

# MINUTES

City Council

City of Arco

January 22, 2024

The Arco City Council met on Monday, January 22, for a regular meeting, at the city building. In attendance were Council President Ben Tessler, Council members Bobbie Reese, Amanda Darland, Maintenance Supervisor Tony Chisham, Maintenance Lead Tim Snyder, and Deputy Clerk Dana Jensen. Guests were Fire Chief Dan Koste, Donna Murray, Tom Cammack, Rebecca Lange, and Rosanne Smith. In the absence of Mayor Grady Parsons, Council President Tessler led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance and called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., making note that three council members present constitutes a quorum.

Minutes of January 8<sup>th</sup> were reviewed, and a typo was corrected. Motion was made to approve the minutes as corrected.

**Public Comment** – Donna Murray, Arco resident wanted to get the Council's attention regarding the faded and bent stop signs at various sections of the City presenting a danger to the City streets. Maintenance Supervisor Tony Chisham stated that new signs are on order. Maintenance Lead Tim Snyder said that the replacement of the old signs is on the City crew work schedule. Council President Tessler thanked Ms. Murray for bringing the issue to the Council's attention.

**Fire Chief Dan Koste – Update on Fire Department happenings** – Arco volunteer Fire Dept. Fire Chief Dan Koste provided the Council with summaries of completed trainings by fire staff, number of emergency calls, incident calls within the City, and fire hydrant inspections for 2023. A total of 290 hours of numerous fire fighter training was completed by the all-volunteer fire department. Out of 28 incidents call outs in 2023, eight responses were within the City of Arco. Chief Koste pointed out the average response time within the City is 4.1 minutes, with an average of six firefighters responding. Chief Koste said that all City fire hydrants were flushed out in 2023. Also, five hydrants need maintenance, and six hydrants need to be raised higher. City maintenance supervisor Chisham and City maintenance lead Snyder will work with the Fire Chief on the hydrants needs.

Chief Kosti also shared a list of crucial equipment needs for 2024 along with estimated costs. One urgent need is to replace the aging radios. The radios are old enough where service and parts are getting harder to find. In January, the Fire Department submitted a grant request to FEMA Assistance to Fire Fighters Program to cover the cost of 20 new radios and five batteries. \$18,370 is the amount of the request. The Arco Fire Department submitted a grant request somewhat similar in 2023 that was not funded. Awards for the current grant cycle will be announced in March or April.

If grant funds are not received, the Fire Department will be looking for other funding sources. Other pressing need to include: a new 4-Gas Detector, 16 new air cylinders and valves or the fire fighters self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), two sets of turn out gear for structural fires, like helmets, coats, and pants. The Fire Department is also looking to add a cargo container to store equipment given to the department by the State of Idaho. A single set of turn out gear of helmets, coats, and pants, cost close to \$3,000. Total for the needed equipment is \$21,980.55. If the grant for the radios does not come in, the needed equipment cost will be \$40,350.55.

Council President Tessler told Chief Koste that the City will take time to look over the needed equipment list and try to assist with some of the purchases.

Fire Chief Koste said that once the turn out gear is used in hazardous environments, it's never truly clean and free of contaminants, even when washed on a regular basis. The Fire Department installed a washer and dryer at the fire department to clean the turn out gear after every use, but there could be fires

where contamination cannot be cleaned, and the gear would need to be replaced. One example is the potential for electric vehicle fires at the new E Charging Station. The Fire Department is establishing protocols for such an event. One item that is not on the list of needed equipment is an EV fire suppressor blanket, or two. At some point, the Fire Chief would like to have some fire suppressor blankets available in Arco. In case you all are wondering, the fire suppressor blanket cost around \$1,500. More information shared by Fire Chief Koste is the change from the Idaho Survey and Rating Bureau (ISRB) ranking process for community fire safety. As we go forward, Idaho will use National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) ranking standards. These rankings are used by insurance companies to establish fire insurance rates for communities. In the past, communities were surveyed every ten years. From here on out, surveys will be conducted every five years. The NFPA rankings are based upon some equipment that the ISRB did not require for Arco. Items such as fire dispatch systems, water system function, and fire department operations are taken into account. Arco's current Fire Insurance Ranking is five out of ten. This is due mainly to the limited number of volunteer fire fighters available for any one incident. Chief Koste does not see the overall ranking changing much under the new ranking system.

