

Regular Council Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2024

The regular meeting of the Arlington City Council was held on **January 8, 2024**, in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building and via telephone conference.

Presiding: Mayor Jeffery Bufton.

Council Present: Denise Ball, Councilor Marshall Swope, Councilor Matt Irby, Councilor Jerry Hanan, Councilor Kayla Rayburn, and Councilor Mark Davidson.

Council Absent: None.

Staff Present: City Recorder Victoria McKinney, Attorney Ruben Cleaveland, Engineer Brad Baird, and PWS Shanna Gronquist.

Guests: Under Sherrif Flory, Jed Crowther, Amy wolf – Chamber, Brittany Dark - Chamber, Todd Terp, Arlington Fire Chief - Joe Cloughton. Tiffany Wilkins, and County Commissioner Grant Wilkins.

Attorney Ruben Cleaveland swore in Recumbents: Jeffery Charles Bufton as City of Arlington Mayor, Jerry Hannan as Councilor Position 2, Matt Irby as Councilor Position 4, and Denise Ball as Councilor Position 6.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Call to Order: Mayor Bufton called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and **AMENDED** the Agenda to include item number **4. City Business announcement.**

Public Comment:

Todd Terp would like the City of Arlington to consider taking over the care and maintenance of the Veterans Memorial located at Earl Snell Park. This would include the caring for and placement of flags as well as the replacement of old bricks, sale of new bricks and all placement of bricks as needed. Mr. Terp would also like the Council to set aside \$500 per year to cover expenses for the Day of Honor for the Veterans on the 11th of November. **Councilor Irby** noted that he visited the Memorial site recently and noticed the need for brick replacement. As a Councilman and someone with respect for our Veterans, **Councilor Irby** would like to see this done. He intends to step up and take on this task in getting the bricks replaced. **Councilor Ball** states we should have a line item specifically designated to this under Parks in the next Budget. **Councilor Davidson** shares he agrees that the city should be taking this on. **Mayor Bufton** says this is a worthwhile project that has had struggles in entities taking care of it. **Councilor Rayburn** states she thought the Chamber oversaw taking care of it. Todd Terp says the Veterans are pretty much taking care of it now and that the city sets up the flags on occasion as needed but the Memorial needs more care and maintenance. **Mayor Bufton** stated there needs to be a lighting upgrade well. He states he would like to see the council move forward and add this as a budget line in the next budget. Discussion was had on the cost for bricks and where to obtain them from. Todd Terp added that one of the confusing factors was that when they tried to sort this out before, he asked where the money went that was

already set aside for this. His understanding that it was through the Chamber. Having the city take solid ownership of this means they will have somewhere solid to go to when or if issues arise. **Mayor Bufton** says if we are going to fund it, we should take responsibility.

Motion: Councilor Ball motioned to approve that the City of Arlington take full responsibility for the Veterans Memorial in our Park and that we set aside a separate line item in our next budget for a TBD amount but not less than \$500.

Seconded: Councilor Irby

Roll Call: Unanimous

Councilor Ball commented there are people in the room that have a hard time hearing everyone. She asks that everyone speak up clearly when addressing the council.

Gilliam County Sheriff's Office - Under Sherrif Flory announced they have moved into their new office located at 1494 Railroad Avenue. He asks if the council would consider covering the Utilities for the Sherrif's office as they do for the Firehall? **Councilor Rayburn** asked if there was a plan for an open house at the new location. **Under Sherrif Flory** stated there is not, but that would be something nice to have soon once the weather is a little nicer.

The mayor mentions the growth that came from this move. The move resulted in a new business in town as the Local 701 Union has purchased and set up in the old location. **Councilor Ball** asked if the city pays the utilities for the fire department. **Recorder McKinney** stated we do not bill them for utilities. Discussion was had to determine if the EMS is billed for utilities. Councilor Ball states that if that is what we do it for the Fire Dept. she thinks we should do it for EMS and the Sheriff's Office.

Motion: Councilor Ball moved that we do not charge city utility services to the Fire Hall, Sheriff's Office, and the EMS going forward.

