

Regular Council Meeting Minutes
April 5, 2023

The regular meeting of the Arlington City Council was held on April 5, 2023 in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building and via telephone conference.

Presiding: Mayor Jeffery Bufton.

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

Council Absent: Matthew Irby.

Staff Present: Recorder Kari Hayter, PWS Shanna Gronquist, and Attorney Ruben Cleaveland.

Guests: Jed Crowther, Rita Maciak, Leah Shannon, Pat Shannon, Mary Mitchell, Marta Mikkalo, Colleen Cunningham, Chris Jackson, Bobby Christensen, Joe Claughton, Riley Bennett, Lt. Tory Flory, and Madilyn Hayter.

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

Mayor Bufton stated the agenda has been amended to include item 5 Council Action, items a, b, and c.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jed Crowther, Port of Arlington: The Port is under contract to purchase the Proctor property. I am working with Planner Fatland on the process. I appreciate the opportunity to participate in the Downtown Visioning meeting.

Marta Mikkalo: The Jackpot Rodeo is May 6th and 7th.

Riley Bennett: The Apex Bass Fishing Tournament will be July 16th through July 19th. We're expecting 75 to 100 fisherman.

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

a. Approval of Minutes - Regular Meeting March 8, 2023.

b. Approval of bills as listed.

Councilor Ball motioned to approve the consent agenda as amended and the bills as listed, motion seconded by Councilor Rayburn. Motion passed five to one. Councilor Hanan abstained from approval from the minutes, he was absent at the March meeting

3. ARLINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY – FUNDING INCREASE: Marta Mikkalo stated I am here as a Library Board Member to request an increase in funding. We are requesting annual funding of \$34,500 be increased to \$36,500. The funds will be used to increase Library staff wages by fifty cents (0.50) per hour. Mary works 26 hours and Sierra works 20 hours per week. We would like to adequately compensate the staff and keep up with minimum wage increases. Mayor Bufton asked about the carryover balance into 2023/2024. Marta stated that can be used up at any time. Mayor Bufton asked how many people use the Library. Mary Mitchell stated 2,700 per year and we have 10,970 books. Councilor Hanan asked how many years was there no pay increase. Marta stated three out of the last five years there was not a pay increase. Councilor Hanan stated I don't think fifty cents is enough. **The consensus of the Council was for Recorder Hayter to increase the Library funding \$4,000 to \$38,500 in the 2023/2024 budget.**

4. **BRAD BAIRD, ANDERSON, PERRY & ASSOCIATES** – Engineer Baird was unable to attend.

5. **COUNCIL ACTION**

- a. **Appoint Planning Commissioner** – Mayor Bufton stated we received two letters of interest for the position, Bobby Christensen and Joseph Claughton. **Councilor Swope stated I motion to appoint Bobby Christensen.** Councilor Ball stated I would like to hear from the candidates. Councilor Hanan stated I would like to hear from the candidates. Joseph Claughton stated I know we are looking at City expansion and bringing in the Proctor property. I would like to be involved in the building from a fire aspect to ensure proper access and fire safety. Bobby Christensen stated I am here to serve the City. I served on the Douglas County Planning Commission awhile back. I think it would be interesting. **Mayor Bufton stated the motion dies due to lack of a second. Councilor Swope stated I motion to appoint Bobby Christensen. Mayor Bufton stated the motion dies dues to lack of a second. Councilor Davidson motioned to appoint Joseph Claughton to the Planning Commission motion seconded by Councilor Rayburn. Motion passed unanimously.**
- b. **Water Infrastructure Annexation** - Mayor Bufton stated we can bring our water infrastructure into City limits. Attorney Cleaveland stated you are authorizing the Mayor to sign to bring the water infrastructure into City limits when the Port property is brought in. **Councilor Ball motioned to authorize Mayor Bufton to sign the consent for the Water Infrastructure Annexation, motion seconded by Councilor Swope. Motion passed unanimously.**
- c. **LS Networks Franchise Extension** – Attorney Cleaveland stated in June 2018 a five year contact with option to renew for another five year term was signed with LS Networks. These are typically longer than five years. We authorize them to use the City right of away and they pay a seven percent rental fee. Councilor Ball stated can we change this to ten years. Attorney Cleaveland stated the agreement states renewed on five year terms. **The consensus of the Council was for Ruben to draft the renewal to be approved at the May meeting.**

6. **COUNCILOR REPORTS**

- Councilor Davidson – no report.
- Councilor Rayburn – Sanitation is going well. I attended the Town Hall at the school.
- Councilor Hanan – no report.
- Councilor Irby – absent.
- Councilor Swope-no report.
- Councilor Ball – no report
- Public Works Superintendent Gronquist – Greens plugging is tentatively scheduled for April 27th.
- Attorney Cleaveland – No report.
- Recorder Kari Hayter – The Planning Commission is meeting April 20th.
- Mayor Bufton – The meeting with Mark Seder went well; we discussed several good ideas. We really like converting Alkali Park to a small splash park with shade stations. We are coming up with ideas for the empty lots and vacant buildings. We will have additional meetings and encourage business owners to attend.

Regular meeting closed at 7:35 p.m.


Jeffery Bufton, Mayor


Kari Hayter, City Recorder