

## Special Meeting Minutes

October 25, 2021

The Special Meeting of the Arlington City Council was held on October 25, 2021 in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

**Presiding:** Mayor Jeff Bufton

**Council Present:** Denise Ball, Robert Christensen, Marshall Swope, Matthew Irby, Jerry Hanan and Henry Thuener.

**Council Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Recorder Kari Hayter and Interim Public Works Superintendent Brian Foster.

**Guests:** Rita Miciak, Leah Shannon, Pat Shannon, April Aamodt, Missi Knight, Laurel Williamson, Tiffany Wilkins, Tena Ferguson, Denny Newell, Sheri Bernal, and Todd Terp.


**Call to Order:** Mayor Bufton called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

### **Pledge of Allegiance Recited**

Mayor Bufton stated the purpose of tonight's meeting is to discuss and decide if the City taking over the Ambulance Service is a viable option for the Ambulance crew to present to the Health District. Councilor Irby stated the City is just getting back on its feet after hiring new employees and fears this would be too much at the moment. He doesn't want to rule this out as an option but only as a last resort. Councilor Christensen stated if worse came to worse he'd like to absorb the Ambulance but his concern would be the funding. Pat Shannon stated his understanding is the Health District is a taxing district and a certain amount of tax revenue goes to the Health District. However, the Ambulance is being managed under the Health District but are not a taxing district. April Aamodt stated she called Chet Wilkins and Nathan Hammer with the County. As a citizen, she would like to know what would happen if the City of Arlington took over the Ambulance. While speaking with Chet, he stated that the Health District receives \$961,000.00. It would be their choice to contract out the Ambulance to the City and to give the Ambulance what they deem is their portion of the funds; unless, the decision went to the voters. Mayor Bufton stated Councilor Hanan was on City Council when Fire Services and Ambulance were ran by the City. Councilor Hanan stated that the Health District was formed because the Ambulance wasn't going to survive on the revenue generated by the runs; back then the Ambulance was all volunteer without pay. Brian Foster stated through the years, there have always been issues between the Ambulance crew coordinators and the Health District since the merge; he doesn't feel the Board has ever supported the Ambulance. Denny Newell stated for the service required, the Ambulance and the Clinic are not self-supporting; nor should they be expected to be. Denny stated that as a single Medical Board member, he would like to see the Ambulance and the Fire Services under one roof. Denny stated he believes continuing to run the Ambulance under the Health District is unhealthy and he doesn't believe it's going to change. Mayor Bufton stated North Gilliam has been in bad shape for the last 6 months and that decisions need to be made with the Community in mind or we will not survive as a Community. Mayor Bufton stated the consensus of the Council is for the City of Arlington to be a viable option for the Ambulance Service, all in favor.

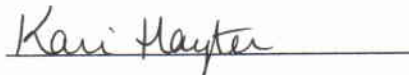
Mayor Bufton asked, does anything else needs to be said on the subject of tonight's meeting? Rita Miciak stated we need to wipe the slate clean and come together as a community. Todd Terp stated the lack of communication from the Health District is a problem, the Board needs to be replaced and inserted with some people who can develop some trust between both organizations. They need to start talking to each other, not at the expense of one another. If the City takes on the Ambulance, the City must set a deadline for the Ambulance to operate on its own or with another agency.

Regular meeting closed at 6:04 pm.



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Jeffrey Bufton, Mayor



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Kari Hayter, City Recorder