

COUNCIL MINUTES

February 2, 2026

The Archbold Village Council met in regular session on Monday, February 2nd, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers with the following members present: Gary Dominique, Mike Evans, Kevin Eicher, Aaron Babcock, Chad Kern, and Karla Ball. Mayor Brad Grime opened the meeting with a moment of silent prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and presided thereat.

There being no corrections to the minutes of the January 19, 2025 Special Council Meeting, Aaron Babcock moved to approve, seconded by Kevin Eicher.

Roll: Yeas: Kern, Ball, Dominique, Evans, Eicher, Babcock

Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

There being no corrections to the minutes of the January 19, 2025 regular Council meeting, Mike Evans moved to approve, seconded by Karla Ball.

Roll: Yeas: Eicher, Babcock, Kern, Ball, Dominique, Evans

Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Following a review of the list of bills and payroll totaling \$412,564.55, Chad Kern moved to approve, seconded by Karla Ball.

Roll: Yeas: Ball, Dominique, Evans, Eicher, Babcock, Kern

Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: German Township Trustees Jay Pursel and Brad Short along with Cory Rufenacht of Rufenacht Farms shared with Council the information and concerns they had regarding the rumors of a data center coming to the area. Trustees were contacted roughly three weeks ago with questions about a developer possibly seeking to buy farmland or obtain contracts for said land. Last week, Trustees were then contacted by the developer asking to meet and sign NDAs for more information. All three Trustees declined the offer and agree about being transparent with the people they represent.

Councilman Eicher asked if the Township would need to pass any legislation to address potential future development. As things stand, any proposed building would require rezoning to industrial. The Trustees went on record as having no interest in doing so. It was then shared that Fulton County is in the process of revising zoning for unzoned townships. If German Township needs to adopt similar language in the future, they could. The Township is also seeking legal counsel to make sure that they are within their rights to protect the people they represent and serve.

Archbold is also reviewing its zoning codes and ordinances to make sure that things are clear, up to date, and set up in a way that benefits both the present and future needs of the community. It was noted that it would be a challenge on the Village's capacity to support any new development with higher sewer needs between the current usage of ConAgra, current residential use, and the confirmed new subdivision. Village Administrator Aaron Alt said that while the Village desires more residential development, job creation, and economic growth, any new development needs to be done right and with the betterment of the community in mind. Council and Village Administration did not have any more or new information to add to the conversation. Nothing has come across the official

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channels through the Village. No official opinion or action can therefore be taken without more information. Research and more conversations will continue as the situation develops.

Council and Village administration thanked the Trustees and Rufenacht for bringing this to their attention and sharing their concerns. They hope to continue the conversation as more information is gathered, not only with German Township and Archbold, but in the other surrounding communities as well. Public participation, questions, and opinions are welcomed and encouraged, especially regarding this situation.

Mayor Grime then presented the following items of legislation:

RESOLUTION 2026-09: TRANSFERRING FUNDS FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE PARAMEDIC FUND, POLICE FUND AND THE CEMETERY FUND AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

After a brief explanation by Village Administrator Aaron Alt, 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, Kern, Ball, Dominique, Evans, Eicher

Nays: None. Motion carried.

Karla Ball moved to pass Resolution 2026-09, seconded by Gary Dominique.

Roll: Yeas: Dominique, Evans, Eicher, Babcock, Kern, Ball

Nays: None. **Resolution 2026-09 passed.**

Council then reviewed and discussed the following Committee, Board & Department Reports:

- January 2025 Income Tax Report

There were no items of correspondence to review.

There were no Council Comments to record.

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

Council President

Mayor

Clerk