**Tim Snyder – talk about possibilities of a Skating Rink** – City Maintenance Lead Tim Snyder talked about the planning of a skating rink is still ongoing. Due to the warmer weather this winter, operation of a skating rink would have been a problem. Also, a location like Bottlfsen Park may work out better. Planning will continue with the hopes of an operational ice-skating rink for next winter.

**Tony Chisham – Jay Street Lift Station** – City Maintenance Supervisor Tony Chisham outlined the issue with the recent replacement of the sewer lift station pump on Jay Street. Though the pump was replaced with a newer spare, the newer spare has been rebuilt a few times and the lift pump that was removed is on its last legs. Mr. Chisham recommended that a new spare pump be purchased to have on hand in the event of a pump failure in the future. Mr. Chisham presented the Council with an estimate for a new pump at a cost of \$7,809.09. After some discussion, a motion was made to approve the purchase of a new Keen pump. Motion was seconded and passed.

**Tony Chisham – Dust Abatement** – City Maintenance Supervisor Tony Chisham gave the Council estimates for two different types of dust abatement for the City streets for 2024. First, the City can contract "mag-chloride" application, which is what Butte County does. Second, the City can purchase their own "mag-chloride" product by the drum or tote and plan to use City equipment for application. Mr. Chisham and Council President Tessler discussed some options: 1) modifying the existing water truck, 2) mounting a mixing/sprayer tank on an existing City truck, or 3) purchasing a water truck, or some other appropriate vehicle to use for dust abatement. Council President Tessler asked Mr. Chisham to investigate the costs for these options and to bring back info to the Council members. It could be cost effective in the long run for the City to do their own dust abatement application.

**Surplus Bid Opening** – The City received five bids for three items on the list that was published by the City for surplus. Council President Tessler opened the sealed bids and looked over each to determine if minimum bids were met and whether there were multiple bids for any single item. All bids met the minimum bid price, only three individual surplus items were bid on. The highest bid for the 1952 Ford F250 went to Kayden Beard for \$1050. The highest bid for the 2001 Dodge Dakota went to Jim Dillard for \$1550. The highest bid for the 1984 Ford 545A Tractor went to Neal and Leslie Randall for \$1650. Council members approved these bids. Council President Tessler made a motion to advertise the remaining surplus items for an additional three weeks. Motion was seconded and passed.

**Bills** – Bills were reviewed and approved for payment in the amount of \$24,293.96.

**Roundtable** – Councilwoman Reese requested that Council consider scheduling a work meeting to go over the Fire Department's equipment needs and cost estimates. Council President Tessler suggested adding discussion of City manpower and resources to the work meeting. A proposed date and time for

the work meeting is February 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 10 a.m. but confirmation of availability will be needed of the Mayor and Councilman McCurdy. The final date and time for the work meeting will be posted 48 hours before the meeting.

Deputy Clerk Jensen reminded the Council of the next Butte County Planning & Zoning meeting to discuss the draft Area of Impact map is scheduled for February 6<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m. at the Butte County Business Center.

A copy of the draft Area of Impact contract between the City and County needs to be supplied to the County Planner before that meeting. The City Council and the Butte County Planning Commission will meet again on February 21<sup>st</sup>, to discuss finalizing the draft boundaries of the Area of Impact map and the Area of Impact contract between the County and the City. Afterwards, the Butte County Planning Commission will publish a Notice of Public Hearing, most likely in March 2024, for a joint City/County Public Hearing to present the proposed Area of Impact map. Note: a copy of the draft Area of Impact map is posted at the Arco City Office.

Deputy Clerk Jensen also mentioned that a pizza party is being planned for a member of the city maintenance crew who will be leaving this month.

As there was no additional business, the Council adjourned at 8:21 p.m. The next regular meeting for the Arco City Council will be the second Monday, February 12, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at the City Office.

*Grady Parsons, Mayor*

*Dana Jensen, Deputy City Clerk*