

Regular Council Meeting Minutes
February 7, 2024

The regular meeting of the Arlington City Council was held on February 7, 2024 in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building and via telephone conference.

Presiding: Mayor Jeffery Bufton.

Council Present: Denise Ball, Marshall Swope, Matthew Irby, Jerry Hanan and Kayla Rayburn via teleconference.

Council Absent: Mark Davidson.

Staff Present: Recorder Kari Hayter, Attorney Ruben Cleaveland and PWS Shanna Gronquist.

Guests: Bobby Christensen, Wayde Johnson, Rita Maciak, Madilyn Hayter, Lt. Flory, Sgt. Redden and Julious Courtney.

Call to Order: Mayor Bufton called the regular meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance recited.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

Wayde Johnson stated I'm concerned the City did not have an Emergency Response plan for requirements for the recent loss of water pressure. Mayor Bufton stated we had testing and implemented that. Wayde Johnson asked who is the DRC. PWS Gronquist stated Delta. Wayde stated it says Darrel is the actual licensee and who the City is operating under. I talked with Amy Ward about this and gave Brad Daniel an e-mail as well, he is out of Salem. I'm curious if there's a plan. When I was at the site I became a DRC, there is a book with plans of what to do. PWS Gronquist stated I'm pretty sure we have a book. Mayor Bufton stated we contract with Delta and they cover a lot of that. This is an uncommon occurrence. I think the City's response was good and we seem to be back on track. Our system is over 20 years old; we have submitted our WSMP with the State of Oregon and it includes a lot of upgrades. **Bobby Christensen** stated the hillside, did anyone get fined last year for not mowing the grass. I thought that was in the memo that if you don't clean it up you get fined. I guess they got away scott free.

Lt. Flory stated we have split the City into different zones, each deputy is assigned a zone and responsible for those zones. Any deputy can respond to any complaint. The weeds, we address that by sending letters of violation and ask them to clear their area. Our goal is to get compliance not necessarily cite them. ODOT takes care of the area along the right of way and we are getting rid of the tender that is by the road. At some point you have to look at a hillside, how do you expect them to weed-eat the entire side. We focus on getting rid of the dangerous area. We felt it was abated to a responsible degree. I can look at City property and the danger zone is abated. The office issued several notices to other areas and fines. Mayor Bufton stated I made a complaint about my neighbor and nothing was done. Lt. Flory stated I'm not making excuses, but we are now fully staffed; it's been a hard road. Corporal Redden has been promoted to Sargent and he will be the direct supervisor for the Arlington area. He has earned the promotion we are glad we have him. Sgt. Redden stated we had to temporally move our office to the lower level of the Gronquist building.

Councilor Ball stated Julious asked for my assistance and it's centered around the grazing. We prepared a hand out, maybe you can read over it. Recorder Hayter stated Cori Mikkalo will be here next month to discuss prescribed

grazing funded by the CWRR grant. Julious stated just like what the officer spoke about, you've turned this over to him without a plan. How does the City assume the Sheriff can do this without guidance. Mayor Bufton stated this is quite new, we have been working on it. We worked on the weed abatement ordinance and it included "ABC's." This is all private property and now we have Cori Mikkalo on board and she's putting together a grazing plan. Recorder Hayter gave information about the CWRR Grant and it's funding. Julious gave grazing and fire management suggestions and fire awareness. Further discussion was had about weed abatement options.

2. CONSENT AGENDA - Consent agenda consisted of the following items:

- a. Approval of Minutes - Regular Meeting January 10, 2024
- b. Approval of bills as listed.

Councilor Irby motioned to approve the consent agenda and the bills as listed, motion seconded by Councilor Hanan. Motion passed unanimously. Councilor Rayburn abstained due to absence.

3. BRAD BAIRD, ANDERSON, PERRY & ASSOCIATES: Unable to attend

4. COUNCIL ACTION

- a. **2024/2025 Budget Calendar** Recorder Hayter stated this is the proposed Budget Calendar for this year. The highlighted dates require Council attendance. Mayor Bufton stated please put the dates on the calendar.
- b. **Krebs Grazing Lease** – Attorney Cleavland stated I adjusted the dates for the current season.

Councilor Ball motioned to approve the Krebs Grazing Lease; motion seconded by Councilor Swope. Motion passed unanimously.

5. COUNCILOR REPORTS

- Councilor Davidson – Absent.
- Councilor Rayburn – None.
- Councilor Hanan – Thanked Public Works for taking care of the streets during the last storm.
- Councilor Irby – None.
- Councilor Swope – None.
- Councilor Ball – I attended the County Court meeting today. There has been a lot of angst over the legality of order 2023-01 which the County Court passed 12/6/23. The order made us a non-judicial county form of government which is a board of commissioners. This was done without public comment. The item was new on December 6th and there was never an opportunity for public comment. There has been a group of people working to rectify the situation. Today the Frontier Justice PAC submitted a letter to the court detailing the error of their ways. The court can rectify the situation by removing the probate portion of the order. The jurisdiction remains with the county per state law and that is the issue. They can rectify the situation or the PAC can take them to court. Mayor Bufton stated how was the letter received? Councilor Ball stated it was a surprise to them and they did not speak during or after. Councilor Hanan stated will we have a judge on the commission. Councilor Ball stated once they rectify the order, they passed we will have probate which requires a judge which will be a six-year term. They still want to hire a county administrator. The judge is supposed to be the administrator and oversee the department heads. The county planner resigned today. We hope the court

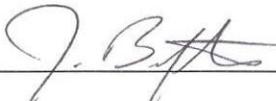
doesn't force a lawsuit over this. The Frontier Justice PAC will need to make with decision. The PAC feels very strongly the order is null and void on the probate portion, which restores a six-year judicial judge.

- PWS Gronquist – Dump truck is back and winter ready, golf course maintenance is done and we're working on other equipment. Sewer pipe on West 2nd is done. Purswell is coming for the transducers.
- Attorney Cleaveland – None.
- Recorder Hayter – Handed out a Frontier Regional Alert flyer and LT Flory gave an overview of the program, it is used for very high-level emergency notifications, kind of like an Amber alert, we don't want to over use the alert. This is really effective. If necessary, we can break into alerts. Recorder Hayter stated we can send this to residents like the weed abatement and encourage them to sign up.
- Mayor Bufton – Mayor Bufton stated Ruben, Mark and I met with the fire district to review the fire IGA. We're adjusting what we are paying them, it will be increased from 12k that was agreed to in 2011. We have agreed up to 80% as if they were in the City. Attorney Cleaveland stated they asked the City to pay as if their district and taxes were assed in that manner as if they were part of the district. It's still a better deal than if we were in our district. This will be on the March agenda.

Executive Session opened at 7:35p.m. pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(e): To conduct deliberations with persons designated by the Governing body to negotiate real property transactions.

Executive Session closed 8:00 p.m. Mayor Bufton stated no decisions made on real property.

Regular meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.



Jeffery Bufton, Mayor



Kari Hayter, City Recorder