

## Regular Council Meeting Minutes

December 8, 2021

The regular meeting of the Arlington City Council was held on December 8, 2021 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, Brian Foster and Attorney Ruben Cleaveland.

**Guests:** Riley Bennet, Brad Baird, Pat Shannon, Rita Miciak, Tami Birkeland, Randy and Gail Davis.

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

**Pledge of Allegiance Recited**

### 1. PUBLIC COMMENT

Gilliam County Commissioner, Pat Shannon reported:

**County Funding** - The Association of Oregon Counties put together some forums for Cities around the State to discuss water and housing needs; they are asking Counties to contribute \$25,000 annually. Gilliam County needs to decide if they want to invest. Condon's water and sewer is in good shape, but Arlington seems to need some assistance. Condon requested three million dollars for a housing project that will be placed north of the golf course. Pat stated he needs support and more engagement from City Council to secure funding for Arlington.

**Bio Energy Rating** - Arlington was awarded BDO zone designation. Four counties in the United States have been selected to be the first "A" rated counties; Arlington was named specifically. This rating will attract bio energy companies to develop in areas with an "A" rating; these companies will be eligible for tax credits.

**County Meeting Schedule for January and February** – Condon, first Wednesday of the month and Arlington, third Wednesday of the month.

Randy Davis stated he has an issue with his neighbor using residential property for industrial use. There are four potato trucks, a semi-truck, a utility trailer and several broken down vehicles. Randy is concerned about the view, smell of diesel, and how this affects his property value. Randy keeps the easement through his property clear for the well house and Pacific Power access. His neighbor has been using the easement for truck parking for up to three days at a time. Mayor Bufton stated the City will review its current ordinance and write a letter.

Randy Davis added, he lives near the highway and hears a lot of traffic coming through town starting at 5:00 am. Mayor Bufton stated the City has no authority over the highway but agrees there is an issue with Jake brakes coming off the highway.

## **2. COMMUNITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE UPDATE- RILEY BENNET**

Riley Bennet reported:

- South end of the Park - Riley passed out rough draft plans for handicap access points into the park. The existing ramp located near the restrooms will need to be lengthened for ADA approval. Wounded Warriors is requesting handicap access near the Veterans Memorial. Riley has a backing letter from the Gilliam County Veterans Board. Councilor Irby stated he has not heard back from the Corp of Engineers regarding the letter of support from Wounded Warriors. Riley stated once handicap access is available, Wounded Warriors will advertise Earl Snell Park on their website; this will be national exposure.
- East end of the Park - Riley went over the drawing for the east side of the park and the location of the potential handicap fishing area. Riley stated the existing ramp leading into the park will need to be extended, there is currently a 4 inch drop at the end. The City will need approval from the Corp to proceed with applying for grants.
- Promotions - Discovering Oregon is doing a feature on small towns in the Columbia River Gorge. Riley and Councilor Ball provided information on Arlington. Riley will notify the Council of the scheduled airdate.
- Bass Pro Tournament – The 2022 tournament will be larger than 2021. There will be 15 to 75 fisherman and 15 to 25 kayakers in a secondary tournament. The Sunday before the tournament, Professionals will host a Kids Day; Chamber will provide food and drinks. The biggest challenge for the event is available participant lodging. The Chamber is attempting to keep the hosting price at \$10,000, tournament organizers are requesting \$12,000. There will be more advertising this year. Tournament organizers allow two weeks notices before the event date to avoid early fishing by competitors.
- Tables and Chairs - Gilliam County donated \$4,000 to the Chamber for the tables, chairs and trailer maintenance. The Chamber is grateful for County support.

## **3. BRAD BAIRD ANDERSON PERRY & ASSOCIATES**

Brad distributed a Water System Master Plan handout to the Council.

### **ARPA Funding Update**

- Funding is available to the State; Arlington's funds will be available soon. Hopefully, in January, the City will receive the ARPA agreement. Brad recommends Attorney Cleaveland review the agreement.

Mayor Bufton stated the City is working on its water issues and moving forward with infrastructure and upgrades. Communication between the City and County needs to improve. Brad stated he's been the City Engineer for 23 years and the City's water system is in fantastic shape. The items being discussed tonight are to make water plans more secure. Waste water is in good shape as well, the plans are about 20 years old and will need an update.

### **Water System Master Plan**

- The approval letter for the WSMP came through last month; there were no edits.
- Columbia River Pump Station and pipeline may not be eligible for funding programs. This is one of several programs the City may pursue. Plans have been made available to the proper agencies for funding opportunities that are not typical.
- The Infrastructure Funding Bill will mostly be to augment existing programs, either with grants or favorable conditions. The Council needs to approve and adopt the plan to pursue funding. Although, adopting the plan does not mean you have to make improvements to the water system.
- Brad requested the Executive Summary handout be added to the WSMP before Council approval.

Mayor Bufton called for a motion to adopt and finalize the Water System Master Plan. **Councilor Christensen motioned to finalize and adopt the Water System Master Plan. Motion seconded by Councilor Ball. Motion passed unanimously.**

#### 4. CONSENT AGENDA

Consent agenda consisted of the following items:

- a. Approval of minutes
  - Special Meeting October 25, 2021
  - Regular Meeting November 18, 2021
- b. Approval of bills as listed.

