

Regular Council Meeting Minutes
May 8, 2024

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

Presiding: Mayor Jeffery Bufton.

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

Council Absent: None.

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

Guests: Madilyn Hayter, Cori Mikkalo, Jed Crowther, Juluis Courtney, and LT. Flory

Call to Order: Mayor Bufton called the regular meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance recited.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

Lt. Flory stated last June, the Sheriff's Office went to a new records management system and have been working hard to pull that information; he went over the new report. We enforce as much as we can to keep people safe in the city. Traffic enforcement is one of our largest areas; making 270 traffic stops this month alone. The ramps are our biggest headache; A lot of U-turns from going the wrong direction. There have been a number of head on collisions and have written eight tickets for speeds over 100mph on the freeway. The County recall will be certified on May 27th. The County is working on doing everything they can to ensure continuity; conversations are being had with the Governor's Office.

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

- a. Approval of Minutes - Regular Meeting April 3, 2024 and Budget Workshop March 20, 2024
- b. Approval of bills as listed.

Councilor Hanan motioned to approve the consent agenda as amended to include discussion of "old" Sheriff's Office rental and bills as listed, motion seconded by Councilor Rayburn. Motion passed unanimously. Councilor Irby abstained due to absence.

CORI MIKKALO, CWRR Grant Goat Grazing – The City received \$20,000 for the next 3 years to pay for goat grazing in the City of Arlington. After much searching, Cori was able to find a local family with about 30 goats to graze. They were able to quote \$1,250 per acre; the City would need to supply the water. Cori went over the maps, given to the council, showing priority areas in town. The properties are owned by the City, Army Corp and private land owners. Councilor Davidson stated the \$500 weed abatement fine doesn't seem like much for large property owners. A discussion was had about ordinance enforcement and fining continuously problematic areas and landowners. **The consensus of the Council was to prioritize grazing City property and to contact private land owners and offer a cost share in the amount of \$625.00 per acre for goat grazing. Cori will draft a letter to land owners for Attorney Cleaveland to review.**

3. BRAD BAIRD, ANDERSON, PERRY & ASSOCIATES – Unable to Attend

4. DISCUSS RENTAL OF "OLD SHERIFF'S OFFICE" - Mayor Bufton stated the City was approached by the Operation Engineers Union regarding the rental of the City building previously used by the Gilliam County Sheriff's Office. Councilor Ball went over the handout, provided to the Council, stating that the OEU donated \$10,000 to this

year's rodeo and discussed other potential opportunities. The OEU is not happy with the proposed amount of \$1,500, they would prefer the amount previously charged to the Sheriff's Office. A discussion was had about the potential benefits of renting them the building and the amount of rent to charge. **The consensus of the council was for the building rent to be \$1,000 per month including city utilities. Mayor Bufton will contact OEU with the new rental amount.**

5. COUNCIL ACTION

- A. **Resolution 743 – A Resolution of the City of Arlington Establishing Capital Reserve Funds to hold Money for Specific Purposes**– Recorder Hayter stated the reserve funds need to be re-establish every ten years. We have Water and Sewer Reserve, Equipment Reserve and Sanitation Reserve accounts. **Councilor Davidson motioned to approve Resolution 743 – A Resolution of the City of Arlington Establishing Capital Reserve Funds to hold Money for Specific Purposes, motion seconded by Councilor Rayburn. Motion passed unanimously.**
- B. **Consider Surplus Sanitation Truck Bids** – Recorder Hayter stated no bids were received. Councilor Rayburn asked if the old company was reached out to. Superintendent Gronquist stated a bid sheet was not given to her. Mayor Bufton asked if the minimum bid amount should remain \$75,000 or be reduced. Superintendent Gronquist stated it is unique, a lot of people don't have that size. **The consensus of the council was for the minimum bid to be \$75,000 and set the new bid deadline to June 5th, 5:00p.m.**
- C. **Consider Appointment of Interview Committee Members** – Recorder Hayter stated no letters of interest were received. She will reach out to community members and see if they are interested in the interview committee. Recorder Hayter asked the Council allow Mayor Bufton, Council Ball and Councilor Rayburn to select the public interview committee members. **The consensus of the Council was for Mayor Bufton, Councilor Ball and Councilor Rayburn to select the two community members to join the City Recorder hiring committee.**
- D. **Consider Motel Abatement Bids** - Recorder Hayter stated this is the second set of bids we have received for the old motel property. Engineer Baird put together the RFP; we received two quotes. Alpine, who did the Health District abatement last year, bid \$55,430. All-Safe bid \$68,505. Recorder Hayter stated she discussed these quotes with Engineer Baird. He has not worked with either abatement company but, All-Safe was fined \$1,000 last year for unlicensed work. He believes going with the lowest bid makes sense. Councilor Davidson stated he has worked with Alpine in the past and is happy with their work. **Councilor Ball motioned to accept the Alpine Abatement bid; motion seconded by Councilor Rayburn. Motion passed unanimously.**

