

MINUTES

City Council
City of Arco
April 22, 2024

Mayor Grady Parsons called the regular meeting to order for Monday, April 22, at 7:00 p.m. and lead the Pledge of Allegiance. In attendance were Council President Ben Tessmer, Council members Bobbie Reese, Danny McCurdy, Amanda Darland, City Clerk Maribel Cahalan, Deputy Clerk Dana Jensen, Maintenance Supervisor Tony Chisham, and Maintenance Lead Tim Snyder. Guests were Rebecca Lange, David Valentine, Rosanne Smith, Lindsey Snyder, Jody Harrington, Shelly Blackner, Amanda Wetherbee, Fire Chief Dan Koste, Assistant Fire Chief Tim Williams, and Toots McDonough.

Minutes from the April 08 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Public Comments – Three residents signed up for Public Comments. First up was Kara Keller, but she was not present. Next up was Toots McDonough, she wanted to inform the City of issues at the Community Garden that is next to the Butte County Rodeo Grounds. Ms. McDonough was informed by Shelly Blackner – Butte County Clerk that the Community Garden is not the responsibility of the County. Ms. McDonough also stated that some of her tools that were left at the Community Garden have gone missing and has not been able to contact Mr. Cheney. Ms. McDonough was hoping the City could help her get in touch with the right person to resolve the issues with the Community Garden. Council President Tessmer told Ms. McDonough no, because the City is not involved in managing the Community Garden, therefore, the City would not be able to help, except to confirm that Mr. Cheney is the contact person for the Community Garden.

Arco resident Rosanne Smith signed up for Public Comment but decided to pass on her time to speak.

Dan Koste/Fire Chief – update Council about Radios – Fire Chief Koste, along with Assistant Fire Chief Tim Williams were present to give an update on issues and funding shortages related to the much-needed radio upgrades for the Volunteer Fire Department. M. Koste said that after finding out the grant funding application to replace the aging mobile radios was not approved, Mr. Koste said that he completed additional radio technology, cost research to update the information, and radio availability that was researched for the grant applications. Mr. Koste shared information with the Council on technology changes and costs for new radios and explained that thought it is most favored, and required, that the Arco Voluntary Fire Department be able to operate on the same system as the U.S. Forest Service and Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management (BLM) radio systems, the Forest Service and BLM agencies could be moving to the encrypted radio systems. It might be possible to purchase radios with the capacity to interface with encrypted radio systems, but there would be an additional cost. The least expensive radios available for purchase aren't necessarily the most likeable or compatible with the Forest Service and BLM radio systems. The cost estimate for the most compatible radio is 41,600 per radio and does not include decryption technology. The Arco Fire Department is looking to the City of Arco Council to help with funding 18 new radios. Fire Chief Koste said that though 18 radios are needed, the Fire Department could do with 5 new radios that has all the "bells and whistles" and purchase the other 13 radios one by one with basic capabilities where upgrading modules could be purchased in the future. The total cost would come to \$20,399. Fire Chief Koste said that they can forgo previously approved funding from the City for new SCBA air bottles. \$9,700 was previously approved by the City for SCBA bottles has not been obligated and could be shifted to cover some of the cost of new radio purchases. Council President Tessmer asked Mr. Koste whether the Fire Department had asked the County about helping with the purchase. Mr. Koste said that this has not been done. At the meeting was Shelly Blackner, Butte County Clerk, Ms. Blackner said that she would request that the issue be put on the Butte Commissioners agenda. Council President Tessmer recommended tabling the issue for now until the City and County can get together to discuss if joint funding is possible. Council President Tessmer recommended that the Council inform the County Commissioners that the City of Arco has already approved up to \$16,000 funding for equipment for the Fire Department.

Shelly Blackner/Pretty City Committee Update/Upcoming Projects – Ms. Blackner, Pretty City Chair presented an outline of proposed Pretty City events for the spring and summer. Ms. Blackner wanted to make sure that the City was going to hold the May Cleanup Event. The Council confirmed it with a yes. Clerk Cahalan said that she was going to call the Arco Advertiser on Tuesday to get the ad placed. Ms. Blackner asked what plans the City has for the Greenbelt

expansion that is under way. Maintenance Lead Tim Snyder said that the City Crew will be installing a sprinkler system to keep the dust down over the summer. In time, the expansion area will be mulched and seeded. Council President Tessmer asked if Butte County would consider improving the old railroad right-of-way Greenbelt from the Cemetery all the way south to Highway 93. Ms. Blackner said that she would consider it. Some other projects planned by the PCC are to once again place flowerpots along the Main Street corridor. The Committee is planning to paint the Science Center information kiosk, hoping before the Fourth of July, and asked for assistance from the City to prepare the kiosk for painting. Maintenance Lead Snyder said that the City Crew could pressure wash the structure and will coordinate with the Pretty City Committee. Mr. Snyder also stated that plans are underway to clean up the Softball field that will include plowing the infield dirt and treating for weed prevention. Once again, the Pretty City Committee will sponsor the Fourth of July parade as well as the hotdog feed event along with other activities after the parade. The Pretty City Committee is organizing this year's Atomic Days parade and events. Mayor Parsons asked if the PCC will still be involved in the project to place additional trees along the Greenbelt? Jody Harrington said that the committee was looking at purchasing up to 10 2-4 foot trees but is needing a way to get them to Arco. Mr. Snyder said that the City Crew might be able to pick up the trees to bring to Arco. Mr. Snyder will coordinate with Wayne Ouellette who is on the PCC.