Second: Councilor Davidson

Roll call: Unanimous

Mr. Reilly – Chamber of commerce. He states there is an ongoing uphill fight to get things done with the Tri-County Chamber of Commerce board. Councilor Rayburn asked Brittany Dark with the Chamber when she was hired. Brittany Dark says she started six months ago. Councilor Rayburn notes there has been an upheaval since the resignation of Mrs. Lane from the Chamber and with the intermediates there have been some inconsistencies due to much turnover in the Arlington representatives. **Mr. Reilly** stated Amy wolf has been doing a great job. **Mayor Bufton** says the Chamber is an agenda item and we can continue discussion at that time.

Mayor Bufton asked for an update from our County Commissioner Grant Wilkins. Commissioner Wilkins stated he was just sworn in. He is trying to get to meetings. Working on a concern with the NORCO budget. **Mayor Bufton** asked if we can expect more visits from Commissioner Wilkins to our City Council meetings? **Com. Wilkins** says he intends to do so as his personal time begins to open up for him in the near future. **Councilor Ball** asks Com. Wilkins

about the Early Learning Center item on the County Court Agenda that had received 1.7 Million dollars for their expansion project and the project estimate was 2 Million dollars. She explained that today they came to the County Court and asked for the remaining \$700,000.00 to be released to them. And then they provided a revised budget bringing that budget to a new 2.9 Million dollars for a small addition onto their existing building up 30% in less than a year from when the grant was awarded to them. She asks, did they explain where the other \$900,000.00 was going? Com. Wilkins stated the revised cost and was revised Aug. 2024. He confirmed that it was by Jeff Schott and the releasing of the approved \$700,000.00 was to allow for future grant matches. She asked if they would be coming back to request more than what was already granted. **Com. Wilkins** stated he could not answer that question as he does not know and that he is not aware if that intention has been presented to the County Court. **Councilor Rayburn** says it sounded like they intended to go after the Business Oregon Grant Fund that is offering about 5 Million in the pool of which she suggested to the Arlington Child Care. More grants are available for Arlington childcare, but **Councilor Ball** added that birth and child numbers set them outside of some grant windows. **Councilor Rayburn** stated that with the fluctuations of these numbers they can qualify or not in different offering periods. **Com. Wilkins** states the County wants to support Arlington Childcare. **Mr. Reilly** stated the food bank would like to help the childcare. **Glenda Taylor, co-director** of the Arlington Daycare introduced herself and will reach out to the Food bank to accept the offer.

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

- a. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting December 4, 2024
- b. Approval of Bills – As Listed
- c. Approval of Minutes – Special Meeting November 25, 2024, as Amended.

Motion: Councilor Rayburn moved to approve the consent agenda as listed.

Second: Councilor Hannan

Roll Call: Unanimous

3. ANNUAL DESIGNATION AND APPOINTMENTS

- a. Designate monthly meeting date, time and place.

Councilor Rayburn asked to bump meeting up to 6pm. Councilor Hannan said no. Mayor Bufton states there are challenges to others such as trains and other things. No more discussion was had.

Motion: I, Councilor Mark Davidson, motion to have Council Meetings the first Wednesday after the first Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, unless the first Monday is an observed holiday, then the meeting will be the second Wednesday.

Second: Councilor Ball

Roll Call: Unanimous

- b. Designate City Attorney, Engineer, Depositories and Newspapers of record.

Motion: I, Councilor Rayburn motion to keep the City Attorney, Engineer, Depositories and Newspapers of record the same as they were in 2024, Attorney Cleaveland, Anderson Perry & Associates, Bank of Eastern Oregon, LGIP, The Times-Journal and East Oregonian.

**Second: Councilor Davidson
Roll Call: Unanimous**

c. Designate authorized signatures for banks accounts.

Motion: I, Councilor Rayburn motioned to keep the same authorized signatures on the bank accounts for 2025, Mayor Bufton, Councilor Ball, Councilor Swope, Recorder McKinney and Assistant Recorder Grubaugh.

**Second: Councilor Ball
Roll Call: Unanimous**

d. Appointment of 2025 Budget Officer

Motion: I, Councilor Davidson, motion to appoint Recorder Victoria McKinney as the 2025 Budget Officer.

