of silence and presided thereat.

There being no corrections to the minutes of the July 7, 2025 Council meeting, Aaron Babcock moved to approve, seconded by Kevin Eicher.

Roll: Yeas: Eicher, Babcock, Ball

Abstain: Dominique, Bentz

Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Following a review of the list of bills and payroll totaling \$683,645.46, Vaughn Bentz moved to approve, seconded by Gary Dominique.

Roll: Yeas: Dominique, Bentz, Eicher, Babcock, Ball

Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Wastewater Superintendent Mike Short introduced Colton Soles to Council. Soles just passed the Class III Wastewater License. Council congratulated and thanked him for his dedication and hard work.

Mayor Grime then presented the following items of legislation:

**RESOLUTION 2025-33: ACCEPTING CHANGE ORDER #1, FINAL, FOR W. BARRE ROAD WATERLINE & SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, CONTRACT 2-2024 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Aaron Babcock moved to suspend the rule that requires a resolution of general nature to be read on three separate days. Kevin Eicher seconded the motion.

Roll: Yeas: Ball, Dominique, Bentz, Eicher, Babcock

Nays: None. Motion carried.

Gary Dominique moved to pass Resolution 2025-33, seconded by Vaughn Bentz.

Roll: Yeas: Bentz, Eicher, Babcock, Ball, Dominique

Nays: None. **Resolution 2025-33 passed.**

**RESOLUTION 2025-34: ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL FROM OHIO PLAN RISK MANAGEMENT, INC., TO PROVIDE PROPERTY & LIABILITY INSURANCE AND AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR TO CONTRACT THEREFORE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

After brief discussion, Kevin Eicher moved to suspend the rule that requires a resolution of general nature to be read on three separate days. Gary Dominique seconded the motion.

Roll: Yeas: Babcock, Ball, Dominique, Bentz, Eicher

Nays: None. Motion carried.

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Gary Dominique moved to pass Resolution 2025-34, seconded by Aaron Babcock.

Roll: Yeas: Bentz, Eicher, Babcock, Ball, Dominique

Nays: None. **Resolution 2025-34 passed.**

Council reviewed and discussed the following reports:

- June 2025 Police Report

There were no committee or board minutes or items of correspondence to review.

Mayor & Council comments included Mayor Grime noting how busy the new pickleball courts have been. Compliments for the excellent work on the project and park improvements were shared by all Council.

Councilman Kevin Eicher asked to continue the discussion of housing and rental properties owned by the village. Village Administrator Aaron Alt would prefer the village not be a landlord. He also stated that demolishing the properties would not be a wise use of resources either. Council was then asked for input and recommendations, especially thinking towards 2026 budgeting. Councilman Vaughn Bentz favored the idea of removing the garage as it would improve visibility at the intersection while keeping options open for future improvements to said intersection. Improving the alleyway to allow access for the houses was also a favorable suggestion. Councilman Aaron Babcock would like to give the current tenants first choice of purchasing the houses from the village once the visibility issues are resolved. The final consensus of Council was to explore the reasonability of removing the garage, putting the properties up for sale, and improving the alley for residents of those houses.

Councilman Eicher then brought up the broader discussion of property taxes happening in Ohio. Archbold property taxes contribute to the village's general fund and out of that Police & EMS are subsidized. Archbold is currently very fortunate to have as much coverage by police & EMS compared to surrounding communities. Without property taxes, the funds will have to come from another tax source or our police & EMS will most likely be halved. Income taxes could be raised from the current 1.8% to 2.1-2.25% or residents would have to vote for a change in the verbiage of how the 1.8% can be allocated. Auditors outside of the village also have very strict regulations for how the village can disperse funding which would have to be navigated as well. Rest assured, the Mayor, Village Administrator, and Council all take seriously the responsibility to ensure the proper care and safety of the village in a wise and prudent way. Further discussions will occur as more information and regulations come in from the state.

There being no further business to discuss, Kevin Eicher moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Aaron Babcock. All agreed; meeting adjourned.

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Council President

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Mayor

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Clerk