

Arco City Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 22, 2025

In attendance: Mayor Parsons, Council members Tessmer, McCurdy, Reese and Darland. City Clerk Jensen, Deputy Clerk Smith, Maintenance Tony Chisham & Tim Snyder, PZ Chair Rebecca Lange, Senator Julie VanOrder, Representative Ben Fuhrman, Kirsten Bingham, Bryan Young, Jason Minzgher, Herman Doering, K.J. Babcock, Karen Pyron, Nancy Darland, Rosanne Smith, Fire Chief Dan Koste, Tim Williams, Donna Murray, David Valentine, Harold and Joellen Smith

7:00 pm Mayor Parsons called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved.

Public Comments/Discussion-ITD

School Zone

Council members and residents noted missing crosswalk signs and non-functioning flashing lights near the school zone. The group agreed the area doesn't look like a true school zone, causing confusion for drivers. The City purchased and installed signs to restrict parking in the bus loading zone along Grand, but they will be replaced by signs provided by ITD.

Representing the school board, Karen Pyron said that the school bus had to create a safety route to bus kids across the intersection at Front and Grand, it only runs during regular school hours.

Additional Crosswalks

Discussions were held about crosswalks, ITD asked where the community would like additional crosswalks. They suggested that the crosswalks shouldn't be placed at Front and Grand, since it's a low visibility area and a busy intersection. Instead, a crosswalk near NC Quick Stop, crossing Front was suggested and to reinstall the previous crosswalk across Grand near the County building and 1870 Deli. Councilwoman Reese also suggested a crosswalk across front at Pickles Place slash the Science Center.

Speed Limits

Residents stated concerns over the 35 mile per hour speed limit through town. Some residents asked if it could be reduced to 25 miles per hour, ITD stated that most drivers naturally travel at a higher speed. Results of the recent speed study are not available yet but will likely not support lowering the speed limit through the main corridor in town. Driver feedback signs are often more effective than simply lowering the speed limit and encourage drivers to slow down. Using a grant, Emergency Management lead KJ Babcock has already ordered 7 driver feedback signs, including two for the school zone and two more for Front St. with the remaining being place around the County including Howe. Council members expressed worry that many drivers are going well above 35 mph, creating hazards and accidents.

Flashing Light on Sunset

The outdated blinking light at Sunset Drive was also addressed, ITD recommended replacing it with an intersection ahead sign equipped with flashing lights in both directions. Residents also raised concerns about missing merge and lane end signs near Pickles Place and suggested limiting parking in front of Pickles along Grand to improve visibility when turning onto Front Street off Temple.

Front and Grand Intersection

Council and residents discuss safety at the Front and Grand intersection, with suggestions for either rumble strips or a traffic signal. ITD representatives said traffic data is still being collected but believes our traffic does not justify a traffic light. Cameras are currently up at the intersection to record volume. The council noted that they would rather have seen the study during peak traffic season. Representative Fuhrman suggested a roundabout at Front and Grand to slow traffic without creating additional backups. He stated that as roundabouts have been installed in other SE Idaho cities, no accidents have occurred there. ITD did not believe there was enough room at the intersection to entertain the idea of a roundabout. President Tessmer showed a diagram of the intersection and how at traveling 35 miles per hour you need 250 feet to be able to stop, while the visibility is much less than this. He suggested that if we change the speed limit to 25 it would alleviate this problem, he pled that while the speed study may not come back with the need to lower the speed limit through town, ITD engineers have the final say in evaluating the safety of an intersection and need to do what's right for the community. A slide show showing several crashes over the years at the intersection of Front and Grand, including Dylan Waymeier's accident two years ago, were cycled throughout the meeting.

Bills

Bills were read and approved in the amount of \$30,558.22. Councilman McCurdy made a motion, Councilwoman Reese 2nd.

Roundtable

Pres. Tessmer reviewed the MUTCD guideline stating proper stopping distances and visibility at intersections

Councilwoman Reese stated that several residents had approached her about drones being flown over their houses around town, the issue will be referred to the Butte County Sheriff's Office.

P&Z Chair Rebecca Lange stated that P&Z had approved the rezoning of the school property, making it possible to proceed with the construction of the new building. She also stated that efforts continue in updating the zoning map, focusing on R1 areas. Pres. Tessmer suggested submitting one map for the upcoming hearing. Once a map has been completed, it will be presented to the Council.

Kirsten Bingham raised concerns about outdated business signs around town. Bingham urged the City to explore options to have old signs removed.

At 8:48 pm Councilman McCurdy made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Pres. Tessmer 2nd. The next regular city council meeting is scheduled for October 14, 2025, at 7 pm at the City office.

Grady Parsons, Mayor

Dana Jensen, City Clerk