

BUDGET HEARING

The Arlington City Council conducted a public hearing to discuss the budget for the fiscal year 2021-2022 as approved by the Arlington Budget Committee. The Council will receive comments on proposed uses of State Shared Revenues. Final adoption, appropriating and levying taxes will be completed. Mayor Bufton opened the Hearing at 6:30 p.m.

Open to Public Comment: Verlene Williams questioned where the Budget was. Recorder Pam Rosenbalm stated it was published in the Times Journal, and copies are available from City Hall. Mayor Bufton closed the Hearing at 6:36 p.m.

Regular Council Meeting

June 9, 2021

The regular meeting of the Arlington City Council was held on June 9, 2021 in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building and via telephone conference. Present were Councilors: Leslie Walborn, Denise Ball, Robert Christensen, Marshall Swope, Kelly Margheim, Matthew Irby, Mayor Jeffery Bufton, Public Works Superintendent Bill Rosenbalm, Attorney Ruben Cleaveland, Recorder Pam Rosenbalm. Guests include: Riley Bennett, Tory Flory, Rod McGuire, Vanessa Williamson, Pat & Leah Shannon, Hank Thuener, Mike Margheim, Rita Miciak, Laci Olsen, John & Mary Sallee, Bobby Gentry, Verlene & Laurel Williams, Julius Courtney, Ann & John Deen, Sheri Bernal, Eva Kilkenny, Irene Steward, Barbette Dotson, Sandy & Jim Bunyard and Jeff Dane. Mayor Bufton called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance Recited

PUBLIC COMMENT: Vanessa Williamson was present and read a letter stating she felt the possible discussion on employee handbook on residential requirement of the Public Works Superintendent, needs to read they must live in the city. If they do not, she feels it warrants a resignation.

COMMUNITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE UPDATE: Riley Bennett was present and stated the river clean up was a success. The fishing derby was good; however with the change in dates, there weren't as many participants as before, due to it not being free fishing weekend. The caboose is almost done being painted and the car show will be in July. Lastly, Riley questioned possibly getting a Grant for a handicap lift and access down at the river. Pat Shannon stated the County is working on a system for those who struggle locating and applying for grants.

LACI OLSEN- FIRE DEPARTMENT: Laci Olsen was present and stated they are working on an ORS instead of the previous proposed IGA. North Gilliam Fire has 11 firefighters, along with mutual aid from surrounding Counties. Laci drove the new fire truck for the Council and guests to see. The State Fire Marshal Office is starting to implement getting the Fire Department air support; Laci will have more information on that at a later date. Councilor Christensen stated the Fire Board is very happy with Laci's work and enjoy having her.

CONSENT AGENDA: The consent agenda consisted of the following items: **a.** Approval of minutes-May 5, 2021. **b.** Approval of bills as listed. Councilor Walborn motioned to approve the consent agenda. Motion passed unanimously after a second by Councilor Ball.

FINALIZE BUDGET:

- a. **Resolution No. 713 Adopting budget, making appropriations. Levying and categorizing taxes:** Councilor Ball motioned to approve Resolution No. 713 Adopting the Budget, making appropriations, levying taxes and categorizing taxes for the budget year 2021-2022. Motion passed unanimously after a second by Councilor Christensen.
- b. **Resolution No. 714 Declaring the City's election to receive state revenues:** Councilor Walborn motioned to approve Resolution No. 714 declaring the city's election to receive state revenues. Motion passed unanimously after a second by Councilor Swope.

REVIEWING TEMPORARY R.V. RESOLUTION NO. 683: Mayor Bufton stated the Resolution is pretty straightforward on what is allowed. Attorney Cleaveland stated the Zoning Ordinance can be reviewed which shows the Council has the authority to adopt this Resolution. Councilor Ball stated the city may need to have an emergency meeting to set an emergency Resolution.

COUNCIL ACTIONS APPROVE OR DENY:

- a. **RESOLUTION No. 715 Volunteer Resolution:** Councilor Christensen motioned to approve Resolution No. 715. Motion passed unanimously after a second by Councilor Margheim.
- b. **Right of Way Service Agreement:** Attorney Cleaveland stated ODOT needs this Agreement to work with property owners. Tonight's motion will be to accept the Agreement for proposed work in the right of way. Councilor Walborn motioned to approve the Right of Way Service Agreement with ODOT. Motion passed unanimously after a second by Councilor Christensen.
- c. **Arlington Motel/ City of Arlington Street Access:** Sandra Bunyard with REMAX was present and stated the motel property is made up of 3 lots, lot 1000 shows the City of Arlington is the owner. The county also shows the city owning the lot but has no idea for how long or how they acquired it. Attorney Cleaveland stated options would be; an easement granting access to the property or sale of the piece of city property. Public Works Superintendent Bill Rosenbalm stated there are sewer lines and manholes on the city property. Attorney Cleaveland stated the city could reserve an easement for their sewer line, and there is no need to get a survey if there is a legal description. Councilor Ball stated she would like to transfer ownership and do whatever is needed to help expedite a sale. After discussion it was decided the Council would like to request an offer. Sandra Bunyard stated she didn't feel the owner would be able to offer much. Mayor Bufton stated he would like to propose when the lots go up for sale; the city would have first option to buy. Sandra stated she will bring this back to the owners.
- d. **Letter of Interest for Council Position:** Mayor Bufton stated letters of interest can be turned in for Councilor Walborn's Council Position. Consensus of Council was to accept letters of interest for newly vacated seat.
- e. **Employee Handbook Revision:** Councilor Walborn stated she has found in a lot of handbooks for surrounding cities and OSP, the requirement is to be available for weekend duty and a 45 minute response time. Councilor Walborn read the portion of the Handbook pertaining to this; the Handbook read as it states: Residency is encouraged for all city employees and although it is not an absolute requirement for initial hiring or continued employment resident should be given preference in the selection of new employees. Public Works Crew employees however will be required to reside in the city's urban area in order to be available for on call weekend duty (amended October 5, 2011). Councilor Irby stated he appreciated the residents coming to voice their opinions. He also stated he feels if the employee is doing a good job and is a devoted employee that should be taken into consideration.