**Second: Councilor Ball
Roll Call: Unanimous**

e. Appointment of Department Commissioners Mayor Bufton will appoint the Department Commissioners. **I, Mayor Bufton, appointed the Department Commissioners as follows, Councilor Ball Water and Sewer, Councilor Swope Airport, Councilor Irby Parks and Recreation, Councilor Hanan Streets, Councilor Rayburn Sanitation and Councilor Davidson Fire and Police.**

Motion: Councilor Rayburn moved to approve the appointments by the Mayor as listed in item e.

Second: Councilor Ball

Roll Call: Unanimous

f. Appointment of Council President (Mayor to appoint in odd numbered years only)

I, Mayor Bufton do appoint Councilor Ball to remain Council President.

Councilor Davidson asks if there is a term limit on some of these item's appointments? **Mayor Bufton** says no. **Councilor Davidson** says on some boards a person can only hold the positions so many consecutive times.

Motion: Councilor Rayburn moved to approve Councilor Ball as the Council President as appointed by Mayor Bufton.

**Second: Councilor Davidson
Roll Call: Unanimous**

4. City Business announcement— Announced by Mayor Bufton, the City of Arlington has been leading discussions in partnership with the Port of Arlington and Gilliam County on a proposed data center development project located at the Mesa Industrial Park. The company we have been working with is Amazon Web Services (AWS). As Many of you know, AWS is a well-established employer in Umatilla and Morrow County where they have built and operated data centers for 10 + years. AWS engaged the City Port and County to explore Arlington development opportunities. At this stage, the City and Port have negotiated and executed a land sale to AWS* and are working collaboratively with AWS on other long-lead activities required to support the Mesa development. The City has been dedicated to finding a project that is a good fit for the Mesa and Gilliam County residents. The proposed project would bring significant economic opportunities to Arlington and Gilliam County residents for many years ahead. That said, we are still in early stages of planning and have many milestones to work through together. We look forward to working with AWS to move this project forward. The City of Arlington will continue to keep the community updated as progresses and more information is available. Mayor Bufton cannot answer any questions on the Port’s closing on their 30 acre lot on the Mesa. The city does not have anything to do with those negotiations as they are separate from the city. Negotiating the sale was the first phase of it. We will move into the next phase, which is infostructure discussions and things of that nature as we move along. *Note Port closing pending.

Arlington Fire Chief Joe Cloughton requests that there be a meeting with Emergency Services on this before planning due to the potential increase in traffic and draw on the emergency services. **Mayor Bufton** says this will be a good idea and will take place closer to the construction phase of the project. **Fire Chief Joe Cloughton** explains the needs for fire suppression and what the emergency services will be needing such a pump truck that the Fire Services does not currently have. He mentions what AWS provided to the Boardman crew for such a truck and that it would be a good idea to be involved in the talks as they are not currently equipped for such a large influx of this nature. **Under Sherrif Flory** shares they are also in the same situation although Amazon historically has very good security, there will be a draw on their services as well with the increased population and workers as the construction phase takes place. **Tiffany Wilkins** asked when groundbreaking was expected. **Mayor Bufton** states that it has not yet been determined. Speculation is a couple years. **Councilor Davidson** spoke here but was inaudible.

5. Glenda Taylor – Safety solutions request for walking children to and from school/daycare.

Glenda Taylor announced the daycare is open as of December 5th, 2024, with 7 employees and fully licensed. She explains that going up to the daycare there is one sign “Slow - Children” sign. There is no sign on the other side. Efforts have been made to announce the need for reduced speed with flags and posted on social media to slow down in this area. She requests the city provide signage such as “Slow - Children” be located on the backside of the daycare. Mayor Bufton asks about the bus route. Councilor Davidson explains there is a morning route and an afternoon route but not a mid-day route due to lack of staff. Glenda Taylor explains it is that mid0day group that gets walked and is in harms way from traffic in the area. **Mayor Bufton** asks, is there a crosswalk? There is no crosswalk. **Councilor Ball** asks, how about a speed bump? **Glenda Taylor** states motorists drive so fast through there. **Under Sherrif Flory** stated he will send a team to monitor this area as they have time. Taylor, 5:30am open time. **Mayor Bufton** asks PW Super Shanna Gronquist to explore the speed bump and cost for a cross walk in that area. **Councilor Ball** asks, what about County Transportation? **Under Sherrif Flory** says they have one volunteer in Arlington. They are looking for volunteers. Councilor Ball suggests the County look into having paid positions for current volunteer positions to draw more people to fill these needs.

