

MINUTES

City Council
City of Arco
May 13, 2024

Mayor Grady Parsons called the regular meeting to order for Monday, May 13, at 7:00 p.m. and lead the Pledge of Allegiance. In attendance were Council President Ben Tessmer, Council member Amanda Darland, and via phone Council member Danny McCurdy, Deputy Clerk Dana Jensen, Assistant Kc Thacker, and Maintenance Supervisor Tony Chisham. Guests were Rebecca Lange, Tom Cammack, Amanda Wetherbee, Rosanne Smith, Fire Chief Dan Koste, Donna Murray, Kim Sanders, Kyle Redman, Blaine Cummins, Jefferson Day, and a few family members.

Minutes from the April 22 meeting were reviewed by Council. Council President Tessmer referred to a change needed to be made regarding the Hay Bids item. Therefore, the minutes need to say that the bidder cannot complete the contract for the hay cutting.

Council President Tessmer made a motion to approve the April 22 City Council minutes. Motion passed.

Public Comments – Two residents signed up for Public Comments. First up was Rosanne Smith. Ms. Smith pointed out the previous spending in 2023 of City funds for M2 Security to supply a security system analysis and of the high cost of the equipment that was recommended by M2. Ms. Smith made a comment that County residents pay taxes to manage the Sheriff's Office. Furthermore, the City pays the Sheriff's Office for the duties of policing the City. Ms. Smith said this is a duplicate of funding. Finally, Ms. Smith said that the current request from the City to have ATC outline a security camera system and the installation and operating cost estimate is another duplicate of funds spent by the City. Ms. Smith suggested that the funds would be best spent on road maintenance.

Jefferson Day was up next. Mr. Day expressed the hardships and obscure process he has experienced in trying to place a CONEX (steel shipping container) located at his property for storage of building materials. Mr. Day stated that originally, he had looked into a 40ft storage container, but when told by the City building inspector that this wasn't allowed, Mr. Day opted for two 20ft containers as he thought they fell under the size that required a permit from the City. At this time, Mr. Day has received a letter from the City Attorney informing him that the two 20ft containers are not in compliance with the City ordinances and must remove them immediately. Mr. Day says that his property is in better shape since taking ownership and thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak publicly.

Kyle Redman / ATC update on Security Cameras – Mr. Redman presented to the Council two options and cost estimates for the security camera system designed after receiving input from City staff. Mr. Redman proposed installation of a Local Area Network (LAN) to connect the numerous camera sites to a single data capture location. ATC said THAT they can provide the equipment and do the installation work either as an equipment purchase by the City, or under a lease arrangement that would provide maintenance, troubleshooting, and training on any installed system. From the estimated cost provided by Mr. Redman, Council President Tessmer referred to the proposed lease cost would be about \$7,500 at first. On the other hand, the City would spend \$4,800 this year under the purchase option but would have to pay additional money for any other tech support. Council President Tessmer supported the lease option and made a motion to go ahead with that. Motion was passed.

Chad Cheyney/Greenbelt, Trees & Shrubs – Mr. Cheyney was not present for the meeting.

Kim Sanders/Complaint on Neighbor's Property & Partial Closure to Alley – Ms. Sanders, Local business owner and Arco resident came into the Council meeting to complain about a next-door neighbor that is putting their trash in her trash bins. The City has been looking into locking the dumpsters but hasn't found a workable solution but will work with the affront resident to put a stop to their actions. Meanwhile, the Council will take note and record Ms. Sanders' complaint.

Ms. Sanders also wanted to raise the issue of closing off a section of the alley behind one of her properties so to put a stop to the high-speed traffic along the alley. Council President Tessmer said that for City assess and for safety reasons the alley can not be closed. Nevertheless, the City could take action to install some four-inch speed bumps to slow down the traffic. Ms. Sanders said that this could solve the problem. Council President Tessmer asked maintenance supervisor Tony Chisham to set up the installation of speed bumps.

Fire Chief Dan Koste/ update from County Commissioner's Meeting – Fire Chief Koste returned to relay his presentation to the Council that he appealed to the County Commissioners for funding support for new radios that are needed for the Volunteer Fire Department. The County Commission waived to make funds available until other feasible funding or grant sources are investigated. Commissioner Langseth felt it would be beneficial to bring the matter in question to INL agencies to see if they might be able to provide funds to support the Arco Volunteer Fire Dept. and asked Fire Chief Koste to return in two weeks to discuss the outcome.