Attorney Cleaveland stated that State Law says a Councilor and or Mayor have to live in the city, which is totally different than an employee. Mayor Bufton asked if any of the residents who came to the meeting have had any adverse effects with any employee not living in the city. Henry Thuener stated he feels that if there is a city or public works emergency within the city that it's reasonable for a citizen to expect someone available with a quick response. Vanessa Williamson stated she doesn't believe employees should be allowed to move outside of the county and that it should not be compared to Oregon State Police. Vanessa also stated there have been several controversial issues surrounding employment of certain employees. Mayor Bufton questioned the controversial issues and Vanessa stated this was not the platform to address these issues. Mayor Bufton reminded Vanessa, she brought the subject up. Councilor Christensen stated a City Superintendent needs to know their job and Bill does a good job. Councilor Swope stated he wanted to be sure there isn't a personal vendetta, and he also feels Bill does a good job. Councilor Margheim stated she has had phone calls today regarding if the Council changes the handbook, then all of the city employees could move out of town. Councilor Walborn stated the way the handbook is written is the Public Works Employee, however, must be required to reside within the city's urban growth area in order to be available for on call weekend duty; Councilor Walborn interprets this as the employee needs to be local for the weekend. Henry Thuener stated if the group of Public Works could come to an agreement that all times would be covered, then he doesn't see how anyone could argue with that. Councilor Ball stated the Council is trying to work out what is best for the city and the employees. If there is an emergency, the three other employees should be able to handle the situation until the Superintendent arrives; the Superintendent should not have to respond to every call. Bobby Gentry stated when Bill goes elk hunting what happens then, when he is on vacation he is not available, and to be available everyday is ridiculous. Laci Olsen stated if the employee is on-call they should be in town for that weekend, and added the language change could be the Superintendent doesn't have to be here, but there needs to be coverage. Attorney Cleaveland proposed the Public Works Crew either reside in the city's urban area to be available for on call weekend duty, or be available within an agreed upon response time whenever scheduled for on-call duty. Leah Shannon asked the Council if there is any other place in the handbook stating city employees must live in city limits; as far as employment requirements when applying for the job. The answer was no. Leah then asked were the employees required to sign anything stating they would live in the city limits when hired. Again the answer was no. Leah then stated, well there you go, you have your answer. Councilor Walborn stated she believes this section of the handbook should be a 2 step process for residential requirements to make the standard clear. Mayor Bufton called for a small committee to gather in order to review the verbiage. The committee members will be Councilor Ball, Councilor Irby, an employee to be named, Henry Thuener, Laurel Williams and Rita Miciak. A meeting date will be scheduled at a later date.

COUNCILORS REPORT:

- Councilor Irby had no report to give.
- Councilor Margheim questioned if the swings at the upper park will be fixed. Public Works Superintendent Bill Rosenbalm stated he just picked up the lumber to fix those today. Councilor Margheim also questioned the Grant opportunities available. Recorder Pam Rosenbalm stated Brad Baird had helped put together 3 different Grants, and those had been submitted.
- Councilor Swope had no report to give.
- Councilor Christensen handed out a letter from the League of Oregon Cities for the Council to review.

- Councilor Ball had no report to give.
- Councilor Walborn had no report to give.
- Public Works Superintendent Bill Rosenbalm reported there has been a struggle getting supplies and parts due to covid delays.

In other business, Attorney Cleaveland reported the Second Amendment Resolutions have been sent out for the Council to review and can be discussed next meeting. Mayor Bufton presented Councilor Walborn a certificate with a plaque coming, thanking her for her 14 years on the Council. Councilor Walborn stated she is going to miss the town of Arlington, and when she was elected to the Council she learned change takes time because if there is change it needs to be done correctly. Bobby Gentry representing the Lions Club reported the building at the airport is going up nicely and is almost done.

Regular meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Jeffrey Bufton, Mayor

Pam Rosenbalm, Recorder