6. COUNCILOR REPORTS

- Councilor Davidson – none.
- Councilor Rayburn - Senator Merkley will be here Sunday, May 19th for a Town Hall at the Gronquist building. Public officials will be meeting at 5:00 pm.
- Councilor Hanan - asked Superintendent Gronquist how crack sealing is going. Superintendent Gronquist stated we are waiting for the Port's project to be completed first.
- Councilor Irby – regarding the parks ramp, Gary Smythe remembers a pipe under the ramp; he needs to know the pipe location before submitting a bid. Superintendent Gronquist will ask Tim Wetherell about the pipe.
- Councilor Swope - what is the status of the Second Street fire hydrant. Superintendent Gronquist stated it has been ordered.
- Councilor Ball stated she read in the paper that the City's budget committee date has been changed. Recorder Hayter stated it has been moved to May 22nd.
- Superintendent Gronquist stated the greens were plugged with the help of the Men's Club. They will be plugged again in September. IBR volunteered their time weed eating in honor of Earth Day; it was a huge help. The new parks mower is in service and a new flow meter is calibrated. A discussion was had about fire prevention and

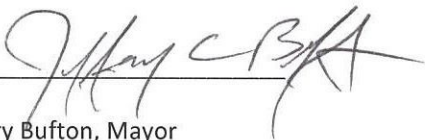
ground sterilant at the gun range. Mark stated Doug Potter is the weed abatement for the county we should consider sterilant next year.

- Attorney Cleaveland – none.
- Recorder Hayter - the budget committee meeting was rescheduled to May 22nd at 5:30. Would the Council like to donate to the Arlington 7-12 grade yearbook. **The consensus of the council was to donate a full-page ad which includes the city of Arlington logo and congratulations to the 2024 graduates.** We are working on an interim audit request; the auditors are scheduled for September 12th. Recorder Hayter read a letter submitted by Olivia Hammer regarding the proposed Alkali Park improvements. Ms. Hammer's letter suggested alternate spray park locations in town.
- Mayor Bufton - Councilor Ball and I had a meeting with Kelsey Beard regarding the Honker's Nest; they are in need of funds. The County has shifted funds from their grant; they need some help. I'd like to fit some kind of funding in our budget to help our daycare. The State states the pea gravel needs to be changed and they are struggling to operate on their revenue. I think we should look at it and help where we can. Councilor Ball stated the County Court put requirements on them and have tried to comply. Judge Campbell wanted them to become an early learning center, not a daycare. Early learning centers are not open in the summer and they don't function the same way. The facility has been cleaned up and painted; toys and furniture are needed. Councilor Rayburn stated she has watched the County Court meetings; the Court was trying to hold them accountable. She would like for there to be a double signer on their bank accounts. Mayor Bufton stated the current Honker Nest Director is struggling. Councilor Davidson stated he agrees it is a necessity for the community, there are a few things that need to be worked on. Mayor Bufton stated we would like to help them move forward, please keep this in mind when we look at the budget.

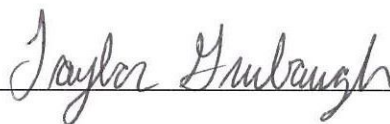
Executive Session opened at 8:19 p.m. pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(e): To conduct deliberations with persons designated by the Governing body to negotiate real property transactions.

Executive Session closed 8:30 p.m. Mayor Bufton stated no decisions to be made on real property.

Regular meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.



Jeffery Bufton, Mayor



Taylor Grubaugh, Assistant Recorder