Mr. Koste also brought up to the Council an important OSHA rule is making changes (29 CFR 1910.156) that is underway. The changes could bring time-consuming and costly requirements to fire service organizations. There is much concern that the proposed regulation could bring unfunded mandates and possibly unattainable standards practically ensuring that many fire service organizations such as Arco's will be in non-compliance. The ability to bring on new volunteers along with cost factors under new rules is very concerning. Council President Tessmer asked Fire Chief Koste to start preparing cost estimate figures needed for the Arco Fire Dept. to comply if the new rule passes. Mr. Koste said he already used available information and has found that it may cost an additional \$14,500 per year for departments like Arco to comply. Council President Tessmer asked Fire Chief Koste to work on the numbers and plan on being present in the 2025 City Budget preparation process. Searching potential Grant sources will be very important.

Last, Fire Chief Koste presented to the Council the Annual Operation Plan for the Arco Fire Dept. If accepted, the Mayor will need to sign it.

Tony Chisham/Council needs to choose a color for New Bathroom – Mr. Chisham, Maintenance Supervisor told the Council that a color for the Science Centers New Bathroom needs to be chosen to keep the project on track. Mr. Chisham suggested matching colors to the existing facilities, like City parks that are greyish-brown brick or cinderblock. As a matter of fact, the image in the contract has those colors. Council President Tessmer recommended suggesting that the contractor use the same color scheme that is in the image.

Kc Thacker/Consider request for temporary signage at Family Dollar – Assistant Deputy Clerk Thacker told the Council that Family Dollar requested the installation of temporary banners for an upcoming store event. Council President Tessmer cited Arco Ordinance 17.51.050, section D, allowing for temporary signs not to exceed fifty square feet in area announcing special public or institutional events for a period of sixty days, and advised Ms. Thacker to have the Family Dollar Store manager submit an application to the City.

Bills – bills were reviewed and approved for payment in the amount of \$30,927.75.

Roundtable – Deputy Clerk Jensen told the Council that Camille Miller, Engineer with Forsgren Associates requested to be on the Council agenda for June 10th Council meeting. Ms. Miller informed the City that a Public Hearing for the park/restroom facility project needs to stay on track with the grant contract. Mr. Miller suggested scheduling the hearing for 30 minutes prior to the June 10 Council meeting. Ms. Jensen said that she would prepare the notices for the newspaper and for other postings.

Ms. Jensen reminded the Council of the next work meeting to update City ordinances. The meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 17, at 11 a.m. at the City Office.

Ms. Jensen asked the Council if they wanted to cancel the Council meeting for Monday, May 27, as it is a Federal holiday. Of, if Council wished to schedule a meeting for Tuesday, May 28, at 7 p.m. at the City Office.

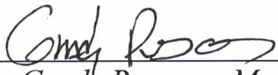
Mayor Parsons shared updates on activity for City crew. Mayor said that the City crew is getting the water and sprinkler systems at the parks turned on for summertime. The City crew finished cleanup and preparation of the Softball field. And as soon as more cold patch asphalt is delivered, the City crew will continue to fill and smooth potholes in the streets. The water trucks modifications to create a sprayer for the dust abatement application are still in progress.

Council President Tessmer would like to pursue re-survey of the street gradients to provide needed baselines proceeds. Mr. Tessmer recommends that the City publish a request for bids. Council President Tessmer's expectations to complete the recommendations for commercial garage collection rates to discuss at the next Council meeting. Mr. Tessmer and maintenance supervisor Chisham will continue to research locking dumpsters options and lower shipping cost options.

Councilwoman Darland reached a contact at ITD to ask about available chips for chip sealing. The ITD contact said that ITD contracts that work now do not keep a stockpile on hand, but that if they knew how much the City is needing, they might be able to find some available material. As for Mr. Chisham's recommendation of planning for one-mile segments of work, and the existing City's stockpile, Mr. Chisham estimates another 2000 yards of chop is needed. Councilwoman Darland said she would communicate that to the ITD contact.

Councilwoman Darland said she has concerns about the spreading beetle infestation within the trees in the City. Recommendation is that trees receive sufficient water to reduce beetle infestation. Ms. Darland feels that communication to City residents is needed. Trimming out dead wood may help control insect infestations. Spray treatments for beetles is available, but no agreement on best sprays was ever reached. Mr. Chisham reminded the Council that the City has contracted a spray treatment for trees at Bottolfsen Park.

The Council motion to adjourn at 8:08 p.m. Motion carried. The next Regular Council meeting will be on Tuesday, May 28, 7:00 p.m. at the City Office.



Grady Parsons, Mayor



Dana Jensen, Deputy Clerk