6. EVCS – Charlie Botsford - Amendment to site host agreement to include clear verbiage of size of chargers and payments. Due to fires in L.A., Mr. Botsford is without power and unable to call in to this meeting.

Attorney Cleaveland can speak to this. The council can consider two things. Exhibit B2 in the proposed amendment. It significantly increases the footprint. Adding of chargers. At the last council meeting there was a discussion that maybe there was a new place to have the footprint. The council can make a threshold decision to expand the footprint and whether they want it in a different location. And then Victoria can convey the decision to EVCS. The second issue to consider is that they presented the second amendment to the lease, but they say they signed the lease to some other entity. **Attorney Cleaveland** does not recall that they asked for or were given permission to assign or that we granted that permission or that there was such a request. And the lease says they must request assignment. He states we cannot unreasonably withhold assignment, but they do have to request that and get that in writing. Through that assignment EV4 is in breach of the lease. **Attorney Cleaveland** brought up a third item, which is they are proposing 3 cents per kw, but he recollects those 5 cents per kw was what was originally quoted at the meeting Mr. Botsford joined via telephone. No action is required currently, but he does need to know if the council wants to discuss it or wait until Mr. Botsford is able to attend a meeting. **Mayor Bufton** explained earlier discussions the council did not like the fact that it would take up all the spaces along the current frontage area. The Council suggested the front area between the two gas stations fronting Locust Street. **Councilor Rayburn** agreed and showed support for that area as it will keep the visitors engaged in the Mall area and hopefully support the local businesses. **Councilor Irby** agreed. Consensus of council is to have the location between the two gas stations fronting Locust Street as described in the EVCS Exhibit B2. Recorder McKinney and Attorney Cleaveland to work together to make an alternate Exhibit B. The other issue is the rate per kw. It is of the discussion to stick with the original 5 cents per kw. As far as the assignment of the lease. It is what it is. The council can choose whether to make it an issue or not. It's up to them. **Council Ball** suggested a letter from Attorney Cleaveland to point the issue out to the leaser that they should have asked according to the original lease directions.

7. Discuss Tri-County Chamber of Commerce/Oregon Frontier Chamber – Review of tasks completed, planned and council desired direction.

Brittany Dark – Executive Director and Amy Wolf – Arlington Ambassador introduced. Both started six months ago. Brittany Dark reviewed the handout list of things the Chamber has provided. She explains the Transient Lodging Tax (TLT) and how it is used to fund functions in Arlington. The city pays a portion of this tax to the Chamber, and it is then turned back around to the City supporting all the functions listed on the handout at an estimated overall rate of \$12-\$15 per year. She also explains there are grants that are available to Arlington via the Frontier Chamber and that they are available to assist with grants and states that even though someone might not be approved for one year, they should continue to apply each year as the approval may change from year to year. Items listed and described are as follows: Employment Opportunities, Shop Local Promotion, Oregon Main Street Revitalization, Gilliam County Small Business Grant, EEIP, Co. Starters, Eastern Oregon Visitors Guild, Entertainer, John Day River Farm Trail, Community Calendar, Fishing Derby, Show and Shine, Holiday lighting, Christmas Festival, Saturday Market, Trunk or Treat and Halloween Party, Park Rose Bushes, Veterans Memorial, Park Caboose. Also communicated, the Funding Sources for Arlington initiatives.

