

COUNCIL MINUTES

April 6, 2026

The Archbold Village Council met in regular session on Monday, April 6th, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers with the following members present: Gary Dominique, Mike Evans, Kevin Eicher, Aaron Babcock, and Chad Kern. Karla Ball was absent. Mayor Brad Grime opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silent prayer and presided thereat.

There being no corrections to the minutes of the March 16, 2026 Council meeting, Kevin Eicher moved to approve, seconded by Aaron Babcock.

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

Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Following a review of the list of bills and payroll totaling \$366,090.02, Mike Evans moved to approve, seconded by Chad Kern.

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

Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Mayor Grime then presented the following items of legislation:

RESOLUTION 2026-13: *PUBLIC HEARING: A RESOLUTION APPROVING THREE PARCELS FOR RENEWAL OF FARMLAND IN THE AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT DESIGNATION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY*

With the Public Hearing Requirement met, 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, Dominique, Evans, Eicher

Nays: None. Motion carried.

Gary Dominique moved to pass Resolution 2026-13, seconded by Mike Evans.

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

Nays: None. **Resolution 2026-13 passed.**

RESOLUTION 2026-14: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE ENGINEER TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR H2OHIO FUNDING FOR WETLAND CONSTRUCTION GRANT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

After a brief explanation by Village Administrator Aaron Alt, Aaron Babcock moved to suspend the rule that requires a resolution of general nature to be read on three separate days. Chad Kern seconded the motion.

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

Nays: None. Motion carried.

Mike Evans moved to pass Resolution 2026-14, seconded by Gary Dominique.

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

Nays: None. **Resolution 2026-14 passed.**

COUNCIL MINUTES

April 6, 2026

Page 2.

RESOLUTION 2026-15: AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE ODOT ROAD SALT CONTRACT AWARDED IN 2026 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Superintendent of Streets Jason Martz was present to explain. Kevin Eicher then moved to suspend the rule that requires a resolution of general nature to be read on three separate days. Aaron Babcock seconded the motion.

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

Nays: None. Motion carried.

Aaron Babcock moved to pass Resolution 2026-15, seconded by Mike Evans.

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

Nays: None. **Resolution 2026-15 passed.**

RESOLUTION 2026-16: RESOLUTION IMPOSING A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON DATA CENTERS, ADVANCED MANUFACTURING, AND TECHNOLOGY STORAGE FACILITIES, INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT AND ANNEXATION APPLICATIONS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Village Administrator Aaron Alt explained this resolution was being presented in hopes of granting the public rest and confidence while also giving Council time to conduct the needed safety studies to decide the next steps moving forward with Zoning.

Councilman Mike Evans shared his concerns with a moratorium opening the Village up to litigation. With the advice from the Village attorneys and Farm Bureau stating that tabling the discussion was enough, he questioned the need for more.

Councilman Chad Kern shared his research that no moratorium has been sued or overturned if there were no existing permits or files. The only cases where he found legal action were when something was already put in motion and then a moratorium was put in place. He asked if they had the option to change the timeline of the moratorium. Alt responded that Council could extend or rescind the moratorium as they saw fit, unlike a zoning amendment which has many more official steps needed for change.

Councilman Aaron Babcock asked if any land had actually changed hands. There is one parcel that has been sold.

Councilman Gary Dominique expressed his concern for keeping the momentum going on strengthening the zoning should the moratorium be passed. Alt responded that his hopes for this resolution was just that, to give them margin to shift from damage control to proactive and focused plans.

Councilman Kevin Eicher asked Planning & Zoning Inspector Grant Schaffner if 6 months would give the Village enough time. Schaffner said that it will be if the focused discussions happen. Council needs to discuss if they want a soft ban with a conditional use or a complete prohibition, who will review it, and which attorneys to involve in order to move forward.

Councilman Evans asked if there was anything back from the consulting firm on the zoning review. Alt responded that yes, they have received updates and are giving time for legal to review. The Township has justifiable defense for not rezoning is farmland preservation and have put data centers in their four M2 parcels which shouldn't be enough for the large-scale centers people are fearing. The Village, however, has many M2 parcels. A

COUNCIL MINUTES

April 6, 2026

Page 3.

conditional use could be an option for data centers within the defense mechanism of the comprehensive plan. It really depends on the desire of Council in creating how restrictive the zoning framework will be.

Councilman Babcock shared with the public that these meetings are the only opportunity for Council to discuss issues. Outside of public meetings, the number of Councilmembers allowed to talk about official Village business is limited.

Chad Kern 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: Dominique, Evans, Eicher, Babcock, Kern

Nays: None. Motion carried.

Chad Kern moved to pass Resolution 2026-16, seconded by Gary Dominique.

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

Nays: None. **Resolution 2026-16 passed.**

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

- March 2026 Income Tax Report
- March 2026 Police Report
- March 2026 Fire & EMS Report
- March 2026 Fleet Report

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Kevin Baez addressed Council, respectfully charging them to be bold and take the time to have the necessary discussions. He'd rather attend a meeting that lasted an extra hour so that Council can be thorough and confident in their votes than have a rushed decision or an executive session.

Sarah Cromly asked for clarification on whether Resolution 2026-16 was the moratorium or just a resolution to create one. Alt responded that the Resolution, now passed, has officially established the moratorium effective immediately.

A member of the public asked for clarification on the timeline of when Resolution 2026-16 would be enacted. Alt responded that if there is a majority present, Council may suspend the rules and pass by emergency, and if the legislation passes, then it goes into effect immediately. The three-reading process adds an additional 30 days, which essentially means it takes 2½ months between the first reading and enactment of a legislation. Resolution 2026-16 was passed by emergency, so it is officially enacted as of tonight.

Sarah Cromly thanked Council for passing the moratorium. She encouraged Council to do health and environmental impact studies. She also stressed the importance of having the reasons for passing the moratorium on record. She then shared four reasons for the that justify the moratorium. The first reason is House Bill 646, waiting to see whether or not it passes in the Senate and if so what the results from the task force reveal. The second reason is the petition approved by the Secretary of State in Ohio that seeks to make a state constitutional amendment to ban large and medium scale data centers. The third reason is the results of the report conducted by Richard Klein on behalf of the Citizens for Responsible Development with his opinions and research on the health and environmental

COUNCIL MINUTES

April 6, 2026

Page 4.

effects of data centers. The fourth reason is concerns about the active marketing of Northwest Ohio by RPG to be the data center capital of the world.

Mayor and Council comments included the Mayor Grime reassuring the public that they are actively working on this issue, though they do have to be careful to limiting the number of Councilmembers present in any nonofficial meetings or discussions.

Village Administrator Alt noted that since he has been Administrator, they have not entered into Executive Session. He stated that they are necessary from time to time, but they aren't needed on a regular basis.

Councilman Mike Evans asked to get a work session or something similar on the schedule to keep the momentum going and begin actual dialog on next steps. He also expressed his disappointment in the anonymous letters being circulated in such a Christian community.

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