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

#### 5. NUISANCE ORDINANCE: ABANDONED VEHICLES DISCUSSION

Mayor Bufton asked the Council what their thoughts are on the City of Condon's nuisance ordinance. Councilors Christensen and Swope stated they are not in favor of Condon's ordinance. Councilor Christensen stated the declaration of a public nuisance should be up to the Council, not the Sheriff's Office. If you own your property, there shouldn't be any reason for the Government to come on it. Cars on a public street is one thing, private property is another. Councilor Thuener stated he feels the current ordinance is difficult for the Sheriff's Office to enforce. Condon's ordinance is very complete and keeps the Deputies from acting too quickly. Councilor Christensen asked who should be the decider on whether or not it is a nuisance. Mayor Bufton stated when Condon's ordinance was written, they had their own police force. Therefore, it is now enforced by the County Deputies. Councilor Swope questioned why the City is looking to change the current ordinance? Mayor Bufton stated the initial topic was to discuss abandoned cars on the street, now the discussion is what is considered inoperable. Councilor Thuener asked if the case would come to the Council before the car is removed. Councilor Swope stated that the way Condon's ordinance is written, it would not. Councilor Thuener stated he feels it would have to be pretty extreme circumstances for the Sheriff to come on to someone's property and remove vehicles. Mayor Bufton stated the Sheriff's Office declares whether it is an emergency or not; an emergency is a matter of opinion. Mayor Bufton stated his main concern is abandoned or inoperable vehicles on the street; the side of the roads were not built for storage. Attorney Cleaveland stated under State law, if a vehicle is sitting on the street for more than 72 hours, it may be removed. If the vehicle is cited, the owner will have 15 days to remove or enclose the vehicle. Councilor Ball stated the Sheriff's Office operates off of complaints, code enforcement is the last thing they want to do. If the City Recorder receives a complaint, they have the authority to contact the Sheriff's Office and ask them to respond. The owner of the vehicle may request a hearing before the Council. Mayor Bufton stated he would like to get this ordinance right without taking rights away. Mayor Bufton asked Attorney Cleaveland to compare Arlington and Condon's ordinances and speak with Sargent Flory about current ordinance issues and how they need to be changed.

#### 6. AIRPORT R.V. PARK- ARLINGTON TV COOPERATIVE ADDITIONAL ACCESS POINT

Recorder Hayter stated Arlington TV Co-op provides a free hotspot at the Airport RV Park. TV Co-op would like to place a second hotspot at the RV Park and eventually have tenants pay to use the service. **The consensus of the Council is to allow Arlington TV Co-op to move forward with installing a second hotspot at the Airport RV Park.**

#### 7. COUNCILORS REPORTS


- Councilor Thuener asked, what's the procedure for dealing with abandoned homes? Mayor Bufton stated the City can start the abatement process by writing a letter to the home owner.
- Councilor Hanan no report
- Councilor Irby no report
- Councilor Swope no report

- Councilor Christensen reported Fire Services is having a Special Meeting Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at the Arlington Fire Department; in order to get ORS 190 approved. Fire Services is looking for 5 people to join the Budget Committee; contact Laci Olsen if interested. The committee will meet February and April.
- Councilor Ball had no report
- Interim Public Works Superintendent Brian Foster reported on the following:
  - The New Public Works Superintendent, Shanna Gronquist, started work this week.
  - The Arlington sign on the west side of the grain elevator is no longer working. Mid-Columbia Producers receives free utilities to maintain the signs; they need to be sent a letter.
  - Parts of Shane Drive have been dug up to replace a bad phone line.
  - Jeff Sallee submitted his letter of resignation December 1, 2021, his last day will be December 21, 2021. Brian will be the remaining employee with Water and Waste Water certifications; he will be retiring soon.
  - The City is snow ready.
  - Christmas Decorations: The old waving Santa is blowing fuses, only one of the downtown parking lot bells is up due to bad outlets; the bells need to be replaced with LEDs. A contractor along with PPL need check and repair other outlets.
  - Sanitation truck brakes need to be replaced and it has an oil leak. In 2022, the truck will be 10 years old; the City replaces the truck every 10 years.
  - The Boardman Back Truck vacuumed out the wet well at the Cottonwood lift station, this is done twice a year.
  - Council needs to consider spraying the Airport RV Park for weeds.
- Attorney Cleaveland reported progress is being made on a topic previously discussed. There will be further updates at next month's executive session.
- City Recorder Kari Hayter reported the Christmas Party will be this Sunday; catered by Paradise Rose Chuck Wagon.

#### 8. COUNCILOR COMPENSATION

Councilor Christensen stated he has been pushing for Councilor Compensation and feels City Councilors are as important as the Port Board; Councilor Swope is in agreement. Councilor Irby stated he was elected and volunteers his time to serve the City; he would opt out. Councilors Ball and Hanan agreed with Councilor Irby. Mayor Bufton stated Condon's Councilors annually receive \$250 and \$600 for the Mayor; Councilors may opt out. Councilor Thuener asked if this matter is something the Councilors or voters decide. Mayor Bufton stated it may be done either way. Councilor Ball stated the Port Board received compensation due to traveling back and forth from Condon; they are not paid mileage. Attorney Cleaveland will review the Charter and Ethics Manual and will have further information at the January 2022 meeting.

Regular meeting closed at 8:16.

  
 Jeffrey Bufton, Mayor

  
 Kari Hayter, City Recorder