

Regular Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 8, 2026

The regular meeting of the Arlington City Council was held on Wednesday, July 8, 2026, in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building and via telephone conference.

Presiding: Mayor Jeffery Bufton.

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

Council Absent: None

Staff Present: Recorder Victoria McKinney, Public Works Superintendent Shanna Gronquist, Attorney Ruben Cleaveland, Engineer Brad Baird, and Planner Jamie Crawford.

Guests: Keri Hiedeman, Rita Miciak, Stephen Allen

Guests Announced Via Conference Phone: None

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Mayor Bufton opened the regular council meeting at 6:30 p.m.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. **Deputy Heideman, Gilliam County Sheriff's Office:** A Community Night Out will be held at the Arlington Fire Hall on Tuesday, August 4, 2026, from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. There will be pizza and an opportunity for kids to check out the fire equipment.
- b. **Keri Heideman, The Oregon Frontier Chamber of Commerce:** Keri stated that last year, there were changes made to the Duck Race held during the Car Show 'n Shine. The race had been moved from the lagoon to a gutter along the sidewalk leading to the dog park. Once the ducks are in the gutter, a fire truck releases water and washes the ducks down the gutter. This is how it has been done in Lone. Keri stated that, because this change was not disclosed to the City, there was some confusion, and the excess of water was assumed to have come from a broken water line. Keri stated that she is present tonight to ask the Council for permission to use the gutter in the same manner this year for the Duck Race. Joe Claughton with the North Gilliam County Fire Services stated he will provide the truck and water for the race. Last year, volunteers kept people off the streets, and there were no traffic issues. There was a brief discussion regarding the storm drain system. Keri stated she has contacted Kip Krebs with the Port of Arlington regarding the 3-on-3 basketball tournament to be held at the basketball court. He stated he did not see any issues with using the gutter. **Consensus:** The consensus of the Council is to move forward with the Duck Race utilizing the gutter. Mayor Bufton asked that the location be advertised to avoid confusion regarding the water.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda consisted of the following items:

- a. **Approval of Minutes** – Regular Council Meetings: May 6, 2026, June 3, 2026 and Budget Hearing: June 10, 2026

b. Approval of Bills - As Listed

Approval: Councilor Hanan motioned to approve the consent agenda. Councilor Rayburn seconded the motion. Roll call: Councilor Davidson: Yes, Councilor Rayburn: Yes, Councilor Hanan: Yes, Councilor Irby: Yes, Councilor Swope: Yes, Councilor Ball: Yes.

3. COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND DECISION

- a. Columbia River System / AWS and Municipal City Water System Plan:** Engineer Brad Baird presented the Council with a handout. Engineer Baird reported on the following.
Alkali Park Project: The project is progressing well and is still on schedule. **Application for payment #5 to Bolin Construction:** The request is for the month of June and is for a total of \$123,272.00. **Approval:** Councilor Rayburn motioned to approve application #5 for payment in the amount of \$123,272.00 to Bolin Construction LLC. Councilor Davidson seconded the motion. Roll call: Councilor Davidson: Yes, Councilor Rayburn: Yes, Councilor Hanan: Yes, Councilor Irby: Yes, Councilor Swope: Yes, Councilor Ball: Yes. **AWS Update:** Engineer Baird stated in the previous Council Meeting that he would reach out to AWS regarding the Columbia River project. AWS stated they would still like to wait to proceed with the project due to the delay in receiving power. Mayor Bufton stated he would like to address this matter quarterly with AWS. **Water System Improvements Project:** Engineer Baird referred to the handout and stated the total cost estimate of the project will be roughly \$2.5 million. Please see the handout for more details regarding the Water System Improvement Project. If the Council proceeds with this project, it can be designed this summer and fall, bidding can start in the winter, and construction can start in the spring. If the Council decided to only proceed with the Golf Course Well, it would be a relief for the entire system. The design estimate would be roughly \$190,000. The City can proceed with a work order under the City Engineer agreement. There was a brief discussion regarding a supplemental budget. Engineer Baird stated that if it was ok with the City, he would like to pursue funding from the County. There was a brief discussion regarding potential state funding. **Consensus:** The consensus of the Council is for Engineer Baird to proceed with the work order based on \$190K. There was a brief discussion regarding the use of the pump out of the Columbia River and the benefits of the City purchasing a pump.
- b. Arlington Childcare \$25,000.00 Support - Budgeted 26-27:** Recorder McKinney stated that the City has this amount in the budget now if the Council would like to proceed. This amount was given to the Daycare at the end of the last fiscal year. Councilor Ball stated that the City should let the Daycare know that they have been approved for a \$25,000 grant. When they wish to accept the funds, they will need to submit a letter to the City Council requesting the payment. **Consensus:** The consensus of the Council is to move forward with Councilor Ball's plan.

