

MINUTES

City Council
City of Arco
June 10, 2024

Prior to the Regular City Council Meeting, a public hearing was held at 6:30 p.m. to hear about the finished Facility Planning Study (FPS) to improve the City sewer treatment system. A few residents were in attendance to listen to the presentation by Forsgren Associate engineers who finished the study. With DEQ and funds from USDA Rural Development the cost of the study was paid for. Also, the presentation at the public hearing, the drafted FPS will be available on the City website. Study reports on the circumstances of the existing facility, which is at its capacity now, on future capacity needs, other possibilities and timeframe to replace the existing facility, and estimated cost to replace the facility. The FPS will go to DEQ for review and approval, if the next steps are taken. If DEQ approves the FPS, the City would then have to request assistance from Altura Community Consulting & Business Developing staff to start a funding source search. Funding would probably be a 20-year loan through the USDA Rural Development or through a combination USDA-RD loan and Army Corp Grant. A calculated completion date for a new facility would most likely be in 2027 or even later. After the chance for questions, the Public Hearing was closed at 7:02 p.m.

Mayor Grady Parsons called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and lead the Pledge of Allegiance. In attendance were Council President Ben Tessmer, Council members, Bobbie Reese, Amanda Darland, Arco Deputy Clerk Dana Jensen, Assistant Deputy Clerk Kc Thacker, and Maintenance Supervisor Tony Chisham. Guests included Tom Cammack, Rebecca Lange, Mike Duke, Kevin Harris, Camille Miller, Taci Stoddard, Kyle Redman, Jeff Arnold, Rosanne Smith, Michael Cooper, and Sheriff Dave Hansen.

Minutes from May 28, 2024, City Council meeting were reviewed and approved.

Public Comments – First up was Rosanne Smith – Ms. Smith asked the Council whether the proposed commercial garbage rate changes are available for public review. Council President Tessmer said that the proposed changes are still being developed. The Council plans to receive public comment at a Public Hearing that is scheduled for Monday, June 24th at 7:30 p.m., at the Butte County Business Center. There are no changes to the residential garbage rate planned. Ms. Smith asked about picnic tables that are stored at the City Shop. Ms. Smith wanted to know if the City will be moving them to the Park. Maintenance supervisor Chisham said that due to the weight of the concrete tables, concrete pads are needed at the park for these tables. The City will eventually get concrete pads in place so that the tables can be moved to the park.

Engineer Camille Miller/Forsgren Associates – Present Facility Planning Study & Discuss Science Center – Ms. Miller informed the Council that the next step with the sewer Facility Planning Study (FPS) presented at the Public Hearing is for the Council to decide if they are ready to approve the study for submittal for DEQ review and approval. The Council members did not have any further questions or discussion about the FPS. Council President Tessmer made a motion to proceed with the finalization of the FPS and submittal to DEQ. Motion passed.

Camille Miller/Forsgren Associates - Discuss Park Project/Restroom – Ms. Miller talked about the new restroom and Greenbelt maintenance and repair for the new Park Project. Ms. Miller reminded the Council of the \$250,000 grant that was awarded calls for the City to match \$10,000. The match can be in the form of in-kind work. Ms. Miller also said that the City had previously proposed completing the water/sewer installation work and would complete additional drainage ditch work. Ms. Miller estimated

the value of that work at \$10,000. In that matter, work could also include the plumbing and electrical work for the restroom facility. However, the electrical and plumbing work must be timed in order to match the placement of the restroom module. To confirm that timing, the City can choose to include the plumbing and electrical work in the contract work. Council President Tessmer made a motion to include the plumbing and electrical work (not to exceed \$10,000) in the complete contract proposal. Motion passed.

Camille Miller/Forsgren - Seepage Testing for the City Sewer Operating Permit – Ms. Miller informed the City that the last round of seepage testing for the City Sewer operating permit will meet DEQ requirements. Ms. Miller recommends that the City continue to collect seepage test data on a regular basis as the plan to replace the sewer facility moves forward.

Jeff Arnold – Phoenix Health Group Medicare Advantage Plan for Rural Idaho Employers – Mr. Arnold presented information about the Medicare Advantage Plan to the Council that is available by Phoenix Health Group to Butte County employers. Mr. Arnold explained that Butte County is one of five Idaho Counties that currently is without any available Medicare Advantage plans. Mr. Arnold said there is no cost to the City to offer this plan to its retirees. The City solely signs an agreement with Phoenix Health to offer the plan. After some Q&A, Council President Tessmer made a motion to put forth the offer of Phoenix Health Medicare Advantage Plan to City employees. Motion passed.

Michael Cooper – Local Construction Contractor – Mr. Cooper asked the City to consider removing a delinquent utility lien that was placed on an abandoned property that Mr. Cooper recently purchased from Butte County. Mr. Cooper said that the amount of the fines is higher than the delinquent utility bill and asked the City to forgive the lien. Mr. Cooper asked to have a new account set up to begin paying the utility bills from the time he bought the property. After Council questioned and discussed the request, Council President Tessmer believes that the least cost choice for the City is to forgive the lien with the provision that Mr. Cooper stay current paying the utility bill from here on. Motion passed.

