

MINUTES

City Council
City of Arco
November 12, 2024

Mayor Grady Parsons called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m., held on Tuesday, November 12, the day after observance of Veteran's Day.

In attendance were Mayor Grady Parsons, Council President Ben Tessmer, Councilmembers Bobbie Reese, Danny McCurdy, and Amanda Darland. Deputy Clerk Dana Jensen, Maintenance Supervisor Tony Chisham, and City Planning & Zoning Chair Rebecca Lange. Guests were Tom Cammack, John Muffett, and Todd Peterson.

Minutes of the October 28 Council meeting were reviewed and approved.

Public Comments – No one signed up for public comments.

John Muffett – Airport Project Update – Mr. Muffett gave an update on status of a grant request to the State of Idaho for funds to install a fuel card reader system at the Butte County – Arco Airport. Mr. Muffett said that the bid cost submitted to the State of Idaho is \$31,374.00. The County and City would pay either a 2.5 percent or a 5 percent match. The match would either be \$785 or \$1,570; half to be paid by the City; the other to be paid by the County. Mr. Muffett feels that if the grant is awarded, there may be donors in the community who might help with the match dollars. Mr. Muffett gave a status of the grant request through the FAA that would allow activity on the projects identified in the Airport Master Plan, such as a new fuel system for the airport. Mr. Muffett said that the contact person at the FAA feels that there will be more money coming in 2025 that will go to the Butte County – Arco Airport. Councilwoman Reese asked what's the timeline for installation of the card reader system if the grant is awarded. The planned timeline calls for installation in the Spring or Summer of 2025 said Mr. Muffett. Council President Tessmer made a motion to have the City plan to cover the 2.5 percent or 5 percent matching dollars, whichever it is. Councilman McCurdy seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Dana Jensen – Utility /billing Online Options – deputy Clerk Jensen gave report that the City has several options to add an online utility payment system to the City's systems. Ms. Jensen researched the system and said that it would have an installation cost as well as a cost for a needed upgrade to the Caselle utility and financial billing software which is used by the City. Ms. Jensen stated she found that Caselle is ready to release their own online payment system software upgrade. There would not be any additional cost to the City for this upgrade. At present time, residents are paying a credit card transaction fee if they use a credit card to make their utility payments. With an online payment system there is no fee for electronic payments. Also, residents would be able to review their utility bills and make payments online and arrange automatic debt payments if they wish to. Residents would still have the option to pay their utility bills in the manner that they have done. After a brief discussion and reviewed the options, Council President Tessmer made a motion to approve the Caselle online bill pay software upgrade. Councilman McCurdy seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Lost River Senior Center Annual Support Campaign – Mayor Parsons read a letter from the Lost River Senior Center about the Annual Support Campaign. The Arco Senior Center has been serving the

Arco community for 50 years now. Unfortunately, the last three years have seen a reduction in State and Federal funding for food supplies, but the number of meals served and delivered has increased. The Senior Center staff has reported that 9,106 meals were served or delivered in 2023. In 2024, the Senior Center has seen a 30 percent increase in meals served. Around 45-65 meals per day are being served at the Senior Center or are being delivered by a magnificent group of volunteer drivers. Continued support, in volunteer service or financially, is essential to continue to operate the Senior Center meal service. They can always use additional meal delivery drivers! No action was taken on this agenda item.

Bills – Bills in the amount of \$16,123.36 were reviewed and approved for payment.

Roundtable – Mayor Parsons read a letter sent from Butte County Commissioner Langseth detailing the current outreach by the Idaho (Nuclear) Cleanup Project Citizens Advisory Board (ICP CAB or just “the CAB”). The Board currently is recruiting new volunteer citizen members to be seated on the Board for the summer of 2025. The ICP CAB was chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act to provide advice to the U.S. Department of Energy’s Idaho Operations Office (DOE-ID) on issues that are related to the cleanup program at the INL. The ICP CAB was formed in 1994 and consists of 12 members who were chosen to reflect the diversity of perspectives to the affected community and region. Members are appointed by DOE and serve in an advisory capacity. CAB members do not receive any compensation. Competencies in cleanup, or Idaho State cleanup specifically, where membership is not required. The ICP CAB is seeking members who are interested in Idaho Site cleanup and have a desire to commit time to provide their viewpoint. Membership on the Board requires a genuine interest in issues related to Idaho site cleanup activities, as well as the time to study, review, and develop advice and input on those issues. The ICP CAB meets quarterly, and all meetings are open to the public. Applications are due December 31, 2024, to allow some time for applications to be reviewed and to screen applicants. Although, applications can be submitted at any time and may be kept on file at the DOE Idaho Operations Office for future consideration. There’s more information and a link to the application are available at: <http://www.energy.gov/em/icpcab/idaho-cleanup-project-citizens-advisory-board-icp-cab>

Mayor Parsons gave a report that City Code Enforcer Tim Snyder said that property cleanup efforts continue. Mayor Parsons informed the Councilmembers that the restroom facility at the Science Center/EV Park is almost complete.

Council President Tessmer said he will not be able to attend the November 25 Council meeting. He asked if any of the others will attend to ensure that there is a quorum. One Council member stated that they might be able to attend via phone to have a quorum.

Council President Tessmer stated that normally the City Council does not meet the fourth Monday of December. Mr. Tessmer made a motion to cancel the December 23 meeting and to move the review of late December bills to the first meeting in January 2025. Councilman McCurdy seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Councilman McCurdy made a comment that the lot cleanup at Idaho Street and Temple Avenue is such an awesome improvement.

Councilwoman Reese inquired if the City has made plans for a City staff holiday party. The Mayor said that no date has been set, but that if the City staff agrees on a date, then the City can have an evening staff party. There was no date mentioned.

Councilwoman Darland gave report on the Lost River Electric Coop annual meeting. Ms. Darland said that the meeting was greatly informative. The Lost River Electric Board provided details on all

details of the Coop expenditure and answered every question asked. Ms. Darland reported that the Butte County Road and Bridge Supervisor has agreed to brief the City Council on cooperative road projects and on scheduling to order materials. Mr. Larsen's visit is tentatively planned for December 9.

City Planning and Zoning Commission Chair Rebecca Lange gave information to the City Council on the November 13 City PZ agenda and preparations for the November 14 Impact Area Public Hearing. The agenda for the regular City PZ meeting had an architect for a local city property owner. The property owner and the architect have questions about zoning for multi-family dwellings and plan on showing a proposed dwelling. Chair Lange said that work will continue on planning and zoning ordinance revisions. The Public Hearing for the Impact Area will be held on Thursday, November 14, starts at 7:00 p.m. at the Butte County Business Center.

Councilman McCurdy made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 p.m. The motion was seconded and the meeting adjourned.

The next Regular Council meeting will be held on Monday, November 25, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at the City Office.

Grady Parsons, Arco Mayor

Dana Jensen, Deputy Clerk