

MINUTES

City Council
City of Arco
November 27, 2023

Mayor Parsons called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and lead those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance. In attendance were Mayor Grady Parsons, Council Members Bobbie Reese, Danny McCurdy, and via Zoom Ben Tessmer, City Clerk Maribel Cahalan, and Deputy Clerk Dana Jensen. Guests in attendance were Taci Stoddard of Altura, Rebecca Lange, Tom Cammack, Donna Murray, McKenzie Blattner, Robert Bettencourt, K.J. Babcock, Rosanne Smith, and Scott Leap of Anderson & Wood Construction, via Zoom.

Minutes from the previous meeting in October were approved.

Public Comment – no one signed up for public comment.

Taci Stoddard/Rick Miller of Altura – Administrative/Contract Approval-CDBG Park Project – Taci Stoddard, Project Administrator with Altura Community Consulting & Business Finance was on hand to discuss the status of the Park Grant Project and next steps. Ms. Stoddard also presented the Altura contract to oversee the park construction for approval from the City. Upon the approval of the contract, Altura will move forward with pre-work environmental reports and then solicitation of project bids in the Spring of 2024. Councilman Danny McCurdy made a motion to approve signing the Altura contract as proposed, and Councilwoman Bobbie Reese seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Scott Leap/Anderson & Wood Construction EV Charging Station – Scott Leap attended the meeting via Zoom to explain the issues with the EV Charging Station start-up and the proposed switch to a new credit card/EV Station support company called EV Connect. The Arco EV Station has been operational for around four months now. Anderson & Wood Construction is still involved to ensure that the installation contract specifications are satisfactorily completed. Mr. Leap assured the Council that the \$1000 charge for the switch to EV Connect has been approved for payment by the State of Idaho under the grant award. A motion was made to switch from the Credit Card payment provider to EV Connect. The motion passed. Mr. Leap to contact EV Connect to make the arrangements. Mr. Leap said he expects EV Connect to send a tech to Arco next week to inspect the station and complete the transition to EV Connect.

K.J. Babcock/Letter of Support to LHTAC – “Speed Signs” – Mr. Babcock has been working with the Idaho Department of Transportation (IDT), Butte County, and the Butte County School District to follow up on funding sources for permanent speed signs for the school zone on Grand Avenue. The Butte County School District has been in discussions with IDT about placing flashing speed signs, but IDT cannot ensure the funding for 2024. Mr. Babcock stated that he is following up on two grant sources to pay for the flashing speed signs in case IDT is not able to fund them. If grant funds are used to purchase the speed signs, IDT said that they would install them. Mr. Babcock is requesting a letter of support from the City to submit along with the grant requests. Councilman Tessmer made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign a letter of support. Motion passed.

Amend Minutes from Sept. 25th Meeting regarding CAT Grader – Mayor Parsons read the proposed changes to the Council from September 25th Minutes regarding to the details of pursuing a five-year lease agreement for a new road grader from Western States CAT dealer. The offer from Western States increases the buyback amount for the old grader and covers the first payment for the new grader. Councilman McCurdy made a motion to accept the amended Minutes. Motion passed.

Review and accept Travis Gilchrist’s letter of Resignation – Mayor Parsons read the letter of resignation from Council President Travis Gilchrist who has served on the Council for many years. The letter is dated and is effective November 13, 2023. With a “deep heart” and many thanks for the years of service to the City, Councilman Tessmer made a motion to accept the letter of resignation. Motion passed.

Appoint an Acting President until another will be appointed – Mayor Parsons would like to appoint an acting Council President until January 2024 when the Council may elect or appoint another Council President. Mayor Parsons

wished to appoint Councilman Ben Tessmer as acting Council President. The other Councilmembers agreed. Councilman McCurdy made a motion to approve the appointment of Councilman Tessmer as action Council President. Motion passed.

Bills – bills for the entire month of November in the amount of \$44,076.29 were reviewed and approved for payment.

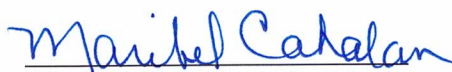
Roundtable – Mayor Parsons reminded the Council that plans for the annual Christmas Parade need to be made, and a date needs to be set. Also, Mayor Parsons asked the City Clerks to have the City Beer & Wine licenses renewals ready for the only City Council meeting on the second Monday in December, and to bring any Council action items to that meeting. Councilwoman Bobbie Reese reminded the Council that the Lost Rivers Medical Center has reserved the Rec Hall for their annual Holiday Party this weekend. There will be a lot of activities starting Friday night and going through the weekend. Councilwoman Reese also commented on how nice the City holiday lights look.

Councilman Tessmer urged the Council to consider the need to fill the vacant council position sooner rather than later. Any city resident interested, and who is a qualified voter within the City is urged to contact the Mayor if they are interested in the position. Also, Councilman Tessmer reminded the Council of the need to reschedule a Special Council Meeting to discuss add-on of the powers of the Mayor for certain purchases and to address the much-needed amendments to the City Employee Manual. Clerk Cahalan will send proposed dates to the Council members.

As there was no additional business, the Council adjourned at 7:47 p.m. The next meeting for the Arco City Council is Monday, December 11, at 7:00 p.m. at the City Office. At this time there is no regular Council meeting planned for the fourth Monday in December.



Grady Parsons, Mayor



Maribel Cahalan, City Clerk