Brittany Dark asks to be made aware of anything that they need to do that is not on the list. **Councilor Ball** asks, what is happening with mini buildings from the Pop. Located at A town now? **Brittany Dark** says three sheds are owned by Pat Shannon; one used by A town for storage. The chamber owns Pop shed. **Brittany Dark** would like to know if this was something the city would like to use as a visitor center. A Town Station has agreed to open it during their hours of operation. **Mr. Reilly** notes the caboose is not finished for visitors. **Councilor Ball** asks, has this gone through planning commission as that shed would be an expansion of use on the property? **Brittany Dark** asks what that next step is as she needs guidance on those next steps and that nothing has been done yet. **Councilor Rayburn** would like a Chamber Representative at our council meetings with updates to create a good line of communication both ways. **Amy Wolf** says that she agrees. **Brittany Dark** says it may not be every month as it is a limited budget. **Mayor Bufton** asks about the budget and if there is any carryover of unused dollars. **Mayor Bufton** shares concern for tax paid to Frontier Chamber and not knowing where the money was spent. **Councilor Davidson** states there should be a yearly fiscal report on expenditures with the City Council. **Brittany Dark** explains the report may come back as a higher expenditure than received as they are about 6 months behind in receiving the funding from the city. **Recorder McKinney** says the report of the funds paid to Chamber to date is in the council packets of which show the current 2nd and 3rd TRT to be paid on this day via the latest approved checks. Their last payment being in March/April for the 1st quarter of 2024. **Brittany Dark** states she will need to see the memorandum of understanding for clarification of expectations as, being new, this is something she has not yet seen. **Recorder McKinney** will send that to Miss Dark. **Brittany Dark** will report financials for expenditures by July 31st. She spoke on some inherited items. They are currently searching for the right knowledgeable volunteers to administer the role in taking care of the roses and shares there is no staff for those types of things. Next is the Veterans Memorial. She understands the Chamber had taken care of this previously and has researched the next steps for the Veterans Memorial site. She says it sounds like the City has taken that over at this point. What she can offer as Chamber support is what she has on this as far as the bricks. They were charging \$75 per brick. The business that provided the bricks previously has gone out of business. She currently has a quote for the engraving and a contact person for installing the bricks. She can work with whomever the city would like to get that information shared with them. Going forward she will just need clarification on whether the city wants to manage it or have the Chamber manage it? **Councilor Irby** will call Miss Dark about this. Next up, is the Caboose. The Caboose was previously the Chamber responsibility although Chamber has not been in it since she took over and it has a pad lock on it. In a phone call with Julious Cortney, he let her know he has the key. She just needs to know for clarification that the caboose is still their responsibility. **Mayor Bufton** states yes, it should remain as the Chamber duty. **Amy Wolf** mentions it is not ADA compliant, and this may be a concern. **Councilor Irby** states it's about halfway dangerous for anyone really without building more accessible stairs. **Mr. Reilly** shared The Dalles has one that a person could visit as refence. **Miss Wolf** was thinking of adding the pictures from the caboose to the Pop shed. **Brittany Dark** will get with Julious to get in the caboose and will come up with a plan. Updates to come soon. She shares the annual holiday lighting in the park that was set up in previous years by volunteers. This year it was made up mostly of staff and some volunteers. They had to spend \$1000.00 on lights and it didn't seem to go very far. She does intend on purchasing more lights. Current lights are going to come down by February 1st. **Mr. Reilly** asked what happened to all the lights they had before. **Miss. Dark** stated they had been thrown away. **PW Shanna Gronquist** states only the lights that were wrapped around the trees were thrown away in March. **Mayor Bufton** says the park did look nice this year and he appreciates it. The Chamber can expand on that as they move forward. **Miss Dark** notes the table and chair management is by the Chamber. She states on other funding at the

bottom of the list the city receives in support. She will come back with information on the budget and line-item transparency. **Mr. Reilly** asked about \$12-\$14 per year from WM for Arlington specifically. Does the Chamber still get that funding? **Miss. Dark** says the money comes in for Gilliam County from WM and it is not specifically for Arlington. **Mr. Reilly** also asks about the \$42,500.00 that rolled over from the previous Arlington Chamber to Tri County Chamber. As far as he knows, he has seen nothing from that. **Mayor Bufton** says that brings us to the question he had asked earlier. **Brittany Dark** remembers seeing a deposit and she believes the majority of that money has not been spent by the budget reviews she has done so far. **Mayor Bufton** asks for a summary of the budget. **Councilor Rayburn** states conversation and information has been lost in all of the Chamber turnover in the last couple of years. **Mr. Reilly** says we were the only chamber to be absorbed in all three counties and states we do not have a board member from Arlington on the Tri-County Chamber board. **Councilor Rayburn** asks; do we have someone who wants to that is not being allowed to? **Brittany** Mr. Reilly States they have not been voted in over the last two years. **Brittany Dark** says if there is anyone interested, they will be voting in members on Feb 27th, 2025, at the annual meeting. **Councilor Ball** asks where the annual meeting is held. **Brittany Dark** says in Condon this year. It was in Spray last year and will be in Arlington or Wasco next year. **Mayor Bufton** asked that the notice be emailed to Arlington City Hall for that meeting. She agreed.

