

Regular Council Meeting

May 4, 2016

The regular meeting of the Arlington City Council was held on May 4, 2016 in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building. Present were Councilors: Diane Wetherell, Leslie Walborn, Denise Ball, Doug Hammer, Robert Christensen, Mayor Jeffery Bufton, Attorney Ruben Cleaveland and Recorder Pam Rosenbalm. Guests include: Marta Mikkalo, Leslee Hammer, Monty Crum, Kevin Hunking, Peter Mitchell, Gary Bettencourt, Cris Patnode and Marshall Swope. Mayor Bufton called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance Recited

PUBLIC COMMENT: School Superintendent Kevin Hunking was present and reported; the May Day parade and program were last week and went very well, the school is planning a ribbon cutting ceremony for the CTE Building on Monday May 23, 2016, Graduation is June 4, 2016, and the school is working with Columbia Gorge Community College on an alternative energy program.

COMMUNITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE UPDATE: Leslee Hammer was present and reported; the Chamber participated in the May Day and Rodeo Parades, they have reworked their website and will update information on there, Scott Winters will be working at the park tending the roses, and irrigation, the Chamber's summer events flyer will be going out in the mail soon, the Fishing Derby will be June 4, 2016, and they have left the Vice-President position vacant for now, to give past V.P Susan Jones the opportunity to return if she would like to.

CONSENT AGENDA: The consent agenda consisted of the following items: **a.** Approval of minutes-April 6, 2016. **b.** Approval of bills as listed. Councilor Walborn motioned to approve the consent agenda. Motion passed unanimously after a second by Councilor Wetherell.

GILLIAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE UPDATE: Sheriff Gary Bettencourt was present and thanked the Council for the opportunity to serve the city. The Sheriff's Office has been working on a few cases; recently a dog had bit a resident and one of the Gilliam County Deputies, that dog had a history, therefore, it was destroyed. The issue with the kennels is ongoing. Attorney Ruben Cleaveland reported the order of the court was to have the old motel abated; he will contact the owners Attorney, and let him know the area needs cleaned up as soon as possible, or the city will ask the Court for a contempt ruling. Attorney Cleaveland also stated the owner of the pink and purple houses has made good progress on cleaning those areas. The owner of these properties was represented by an Attorney, and the owner signed off, stating the weeds will be gone by the end of May and the roof will be fixed, (something substantial not a tarp) by June 15, 2016. Sheriff Bettencourt stated the next residence to look at is the Clark house on

First Street. Councilor Ball motioned to declare the Clark property on First Street a nuisance. Motion passed unanimously after a second by Councilor Walborn. Sheriff Bettencourt also reminded the Council the abatement letters were sent out April 18, 2016 giving a month notice for resident's weeds to be cleaned up. The Sheriff's Office will start enforcement by first giving verbal notices. There was discussion on properties which aren't accessible that the city owns. Sheriff Bettencourt stated in any enforcement action they try to be fair and consistent. Mayor Bufton stated when the city started this process, the thought was to try and put some logic into it. This would be aimed at properties that aren't maintained that border homes and businesses, which create a fire hazard.

AIRPORT GRAZING OPTIONS: Councilor Christensen stated Monty Crum is interested in grazing his cows on the airport property, which would help with fire hazards. Monty was present and stated he runs his cows around the airport area and he tries to leave a third of grass for the next year. Mayor Bufton explained the city had a lease with Clint Krebs, but the city was interested in developing the airport property, and had not renewed the lease with Mr. Krebs. It was discussed that if the city would like to have cattle graze on that area, the city should put it out for bid. Monty stated he would take care of the fences, and would be taking the cows elsewhere in July. Attorney Cleaveland stated the city can send out two letters, to Monty and Mr. Krebs giving both 10 days to respond back, on whether they are interested in a grazing lease. Consensus of the Council was to proceed with the bid letter.

VACANT COUNCILOR POSITION: Councilor Christenson motioned to accept Marshall Swope to fill the vacant Council position. Motion passed unanimously after a second by Councilor Ball.

COUNCIL ACTIONS-APPROVE OR DENY:

Resolution No. 666-Budget Transfer: Councilor Walborn motioned to approve Resolution No. 666 for a budget transfer. Motion passed unanimously after a second by Councilor Ball.

Resolution No. 667-Budget Transfer: Councilor Wetherell motioned to approve Resolution No. 667 for a budget transfer. Motion passed unanimously after a second by Councilor Ball.

Resolution No. 668-Appropriating Unanticipated Funds: Councilor Ball motioned to approve Resolution No. 668 for appropriating unanticipated funds. Motion passed unanimously after a second by Councilor Christensen.

Resolution No. 669-Arlington T.V. Cooperative: Councilor Christensen motioned to accept Resolution No. 669 regarding Arlington T.V. Co-op. Motion passed unanimously after a second by Councilor Walborn.

HARRY LEE-AIRPORT LEASE: Attorney Cleaveland stated he has amended the lease with the changes the Council discussed last month. The lease would be for 3 years at \$4000. However, if there is progress it could extend to 4 years. After the first 3 years, there would need to be

equipment producing at least 1 megawatt in place. This new lease will be sent to Harry Lee for his review. It was noted if no proof of insurance is received; the contract will be null and void.

NEW FRANCHISE: There was a request for the Council to consider a new Franchise Agreement with Lightspeed Networks Inc. The Council was in agreement, they would like to have more information before a decision is made. However, they are open to the possibility.

COUNCILORS REPORT:

- Councilor Christensen stated he was a little disappointed the fire awareness meeting was not well attended. Also, there has been some activity regarding residents cutting their weeds, hopefully that will continue.
- Councilor Hammer reported; the parking lots will be striped soon, the city crew has hauled 20,000 gallons of sludge recently to the airport, and Jeff Sallee is getting ready to take his first state water test.
- Councilor Ball reported the new Utility Billing Clerk is setting up new sanitation sheets under addresses instead of resident's names. This will make it easier for the Public Works Crew when they are picking up garbage. Councilor Ball also reported the steering tires on the garbage truck are starting to wear, however they should be ok until fall.
- Councilor Walborn reported the state mandated water sampling on wells 1 & 2 have been done and passed. The flow meter that needs to be replaced in well 1 should be installed tomorrow. The Consumer Confidence Report will be on the new web-page, with hard copies available at City Hall. City Recorder Pam Rosenbalm will send an ad to The Times Journal informing residents where they can find this report.
- Councilor Wetherell reported the greens at the golf course have been plugged, also there may be some landscaping done on the north end by the new community center site.

In other business, City Recorder Pam Rosenbalm reported Nicole Rees has been hired for the Utility Billing Clerk position, and the Budget Meeting is Monday the 9, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. Attorney Cleaveland stated the Attorney costs for the past month are higher than normal, due to travel for court appearances. Councilor Walborn stated she is pleased the Council is working so closely with the Gilliam County Sheriff's Office.

Regular meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Jeffery Bufton, Mayor

Pam Rosenbalm, Recorder