Butte County Sheriff Dave Hanson – Update on what’s happening – Sheriff Hansen updated the City on Sheriff’s Office incident responses for 2024 so far. Sheriff Hansen stated that the response activity is down some from this time last year in 2023. To date, 1,424 incidents have been logged by the dispatch office. The numbers include calls from South Custer County. 73 of the incidents have resulted in criminal cases. In addition, 17 cases are pending and are also expected to end in criminal cases. The Sheriff’s Office awaits to further update their Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) and records management system by adding automated jail records management and a victim information/notification system. Sheriff Hansen said that a secure Mobile App will allow the Sheriff and Deputies to access the CAD on their mobile phones will be purchased. The costs for these added systems are already in the Sheriff’s Office fiscal 2024 budget and they have been approved by the County Commissioners. Sheriff Hansen also proposed and was given approval from Butte County to put into action a program to lease vehicles rather than purchase them. This will allow the Sheriff’s Office to acquire a new vehicle for each Deputy at a lesser cost than to purchase vehicles. Sheriff Hansen informed everyone that the season for increased traffic and increased vehicle accidents is here. The Sheriff said that other activities are being worked on by the Sheriff’s Office alongside the City Attorney is identification and correction of ordinance violations within the City. Council President Tessmer commended these efforts. The City Council wants to increase the accountability of residents on the upkeep of their property. Also, the Council has plans to appoint a Code Enforcement Officer soon. Sheriff Hansen said he would welcome the selected and would be happy to coordinate code enforcement action with the City. Both Sheriff and Council Members discussed the positive effect of the “speed trailer” positioned by the High School has had traffic follow the 25-mph speed on Grand Avenue. Also discussed were the possibilities of working with the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) to add more speed controls. There are some limitations because Grand Avenue and Main Street are State Highways. ITD doesn’t have funding to add any new controls or to

fund a Traffic Study that may have the undesired outcome of raising the speed limit on these access routes. Sheriff Hansen said that he would like to pursue funding for permanent blinking speed signs. Idaho's Local Highway Technical Assistance Council (LHTAC) is a possible funding source. The Sheriff suggests setting up a meeting between the City, his office, and ITD engineering office in Rigby. The Council liked that suggestion and asked the Sheriff to set up a joint meeting.

Council President Tessmer asked Sheriff Hansen if Butte County can re-establish a local Special Incident Team, given the recent critical incidents (one in Custer County and the other in Moore). Sheriff Hansen conveyed support for the notion but said that re-training the trained team members is still a concern for Butte County and Arco. The Sheriff explained the Tri-County Sheriff's Association response and support system for member counties. Bingham and Bannock Counties sent responders within 35 minutes on the most recent request for support, and Bonneville County responders were on standby in case the responders needed to be relieved if the incident went longer than it did.

Council President Tessmer asked Sheriff Hansen to attend the Council meetings monthly to provide updates on activities.

Kyle Redman/ATC – Mr. Redman from ATC provided an outline and cost estimate for cyber security for the City internet and computer systems. ATC has been offering cyber security systems for four years now. Mr. Redman thinks that ATC can contentiously offer quality cyber security. The rates and response would depend on the seriousness of a cyber breach and whether remote or onsite support or action is needed. Mr. Redman described in detail the range and level of support ATC can offer the City for \$850 per month. Deputy Clerk Jensen stated that the current three-year cyber security contract will expire this fall. Council President Tessmer recommended that the Council put out a formal bid process for the next cyber security contract.

Bills – Councilman McCurdy made a motion to approve payment of bills in the amount of \$19,373.81. Motion passed.

Roundtable – Mayor Parsons suggested that Council members consider attending a biannual Central Idaho Transportation Committee meeting that will be held September 19, in Salmon, Idaho. There will be information on roads and street grant sources and processes. Attending the meeting will add points to grant submittals and well as informing Council members about the process. Council President Tessmer encouraged all council members to attend if they are able.

Mayor Parsons shared an updated working draft of the Area of Impact Map that was prepared by the Butte County Planning Administrator and encouraged the Council to re-engage with the County to continue the process of defining and Area of Impact for the City of Arco.

Council President Tessmer mentioned that the budget planning season is here. A 2025 budget work meeting is scheduled for July 12.


Council President Tessmer suggested the City Council identify past "handshake" agreements between the City and Butte County and make plans to meet with County officials to develop written agreements for the things the City and County still want to pursue together, especially concerning maintenance or the expansion of the Greenbelt.

Councilwoman Darland informed the Council that in the current market it is too late in the year to obtain oil for chip sealing. The County doesn't even have a guarantee for delivery of oil they ordered months ago, even though the County is still planning for delivery in August. Ms. Darland recommends continuing the planning process for chip sealing a section of City streets so that the project can proceed in 2025. Ms. Darland also recommended the City coordinate with the County Road and Bridge Department to work on sections of the City

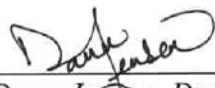
Streets that straddle a City/County boundary in order to maximize connectivity of street maintenance.

Deputy Clerk Jensen reminded everyone that the Staff from Congressman Simpson's Office will be visiting the City Office on Wednesday, June 12, from 10:30 to 11:00 a.m. And they will be at Lost River Senior Center from 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Adjournment – Motion to adjourn was made at 8:50 p.m. The next regular Council meeting will be on Monday, June 24, at 6:30 p.m. The Council meeting will be held at the Butte County Business Center. The Public Hearing will accept comments about the proposed commercial garbage rate changes will begin at 7:30 p.m., right after the City Council meeting.



Grady Parsons, Arco Mayor



Dana Jensen, Deputy Clerk