

Regular Council Meeting

July 7, 2021

The regular meeting of the Arlington City Council was held on July 7, 2021 in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building and via telephone conference. Present were Councilors: Denise Ball, Robert Christensen, Marshall Swope, Kelly Margheim, Matthew Irby, Mayor Jeffery Bufton, Public Works Superintendent Bill Rosenbalm, Attorney Ruben Cleaveland, Recorder Pam Rosenbalm. Guest include: Jim and Alcenia Wright, Riley Bennet, Verlene and Laurel Williams, Mike Margheim, Taylor Grubaugh, John and Mary Sallee, Jeff Sallee, Leah Shannon, Rita Miciak, Jerry Hanan, Jeff Dane, Vanessa Williamson, Irene Steward, Chris Jackson, Henry Thuener, Sheri Bernal, Mary Mingo, Roger and Tammie Birkeland, Darrel Potter, Marta Mikkalo, Beth Pemberton, Holly Borghese, Matt and Barbette Dotson, Bobby Gentry, Steve Allen, and Brad Baird. Mayor Bufton called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance Recited

PUBLIC COMMENT: Marta Mikalo was present and questioned if the Council would consider recording Council Meetings with the hopes of putting them on YouTube. Marta stated the County has been doing this for some time and encourages everyone to watch the County Meetings. Jim Wright was present and stated he has been coming to the Council for 14 months regarding the water quality at his home and presented a filter that Superintendent Rosenbalm installed to his home. Jim stated his water is horrible and wants to know if the Council would vote on the water being tested. Christopher Jackson was present and wanted to inform the Council that he has been recently appointed to resurrect the Citizens Advisory Committee for Waste Management. Leah Shannon was present for the Arlington Revitalization Committee and stated there will be a dinner Friday July 16, 2021. Leah stated the Times-Journal will put an ad in the paper for the revitalization project and asked if the Council would pay the cost. Steve Allen from the Times-Journal was present; Leah stated the cost for a color ad would be \$473.00. The consensus of the Council was to pay for the newspaper ad. Vanessa Williamson was present and read a letter stating at the last Council Meeting, she had addressed the possibility of a change to the employee handbook that allows public works employees to live outside of the urban growth area. I believe that the committee was intimidated and not clearly prepared and was faced with opposition and not open minds. I don't believe employees and the community members who wanted to be on the committee were able to do so and I feel it should have been a public meeting. I fully believe any public works employees that will be affected by this change should have been at that meeting that night and they should have addressed the Council themselves. It is also important to know potential employees that live outside the urban area, but even in the same county, multiple times were told that they cannot apply for a position because they do not live within the urban area. Today I have a letter of support that has been signed by residents of the city stating that they do not want our public works employees to live outside of the urban area. However, if the policy is changed employees can live outside of the urban area with the max response time 20-30 minutes. I don't believe any of these signers are doing this out of spite; this is not about wanting change as one of the Council Members stated, this is about being sensible and responsible for our city. You all have a very tough decision ahead of you and I do hope that you remember that you represent the people that voted for you, and I hope that you make a good decision. Councilor Irby asked if there was anyone who didn't want to sign, Vanessa stated there were some. Alcenia Wright states she would like the Council to take more time to decide on this employee situation.

COMMUNITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE UPDATE: Riley Bennett was present and reported the caboose is almost finished being painted; the grand opening will be in August. The car show will be July 31, 2021, along with food made by Rod McGuire, live music and the 3 on 3 basketball tournaments. Riley also stated the Chamber website is completed and plans to use multimedia for advertisement instead of renewing the billboards; the website is

visitarlingtonoregon.net. Riley has been in contact with Wounded Warriors and they would like to help with the grant process in order to get a wheelchair access at the park, and a wheelchair lift for the boat ramp at the Port.

BRAD BAIRD ANDERSON PERRY & ASSOCIATES: Brad was present and reported the City of Arlington has been awarded \$315,000 in Grant Funds for the Wastewater Facilities Plan and the Columbia River Pump Station. Wastewater Facilities Plan is due to be renewed; this will look at the entire wastewater system. Attorney Cleaveland will review an Agreement for Engineering Services and it will be discussed at the August Council Meeting. The Columbia River pump station would be a permanent withdrawal facility with an intake screen, pipeline, meter, truck fill station. Location of the pump station has not been decided at this time. Brad brought a Draft Agreement and Easement request from The Woolery for Attorney Cleaveland to review and the Council to discuss at the August Council Meeting. Brad gave a description and showed on a map where the access would be located; this would be a private access and utility easement for the Woolery. Regarding the Water System Master Plan, at this point the DWS requires a review fee to finalize their review. Marta Mikkalo questioned if the Grant for the park restrooms is still an option. Brad stated Councilor Walborn had started to review Grants for that, and he hasn't heard back from her.

