

Regular Council Meeting Minutes

May 4, 2022

The regular meeting of the Arlington City Council was held on May 4, 2022 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, Public Works Superintendent Shanna Gronquist, Attorney Ruben Cleaveland and Brian Foster.

Guests: Sgt. Tory Flory, Deputy Brittney Orendorff, Nathan Hammer, Jed Crowther, K'Lynn Lane, Denny Newell, Leah Shannon, Jill Ekerson, Charisa Hammond, Isabella Mastriona, Katie Re, Tiffany Wilkins, Stephani McAninch and Rita Miciak

Call to Order: Mayor Bufton called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance Recited

1. KIRK FATLAND - TENNESON ENGINEERING, FAHEEM RASHEED FOUNDATION:

Kirk Fatland joined the meeting via phone. Kirk gave a brief FEMA Flood Plan mapping up-date and stated the next FEMA meeting is June 12th at 9:00 am at Condon City Hall. Kirk encouraged Councilors to attend.

1470 Proctor Rd, Faheem Rasheed: Kirk stated he submitted a Staff Report to the Planning Commission regarding the manufactured home at 1470 Proctor Road for Faheem Rasheed; the home was placed earlier this year. The Staff Report addresses two issues, one issue was resolved during the April 26, 2022 planning meeting. The second, is the home was placed on a gravel foundation instead of a concrete foundation. A concrete foundation is a requirement of Arlington City Code; Section 4.9, 6-7. Jill Ekerson, who represents Faheem Rasheed, was present and stated she can answer any questions the Council may have regarding the home. Jill went over the steps she took for the permit approval stating there was no further information given to her of the requirements of approval. Nathan Hammer, Planning Commission Chair, stated the Planning Commission determined the home does meet State code, however, does not meet City code. Kirk stated once things are approved by the City and sent to Boardman, there is not a follow up process. Recorder Kari Hayter stated this matter occurred before she started working for the City, the Staff Report unfortunately was not distributed to Boardman or Faheem and/or Jill. Recorder Hayter stated when she started with the City, Assistant Recorder Taylor Grubaugh gave her a rundown on the planning, if anyone requested R-1 or R-2 Zoning, she would gladly give the information to them. At the time of when the City received the application for this manufactured home, this additional information was not requested by the property owner or his associates. Since Recorder Hayter has been with the City, a Staff Report and a signed / approved permit gets sent to Boardman, the Contractor and Property Owner; we continue to improve our process. Attorney Cleaveland stated he recommends a motion to grant a waiver of the requirement that the manufactured home be placed on a backfilled foundation for so long as the manufactured home is not moved, replaced, or expanded. **Councilor Ball motioned that the City grant a waiver for a manufactured home at 1470 Proctor Road owned by Faheem Rasheed to allow it to remain in place on a gravel foundation rather than the backfilled concrete foundation as is required by the**

City of Arlington Code; Section 4.9, 6-7. Unless any type of additions attached to the home or a replacement occurs, motion seconded by Councilor Irby. Motion passed unanimously.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Brian Foster - Public Works: Brian stated this will be his last meeting as a Public Works employee and thanked all the Councilors. Working for the City this past 29 years has been an honor and a privilege. Mayor Bufton thanked Brian for all the work he has done for the City and wished him well.

Sgt. Tory Flory - Gilliam County Sheriff's Office: Sgt. Flory introduced Deputy Brittney Orendorff, her first day with the Sheriff's Office was May 2nd; She will be living in Arlington. Sgt. Flory also addressed the weed abatement and went over property owner responsibilities. Recorder Hayter stated she's had discussions with Councilor Swope and Superintendent Gronquist about the weed abatement deadline. The City sent out the abatement earlier than previous years; the deadline it is currently April 30th. Due to unexpected snow, they would like to extend the deadline to the end of May. Council Christensen stated he is against the deadline extension; if it goes on any longer, we will be getting into the fire season. Sgt. Flory went over the Sheriff's Office weed abatement enforcement. No extension was granted.

Denny Newell - North Gilliam County Health District: Denny stated the last time he was before the Council, they offered to take over the ambulance service on a temporary bases; the offer was not entertained by the Health Board. In October, the Health Board fired the former EMS Chief, Dave Anderson. They have attempted the process of negotiation, mostly unsuccessful, and are now discussing the process of mediation. In order to run an ambulance service of any kind, we must have a Medical Director. The Directors are paid \$400.00 a month and can shut the District down at any point. The Directors are on record stating they want to see our former EMS Chief back in his position. They operate today using the paramedic license of a Gilliam County Sheriff's Deputy. If their license is no longer available, the ambulance service becomes known as basic. If only basic service is provided, most of what happens out on the freeway, in the community and in the district will result in Life Flight. It is critical for our community to have a paramedic. Stephani McAninch explained the difference between advance service and basic service. Tiffany Wilkins stated, Dave Anderson, without a doubt has saved eight lives in the last three years. If we don't need a paramedic, which eight lives are we willing to give up? Stephani McAninch stated a lot of people do not attend the Health District Meetings and they are hearing what is out in the community, but these are the facts. The Medical Director wrote a letter of recommendation for Dave which Stephani read aloud at a public forum Health District Meeting. This letter was also in his employment packet for his application and interview. Councilor Christensen asked how this can be solved. Tiffany stated hopefully this recall will solve this. Mayor Bufton stated he believes it is imperative that our community has a paramedic, whether it is Dave or someone else. He encourages the Council and the public to attend the Health District meetings, it is important that we show support and bring forth our feelings that this is where we want to be as a community, we need coverage and support. Councilor Ball stated the next regular scheduled board meeting is May 16th. A Special Board Meeting was called for this Monday; the meeting was posted the Friday before. The agenda stated they'll be discussing how they are going to change their policies for their meetings, policies and procedure for Executive Session and the EMS Chief of Staff decision. Councilor Ball stated it is troubling that something that could affect all of us in this community may happen with little notice for attendance. The Special Meeting was postponed due to two of the board members absence. Although the meeting had a quorum, their attorney recommended all board members be present for the decisions that will be made.