4. CITY PLANNER JAMIE CRAWFORD, BELL DESIGN

Recorder McKinney stated that Jamie Crawford was unable to attend tonight's meeting.

5. ENGINEER BAIRD, ANDERSON PERRY & ASSOCIATES

Engineer Baird completed his report during *Item 3: Council Discussion & Decision*

6. COUNCIL REPORTS

- **Councilor Davidson:** Asked Councilor Hanan about crack sealing. Superintendent Gronquist stated that it is in the budget. There was a brief discussion regarding locations and scheduling.
- **Councilor Rayburn:** Public Works is working towards receiving new trash cans.
- **Councilor Hanan:** Asked Councilor Irby if there were updates regarding the small dock. Councilor Irby and Superintendent Gronquist stated that more information is needed to proceed with the application.
- **Councilor Irby: Earl Snell Beach:** The Council may have seen an email regarding swimmers getting cut at the beach. Councilor Irby spoke with a few people involved and walked through the water to find sharp objects. He found open shells in the sand and believes they are the cause of the injuries. Councilor Irby stated that the beach is due for new sand. **Basketball Court:** Councilor Irby stated that the Basketball Court will be painted and he will coordinate with Public Works regarding the sprinklers.
- **Councilor Swope:** Nothing to report.
- **Councilor Ball:** Nothing to report

7. STAFF REPORTS

- **Public Works Superintendent Gronquist:** There was a report on the following: **Water and Wastewater Systems Operations Contract:** The City received contracts from Delta and Recycled Water Solutions. Superintendent Gronquist was unable to receive a third quote. The DEQ permit is pending; Delta is assisting with this. There was a brief discussion regarding the contract details. Councilor Ball and Mayor Bufton stated they would like to continue with Delta. **Approval:** Councilor Ball motioned to approve the Delta contract, subject to attorney review. Councilor Davidson seconded the motion. Roll call: Councilor Davidson: Yes, Councilor Rayburn: Yes, Councilor Hanan: Yes, Councilor Irby: Yes, Councilor Swope: Yes, Councilor Ball: Yes. **Earl Snell Park Bathrooms:** Tree roots are lifting the bathroom floors, causing them to become uneven. **Parking Lots:** Tree roots are starting to lift the pavement and curbs are cracking in several places. The trees may need to be removed. Cutting the roots could make the trees unstable and they may grow back. There was a brief discussion regarding the types of trees to plant. **Internet:** Superintendent Gronquist thanked Arlington TV Co-op for assisting with the camera system located at the park bathrooms.
- **Attorney Ruben Cleaveland:** Nothing to report.
- **Recorder Victoria McKinney:** Recorder McKinney gave a report on the following: **Insurance:** Construction Insurance for the Alkali Park has been established and will carry over to full-time insurance once the project is complete and operational.

Wheatland will be visiting the construction site and taking pictures on July 14th of the construction site. **Health Insurance:** There are a few changes to the 2027 CIS/Regence Blue Cross Blue Shield medical insurance. A small increase in deductibles by \$200 and is going from 80/20 to 70/30. **MCEDD:** The Mid-Columbia Economic Development District board is seeking a representative for Gilliam County. **Earl Snell Beach:** Recorder McKinney thanked Public Works and Commissioner Irby for their team's efforts to identify the shells as the culprit causing cuts to swimmers along the beach. **Lease Property:** Recorder McKinney stated she reached out to Mr. Lowe regarding his interest in leasing City property for the use of a temporary RV park for construction workers. She has not received a call back. **Internet:** Recorder McKinney stated she is looking into Star Link as a secondary internet provider for the City. The cost estimate will be roughly \$50 per site. **Request for Support:** Recorder McKinney stated that Tiffany Wilkins is requesting support for the Solidarity Fund Golf Tournament. The solidarity fund raised \$225,000 to support fire relief. The golf tournament will not be held in Arlington, but they are asking for a donation in order to support the companies in our area that provide fire support. There was a brief discussion regarding the companies and the support they provide. **Approval:** Councilor Davidson motioned to sponsor a hole for the Solidarity Fund Golf Tournament in the amount of \$650. Councilor Hanan seconded the motion. Roll call: Councilor Davidson: Yes, Councilor Rayburn: Yes, Councilor Hanan: Yes, Councilor Irby: Yes, Councilor Swope: Yes, Councilor Ball: Yes.

Other Business: None

The Regular Meeting closed at 7:48 pm

Entered into Executive session at 7:49 pm under 2(e): Attorney Cleaveland stated that the newspaper can attend, but nothing can be printed.

Closed Executive session at 8:05 pm

The Regular Meeting opened at 8:05 pm: No final decision as a result of the executive session.

The Regular Meeting closed at 8:05 pm



Denise Ball, Council President



Victoria McKinney, City Recorder



Transcribed By: Taylor Grubaugh, Assistant Recorder