8. Brad Baird, Anderson Perry & Associates 8:11:42 – No handouts tonight. There are 6 items with updates we are working on.

a. Current Columbia river Water System. Probably crowding up to 60% right now on the terms of finished. This summer it should be ready for implementation.

b. The well drilling is under way. Hit big rock at 3 feet rather than the hope for 10 feet. The idea of a well, they are looking at a well option for multiple wells to pump the water under the Columbia use permit using the wells right next to the river infiltrated through the rock that will allow them not to work in the river which is a significant permeating event. He is looking forward to finding out if they can get that drilled and tested, it will be about 3 weeks, and we will know if it works. He is confident it will work.

c. Motel update: Piles of debris but looks better. Hold-up included determining where the waste will go and how it will be handled as well as paperwork needed for disposal. Efforts are made to follow the law in how the disposal takes place. Bill Rosenbalm will be there tomorrow. Progress is being made. Councilor Rayburn asked about the contracted date of completion. Mayor Bufton states gave extensions to bumps at disposal and such. Once we get the landfill designation updated for Chemical Waste Management, it should move more quickly.

d. Wastewater facilities plan. The council was mostly updated in December. Sent to DEQ. Although he was just notified the other day that they had just started reading it.

e. Meter replacement project. Getting supplier quotes on remote reader meters for everyone. It will be a swap out currently scheduled for April. **Councilor Ball** asked if this means we will get our bills on time then? **Brad Baird** says part of this will be training to take place before April in the new billing system how he understands it. Mayor Bufton adds this is a neat system as the residents will be able to actively see their own water usage and things

of that nature right from their cell phone if they wish. 31 new meters are in play now through the test phase. **Councilor Ball** says she believes AWS is paying for the City of Arlington's electronic meter reading project. Brad Baird shared that the best part of this is the residents will be able to see real time use of water creating the ability to catch leaks quickly as it will catch spikes in real time and using many alert capabilities. **Councilor Irby**, does this measure by gallon or less? **Brad Baird**, its reads really low flows by ultrasonic. **Fire Chief Cloughton** says he spoke with PW Superintendent-Shanna Gronquist about the fire hall water usage. He asks, can we put meters on specific hydrants? There would just be three. One at the bank and two at the fire hall. Brad Baird says yes; it would be a flow meter.

f. Alkali Park design: Presented a work order in December to get the park design construction done. Attorney Cleaveland will double-check it. It will be on the February agenda.

9. Council Actions:

- a. Approve or Deny Ordinance No. 442 – Prohibiting the attracting and feeding of wild turkeys.

Chris 1230 Sunrise Lane notes the turkeys located at his residence much of the time because of their chickens. He states he is not intentionally feeding the turkeys, only their chickens but the turkeys do what they do. Mayor Bufton says they spent much of the time at the Golf course this last summer. Councilor Ball, can they be relocated humanely? PW Superintendent Gronquist says they are considered a big game animal. We don't know where they came from. **Mayor Bufton** says they want to take care of it to eliminate the damage they are causing. Turkeys like Russian olive and those are being cut down from the Golf Course to keep them away. **Councilor Rayburn** asks, once we approve, can we have OWF come in to remove the turkeys? Attorney Cleaveland says it allows them to carry out their abilities. **Mayor Bufton**, we need this in place to go forward.

Attorney Cleaveland, 1st reading by title only of Ordinance 442.

Motion: Councilor Ball moved that we have the first reading for Ordinance 442 by title only.

Second: Councilor Davidson

Roll Call: Unanimous

Attorney Cleaveland reads Ordinance number 442. An Ordinance of the City of Arlington Oregon prohibiting the attracting and feeding of wild turkeys and providing for the abatement of wild turkeys.

