

# MINUTES

City Council

City of Arco

January 09, 2023

Attending the first meeting of the New Year were Mayor Grady Parsons and council members; President Travis Gilchrist, Bobbie Reese, Ben Tessmer, and Danny McCurdy; Deputy Clerk Dana Jensen, maintenance Supervisor Tony Chisham and City Attorney Steve Stephens. Guests included Tom Cammack, Rosanne Smith, Carrie Couture, Zach Belanger, Meggan Bragg, Rebecca Lange, Martin Bjle, Gem Garcia, Nick Anderson, Keyan Bird and family, along with two supporters.

Mayor Parsons called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes from the December 29<sup>th</sup> Special Council Meeting were reviewed by the Council members and approved upon motion.

**Public Comments** – Arco resident Rebecca Lange complimented the city staff and crew on getting the snow pile from the corner across the A&A Market removed out to the storage field.

**Approve City Liquor License for Family Dollar** – The local Family Dollar license application was received but payment of the fee had not been made because Family Dollar required that they pay the fee by credit card, but the City does not have the capability to accept credit card payments. Since payment of the fee is pending, the license cannot be signed at this meeting.

**Keyan Bird/Discuss Rezoning of his Property** – Mr. Bird, accompanied by his family and two supporters, explained that he would like to construct a new duplex dwelling on his property on Decoria Avenue. Mr. Bird shared the conceptual drawing of the duplex; the design is for two, 2 bedroom, 2 bath units in a two story design. The lot and neighborhood currently is zoned R1, Single Family Residential. A Multi-Family unit would require a Rezoning application and process, including public hearings. Council President Gilchrist and the City Attorney Steve Stephens provided information on the Rezoning process as well as the new Comprehensive City Plan status.

**Rosanne Smith** – Ms. Smith had questions for the Council about the outcome of the December 12<sup>th</sup> Council Work Meeting and comments made at the December 29<sup>th</sup> Council Special Meeting about increased sewer fees for city residents. After the Franchise Fee portion of City Sewer/Water/Garbage fees was suspended at the November 14<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, the Council met to take a closer look at the actual cost to operate, repair, and plan for upgrades to the City sewer system. Ms. Smith mentioned that the Council spoke of a 5 percent increase for the sewer fee in light of increased property value assessments made by the Butte County in 2022. Wouldn't an increase in the sewer fee already be covered by the increased taxes? Councilman Tessmer answered that an increase in property value does not necessarily mean that the sewer/water/garbage fees will increase at a proportionate rate being that the fees are based on costs forecast each year in the City budget, not on property values. At this time the City Council is looking at the actual costs to operate the city sewer system, and are realizing that the fees have not been keeping pace with the costs to operate the system, and haven't included a reserve fund to cover breakdowns and repairs that have been occurring more frequently in recent years. The Council would like to re-set the sewer fees with those needs in mind. Action to re-set the sewer fee will be taken up at a future, likely the next City Council/Meeting.

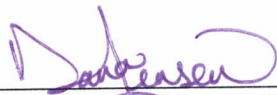
**Carl Couture – Opening/Approval of the Sawtooth Bar and Grill** – Carl and wife Carrie Couture made a presentation about the plans their family has made for the old Sawtooth Bar and the work that has

price. One large tank could replace the existing 1000 gallon tank. Or, multiple tanks could be added to reach a 6000 gallon capacity. Maintenance supervisor will begin the process of sourcing and pricing available tanks.

Maintenance supervisor Chisham asked the Council if now is a good time to start looking to add a vehicle for the City Clerks? Council President Gilchrist suggested another option such as mileage reimbursement in lieu of adding another vehicle to the City fleet. Councilwoman Reese confirmed that the Lost Rivers Hospital uses a reimbursement program. The Council agreed it is worth comparing costs of a vehicle versus a reimbursement program before taking further action.

Councilman Tessmer stated that the snow pile building up at the Valley Ag corner with Hwy 26/93 is now blocking visibility of oncoming northbound traffic. Maintenance supervisor Chisham stated that this snow pile is on Valley Ag property, but that he will contact Valley Ag to discuss removal.

**Adjournment** – Motion to adjourn was made at 8:29 p.m. The next regular Council meeting will be on Monday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the City Office.



Dana Jensen, Deputy Clerk



Grady Parsons, Mayor