

Regular Council Meeting

August 11, 2021

The regular meeting of the Arlington City Council was held on August 11, 2021 in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building and via telephone conference. Present were Councilors: Denise Ball, Robert Christensen, Marshall Swope, Kelly Margheim, Matthew Irby, Jerry Hanan, Mayor Jeffery Bufton, Attorney Ruben Cleaveland, and Assistant Recorder Taylor Grubaugh. Guests include: Brad Baird, Riley Bennett, Matthew Beard, Wes Garth, Mike Margheim, Ethan Smallfoot, Mary Salle, Jeff Sallee, Pat Shannon, Leah Shannon, Gary Wagner, Laci Olsen, Rita Miciak, Henry Thuener, Alice Courtney, Christopher Jackson, and Cris Patnode. Mayor Bufton called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance Recited

Attorney Cleaveland administered the Oath of Office to Jerry Hanan.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Leah Shannon was present and gave an update on the Revitalization Project and projects at the Port of Arlington. Leah stated the revitalization party at the park was a success. A suggestion box was open to the public for thoughts and suggestions; Leah passed out a compiled list of the suggestions to the Councilors. Leah stated a formal meeting will be held August 31st to get started on a project plan; a Chairman and Secretary will be appointed at this meeting. Leah stated this year's Historical Society dinner will be held in Arlington on October 21st; they would like to get back to a biyearly schedule between Arlington and Condon. The Port is still in contact with Painted Hills and the new restrooms are in place; they should be completed soon. The Port is meeting with County Court on August 18th and will be discussing the IGA agreement. Leah asked to be on September 8, 2021 Arlington City Council Agenda to report on Waste Management. Riley Bennet was present and reported the Action Committee meeting for the park handicap access went well; the meeting was held last week. The committee is still discussing location and materials to use for the access. Mayor Bufton stated Councilor Hanan has been appointed to Streets and Councilor Irby to Parks and Recreation.

COMMUNITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE UPDATE: Riley Bennett was present and reported the caboose painting has been finished; the Chamber is working with Alan Cunningham to get decals with the Arlington Chambers logo. Riley went over his plans for the inside of the caboose; the grand opening is expected to be last Friday of August. The car show was a success and the Chamber is still under budget. Riley also reported there is still not a flag over the veteran's memorial; attempts have been made by the City to replace the flag.

BRAD BAIRD ANDERSON PERRY & ASSOCIATES: Brad Baird was present and reported on Economic Development Administration funding; there are 6 programs under the EDA. Brad stated he spoke to Ryan from IFA (Infrastructure Finance Authority) and believes the City qualifies for a few of them as far as water, sewer, and park improvements. The application deadline starts in November and ends in March; Brad stated it seems to be a simple application. Brad will report back to the City once he hears more from Ryan. Brad stated he looked into some information regarding the State Parks Grant for Marta Mikkalo. Applications can be submitted starting in March or April for projects such as restroom improvements, new restrooms, walking paths and kiosks. Brad also discussed the Woolery Easement; Brad passed out copies of easement agreement to the Council. Mayor Bufton amended the agenda to accept a motion for the Woolery Access and Utility Easement. Councilor Christensen motioned to accept the access and utility easement for the Woolery. Motion passed unanimously after a second by Councilor Ball.

CONSENT AGENDA: Consent agenda consisted of the following items: a. Approval of minutes- July 7, 2021. b. Approval of bills as listed. Councilor Ball motioned to approve the consent agenda and the bills as listed. Motion passed unanimously after a second by Councilor Christensen.

COUNCILOR ACTIONS APPROVE OR DENY: a. Engineering Services- Waste Water Facilities Plan/ Pump Station. Attorney Cleaveland found no issue with the agreements. Councilor Ball motioned to approve the engineering services agreement with Anderson Perry for the waste water facilities plan and the pump station. Motion passed unanimously after a second by Councilor Hanan. Mayor Bufton signed both documents.