Motion: Councilor Davidson moves to accept the first reading by title only of Ordinance 442 and preform the second reading of Ordinance 442 by title only.

Second: Councilor Ball

Roll Call: Unanimous

Attorney Cleaveland, 2nd reading by title only of Ordinance 442.

Attorney Cleaveland reads Ordinance number 442. An Ordinance of the City of Arlington Oregon prohibiting the attracting and feeding of wild turkeys and providing for the abatement of wild turkeys.

Motion: Councilor Ball moves to accept the second reading by title only of Ordinance 442 and adopt the ordinance.

Second: Councilor Rayburn

Roll Call: Unanimous

10. Council Reports

- Councilor Davidson – Doug Potter with county was going to try to spray sterilizer around gun range. Still under \$5,000.00 cap. China ditch will take about 3 years to get under control.
- Councilor Rayburn – Has list of names to call for fencing around the recycle containers. Will hopefully have quotes and numbers for the recycling area at the next meeting. No information on cameras yet. The recycling area will be up and running by July.
- Councilor Hanan – Nothing to report.
- Councilor Irby – PW Superintendent Gronquist was able to get a bid on the ramp at the park. He would like Brad Baird to look at it to see if it is reasonable or not. It seems steep to Councilor Irby, but he had a hard time finding anyone to bid on it. **Attorney Cleaveland** asked the amount. \$11,170.00. He states, with that we can do this directly without getting three quotes.
- Councilor Swope – Nothing to report.
- Councilor Ball – Asks, is there anything the city can do to work with the owners of the dilapidated buildings in the downtown area? One owner has stated he will not sell. The other building is the old Village Inn restaurant. **Attorney Cleaveland**, if there is a property owner willing to work with you, then yes. If not, it would narrow the options significantly. Then there are factors such as if it is a nuisance you would have to address the blight. If it's not a nuisance, then this is just a good old fashion blight, there have been situations where condemnation had been allowed but these types of cases are frowned upon particularly in public opinion. It's not favorable to take someone's property just because of the blight factor. He suggests the first step is getting cooperation from the property owners. Step two is to check our nuisance ordinance and then go from there. Councilor Ball says the Port did contact the owner of the old Texaco Station. The owner's concern was a competitive service station. The Port offered to put in the paperwork that there would never be a service station put in that location, but the owner still did not want to sell. She has noticed the building is showing damage. **Attorney Cleaveland** says if there is an issue where it is unsafe or is attracting vermin that would be something to look at. **Councilor**

Rayburn says she received a resident complaint that says they noticed running off or swapping water maybe behind the building that could be unsafe. **Councilor Ball** asks if the Sherrif can check it out. The attorney says no, it must be in view, or they must have a warrant. **Councilor Ball**, both business owners would likely qualify for the main street grant. Discussion on the Village Inn and positive willingness to work with the city by the owner was had as well as the condition of the building and the efforts of the Port to work with the owner of the old Village Inn building. Mayor Bufton says it may just be a matter of getting some discussion going with the owners. Councilor Ball would like to know about goats. Councilor Ball has people contacting her already about the fire problems. She says it's important to get letters to the property owners for the cost share offer. Recorder McKinney says letters are to go out to owners soon. Attorney Cleaveland will need the scope of work to build the contract. Send letters to Sheriff for code enforcement. **Councilor Ball** wants to see an agenda item for goats until the plan is in place. **Councilor Davidson** says we need a solid plan in place of the city owned property as well.

11. Staff Reports

- PWS Gronquist – working on various items. All plows and sanders are ready for use as needed.
- Attorney Cleaveland – nothing to report.
- Recorder McKinney – letter of violations verbiage suggestion. Suggested a solution to the communication of violation letters by adding verbiage to each letter stating the Sherrif office is Cc'd in the letters, then sending the same letter copy to the Sherrif office to put it on their radar for code enforcement. **Consensus is this is a good idea.**
- Assistant Recorder Grubaugh – Not present.

NO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Regular meeting adjourned: 8:24pm

NO EXECUTIVE SESSION



Jeffery Bufton, Mayor



Victoria McKinney, City Recorder