CONSENT AGENDA: The consent agenda consisted of the following items: **a.** Approval of minutes-June 9, 2021. **b.** Approval of bills as listed. Councilor Irby motioned to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously after a second by Councilor Swope. Councilor Irby motioned to approve the bill as listed. Motion passed unanimously after a second by Councilor Christensen.

COUNCIL ACTIONS APPROVE OR DENY:

- a. **TEMPORARY R.V. RESOLUTION NO. 716:** Mayor Bufton stated the charges need to be updated to \$92.00 a month; and the Council agreed the permit will be for a year, not six months. Councilor Irby motioned to approve Resolution No. 716 with changes to Section D stating the permit is good for one year and Section G charges totaling \$92.00. Motion passed unanimously after a second by Councilor Christensen.
- b. **Right of Way Service Resolution No. 717:** Attorney Cleaveland stated ODOT needs this Resolution to work with property owners; tonight's motion will be to accept the Agreement, which is proposed to work in the right of way. Councilor Christensen motioned to approve Resolution No. 717. Motion passed unanimously after a second by Councilor Irby.
- c. **Letter of Interest for Council:** Councilor Margheim nominated Jerry Hanan and Councilor Christensen nominated Henry "Hank" Thuener, which were the only two letters of interest. Councilor Ball suggested the two residents who had sent in letters of interest, explain why they are interested in the vacant Council Position. Jerry stated his letter speaks for itself and he wants to help make decisions to better the city. Henry stated he has been coming to the Council Meetings the last few months and has offered to help out anyway that he can, and would like to sit on the Council. Councilor Irby motioned to place Jerry Hanan into vacant Council Position. Motion passed unanimously after a second by Councilor Margheim.
- d. **Economic Crisis Resolution No. 718:** Attorney Cleaveland stated this Resolution is a model of the Baker City Resolution which defied the lockdown and stayed open for business. The mandates have been rescinded by the Governor, but the city may still want to show where they stand. Councilor Ball motioned to approve Resolution No. 718; a Resolution declaring an economic, mental health, and criminal activity crisis, due to the current covid-related state emergency declaration, and related OSHA mandates and guidance. Motion passed unanimously after a second by Councilor Christensen.

REVIEW OF IGA WITH NORTH GILLIAM COUNTY FIRE SERVICES: Attorney Cleaveland stated this Agreement sets up a new Governmental Entity, they will meet periodically, and the cost to the city will be \$8000 a year. Attorney Cleaveland stated he didn't feel the Insurance amount was adequate, and will discuss the questions on this IGA with Fire Coordinator Laci Olsen.

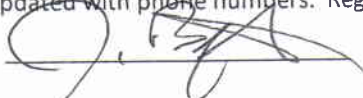
SECOND AMENDMENT ORDINANCE No. 431: Mayor Bufton stated he and Attorney Cleaveland had discussed and put together this Ordinance. Councilor Swope motioned to have first reading of Ordinance No. 431 by title only. Motion passed unanimously after a second by Councilor Margheim. Attorney Cleaveland read Ordinance No. 431 by title only. Councilor Ball motioned to accept the first reading by title only of Ordinance No. 431 and have a second reading of Ordinance No. 431 by title only. Motion passed unanimously after a second by Councilor Swope. Attorney Cleaveland gave a second reading of Ordinance No. 431 by title only. Councilor Christensen motioned to accept second reading of Ordinance No. 431 by title only and adopt Ordinance No. 431. Motion passed unanimously after a second by Councilor Ball.

EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK REVISION: Mayor Bufton stated the Council will be moving into executive session per ORS 192.660 (2) (b). Alcenia Wright questioned what this ORS was for. Verlene Williams read aloud the ORS. Mayor Bufton requested Vanessa Williamson to leave the signed petition for the Council to review.

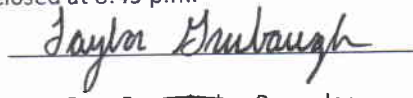
COUNCILORS REPORT:

- Councilor Irby had no report to give.
- Councilor Margheim had no report to give.
- Councilor Swope had no report to give.
- Councilor Christensen reported there had been one wheat field fire on Shutler Flats.
- Councilor Ball had no report to give.
- Public Works Superintendent Bill Rosenbalm had no report to give.

Regular meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m. Executive session opened at 7:43 p.m. per ORS 192.660 (2) (b). Executive session was closed at 8:42 p.m. Regular meeting opened at 8:43 p.m. Mayor Bufton stated there was no formal decisions made in executive session regarding the employee handbook, however, the on-call list will be updated with phone numbers. Regular meeting closed at 8:45 p.m.



Jeffrey Bufton, Mayor



~~Pam Rosenbalm, Recorder~~

Taylor Grubaugh, Assistant Recorder