SANDY BUNYARD- REMAX FOR ARLINGTON MOTEL: Sandy Bunyard appeared over the phone. The Council was in agreement to proceed with the understanding of a 35 day response time. Sandy stated she will speak to the heirs of the property and would be happy to draw up sales agreement. Attorney Cleaveland stated he will review the forms.

REVIEW OF IGA WITH NORTH GILLIAM COUNTY FIRE SERVICES: Laci Olsen was present and had a handout for the Council; addressing some concerns from the last meeting. Councilor Christensen stated he would like to see this move forward and does not see a risk for the City. Attorney Cleaveland went over his concerns working with other entities for the City's fire services coordination and the problems that may arise doing so; along with the budget. Laci assured the council that correct insurance is being used and went over the details of last year's budget including the carryover due to covid. Denise Ball stated she is in favor of the IGA. The consensus of the council is to move forward and adopt the ordinance to approve the IGA in the next meeting.

COUNCILORS REPORT:

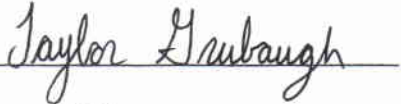
- Councilor Hanan no report to give.
- Councilor Irby stated he and a few citizens went to the Park and went over some improvements that could be made with plans to speak with Superintendent Rosenbalm. Councilor Irby stated he is interested in looking into grant programs for lighting at the park and he will speak with Marta Mikkalo regarding the restrooms.
- Councilor Margheim stated due to resent activities that have come up in the last month and with a heavy heart she is unable to serve on the Council; she has resigning as of tonight.
- Councilor Swope had no report to give
- Councilor Christensen asked Laci Olsen to assist on the Fire report. Laci stated there were 12 calls in July; mainly grass fire and there are still 8 very dedicated volunteers on the Fire Department. There has been training up until this week due to the recent covid cases in town.
- Councilor Ball stated she was talked to about how dim the streetlights are in the down town area; questioned if upgrading to LED lights needs to be addressed with Pacific Power or if the City can do upgrades ourselves. Councilor Ball also stated she had heard a rumor regarding a private party's interest in managing the golf course. Mayor Bufton stated there has been question put forth if the City had an interest leasing the out the Golf Course; explaining based on the loan and the way its set up, rural development does not allow us to lease out that facility to a private entity for a profit. Councilor Ball stated that Councilor Swope should be added to the Banks list of authorized signatures; along with Assistant Recorder Grubaugh due to Pam Rosenbalms resignation.

Councilor Ball motioned to remove Pam Rosenbalm from the Bank of Eastern Oregon signature card and add Councilor Marshall Swope and Assistant Recorder Taylor Grubaugh. Motion passed unanimously after a second by Councilor Christensen.

In other business, Attorney Cleaveland stated the Genesis Wind lease had a payment due on November 1, 2020 of 50,000.00 that was for the second year of the development period. Attorney Cleaveland has prepared a letter of default giving Harry Lee 35 days to the amount with interest or the lease will be terminated and all rights there under surrendered. Assistant Recorder Grubaugh has a copy that will need to be on letter head and signed by Mayor Bufton. The consensus of the Council is to move forward with the letter. Councilor Ball thanked Assistant Recorder Grubaugh for stepping up while the Recorder position is open. Mayor Bufton stated as Mayor he feels he needs to make a statement. His statement is as follows: "It sickens me what has taken place the last three months with the rhetoric and hateful harassment that has taken place. It has driven a family to resign who has been your public servant for 16 years to all of you; who has been a friend to a lot of you. It turns out that she has felt the need to resign in serving this City. She has to sell her house and is leaving town. It sickens me that we have treated the system like this and pushed someone out of our town. Three weeks ago we were celebrating what a friendly town we are and how nice it is to live here and now here we are pushing someone out of this town. I just want to make that statement because we are going to miss her. She was very good at what she did and she served all of you faithfully".

Regular meeting closed at 8:31 p.m.


Jeffrey Bufton, Mayor


Taylor Grubaugh, Assistant Recorder