Isabella Mastriano - Arlington High School Student Body: Isabella read aloud a Teacher Appreciation Poem for the Teachers of Arlington School District.

3. **CONSENT AGENDA:** Consent agenda consisted of the following items:
 - a. Approval of minutes - April 6, 2022
 - b. Approval of bills as listed.

Councilor Christensen motioned to approve the consent agenda and the bills as listed, motion seconded by Councilor Ball. Motion passed unanimously.

4. **JED CROWTHER- PORT OF ARLINGTON:** Jed read aloud and discussed the Port Memo given to the Council. See attached Memo from Jed Crowther, Port of Arlington. Recorder Hayter provided Jed and the Council with water information from Brad Baird of Anderson & Perry. Mayor Bufton asked how much land are developers looking for, Jed stated they are interested in up to 100 acre sights. Councilor Irby asked how many developers have reached out to the Port and what projects are they pursuing. Jed stated in the last month there have been four developers interested; two of the projects are hydrogen development and Painted Hills Natural Beef. Jed stated he would like to have a workshop with the Council, Brad Baird and the Port to discuss how we can utilize our resources. The Council decided Mayor Bufton and Councilor Swope will attend the workshop meeting; Councilor Ball will be a backup if they are unable to attend. Mayor Bufton suggested starting with a kick off meeting to discuss and lay out the parameters, then pull in other parties who may be involved; Jed agreed. Jed also addressed the Insitu agreement from 2011. Attorney Cleaveland stated the Port has a lease with Insitu, there are a few years left on the lease and Insitu would like to pull out. They can do so, but they will need to figure what the obligations are for terminating the lease. The Port acquired the property from the City under the agreement that the Port will build the structure and lease it to Insitu and pay the City \$1,800 a month for so long as Insitu is leasing the structure; the Port has fulfilled their obligation. With this lease being terminated, the payment obligation is an issue for the City and how we will want to continue. Mayor Bufton called for a motion to cease the lease of \$1,800 from the Port. **Councilor Ball motioned for the \$1,800 monthly payment from the Port of Arlington to the City of Arlington shall cease with the termination of the Insitu lease, motion seconded by Councilor Irby. Motion passed unanimously.** Jed will set the time and date for the kick off meeting.
5. **ARLINGTON ACTION COMMITTEE:** Executive Director of the Oregon Frontier Chamber of Commerce, K'Lynn Lane, introduced herself and the Arlington Action Committee ambassador, Katie Re, to the Council. Katie stated she will be the point of contact for the Arlington Action Committee; either she or K'Lynn will be attending the Council Meeting and present high level updates to the City. K'Lynn stated now is a time of opportunity for our communities. She understands there's been a lot of concerns with the Chamber transition but it's going really well. There's great participation at Action Committee Meetings and there are a few new events planned. Riley Bennett assisted with getting the Bass Fishing Tournament locked in; the dates haven't been announced. The Community River Cleanup is May 21st at 9:00 am, the Fishing Derby is June 4th and the Big River Band Festival is June 18th. The Car Show & Shine and the 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament hosted by the Port is July 30th. The next Action Committee Meeting will be at Bee Sweet Bakery, May 26th at 6:00 pm. The Caboose remodeling is still underway; it will be the summer visiting center.
6. **RUBEN CLEAVELAND- TRANSIENT TAX MEMORANDUM:** Attorney Cleaveland discussed changes made to the Memorandum for the Oregon Frontier Chamber of Commerce. K'Lynn discussed how the funds can be used. Councilor Ball stated she would like some verbiage changed. Mayor Bufton stated this can be adopted at the next month's meeting to allow K'Lynn time to review. The Council discussed changing the Memorandum to a line with the Chamber and City's fiscal year end, all were in agreement.

7. COUNCILORS REPORTS:

- Councilor Thuener asked what the cost comparison would be to contract out trash pickup vs purchasing a new sanitation truck. Recorder Hayter stated the topic has come up in the past and the Council didn't seem to be in favor of contracting out trash pickup. Councilor Ball stated the Council previously weighed the options and the City providing trash service makes most sense. The City offers trash service to some local business every weekday, a contract service only provides service once a week.
- Councilor Hanan - no report.
- Councilor Irby – no report.
- Councilor Swope – no report.
- Councilor Christensen stated the new Fire Service Coordinator is Casey Zellars.
- Councilor Ball – no report.
- Public Works Superintendent Gronquist reported on the following
 - Austin Olson is starting with Public Works May 9th
 - Seal Kote is fixing cracks and potholes around town
 - The sanitation truck is down with transmission issues. The repair time will be 16 days and the quote from Woodpecker is a little over \$12,000.
 - A trash service out of Heppner agreed to help with trash pickup for the time being. Mayor Bufton stated a roll off box provided by Waste Management has been placed by the recycle bins on Cottonwood for anyone who would like to dump their trash.
 - The Parks Corp well pump is down.
- Attorney Cleaveland - no report.
- Recorder Kari Hayter reported on the following:
 - The Budget Committee Meeting is Wednesday, May 11th at 5:30.
 - Point&Pay, credit card processing, will be implemented the end of May.

Regular meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm



Jeffery Bufton, Mayor



Taylor Grubaugh, Assistant City Recorder