Maintenance Lead – Tim Snyder – Hay Bids – Mr. Snyder informed the Council that due to a change in circumstances, the previous bidder for the City hay is not able to complete the task. Mr. Snyder asked that the City put out another bid notice for the hay.

Maintenance Supervisor Tony Chisham – Discuss Quotes for Garbage Dumpsters – Mr. Chisham provided the Council with quotes for the purchase of plastic dumpsters. Mr. Chisham said that they are much lighter and are less expensive than metal dumpsters, but Mr. Chisham said that the freight delivery cost is much higher. Council President Tessmer asked Mr. Chisham to find out whether the City could go pick up the dumpsters from the manufacturer to save on freight costs. Council President Tessmer recommended that this item be tabled until more information on pickup or delivery options can be obtained.

Planning & Zoning Appointment and Swearing In – Mayor Parsons that the Council consider Rebecca Lange as a nominee for the City Planning and Zoning Commission. Ms. Lange has shown an interest in volunteering to sit on the City Planning and Zoning Commission. After some discussion amongst the Council members and comments in favor of the nomination, Council President Tessmer made a motion to accept the nomination of Ms. Rebecca Lange for the City Planning and Zoning Commission. Motion was seconded and passed. The City needs several more interested residents to fill the City Planning and Zoning Commission. Any interested City residents are encouraged to contact the City Office.

Bills – bills were reviewed and approved for payment in the amount of \$15,796.26.

Roundtable – City Clerk Cahalan remarked that representative Jeff Arnold from Phoenix Health contacted her regarding a newly available Group Medicare Advantage Plan for rural Idaho employers. Mr. Arnold presented the same plan to Butte County Commissioners earlier in the day. Mr. Arnold offered to come back to Arco to make a presentation to the City Council. Council President Tessmer asked Clerk Cahalan to extend an invitation to Mr. Arnold to a Council meeting soon.

Mayor Parsons shared information with the Council about availability of a semi-load of compost to treat the Greenbelt expansion area. Though freight cost is a consideration, Councilwoman Darland suggested that the City Crew ask one of the local hay haulers if there is a possibility of back haul to Arco. Maintenance Lead Snyder said that he would follow up on this.

Mayor Parsons mentioned that the engineering firm handling the contract process for the new restroom facility that will go in at the EV Station/Science Center Park is asking the City to select a desired paint color scheme for the facilities. The Council and City Crew will consider options over the next few weeks in preparation of the contract that was awarded.

Council President Tessmer talked about the trip that Council and City Crew took to Soda Springs and to Firth, Idaho to tour the sewage treatment mechanical plants of a type that was recommended to the City of Arco to upgrade the Arco treatment plant. Council President Tessmer asked to keep details in mind for those that went on the trip to use at some point when the City starts to outline facility needs for the City of Arco.

Council President Tessmer is working on details and pricings to sort out commercial garbage pickup rates for the businesses in Arco. Mr. Tessmer believes he will have an outline for updating commercial garbage rates to present at the next Council meeting or a Special Working meeting. If the Council moves forward with the proposed commercial rate changes, then a Public Hearing will need to be held.

Councilwoman Reese asked if the City had any updates/progress for the security camera for City facilities? Maintenance Supervisor Chisham said that a technician from ATC had visited with the City Crew and walked all the facilities to discuss equipment types and placement. There haven't been any updated estimates/costs for security cameras turned to the City. Council President Tessmer asked Clerk Cahalan to extend an invitation to the ATC Rep to the next Council meeting to follow up with the updated project plan and cost estimate.

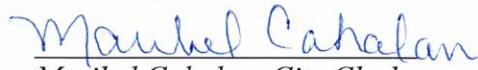
Councilwoman Darland deferred her time to Maintenance Lead Snyder. Mr. Snyder informed the Council about pine beetle damage in at least three trees in Bottolfsen Park. Mr. Snyder stated that he asked horticulturalist Cheyney for his input on the pine beetle problem. Mr. Snyder stressed that there is concern that the pine beetles are spreading in Arco and that removing infested trees is not the solution. Councilwoman Darland asked why the City crew couldn't spray the infested trees? Maintenance Lead Snyder said that he would inquire about getting cost estimates for treating the infested trees from different companies.

Councilwoman Darland asked if additional consideration is needed to purchase oil for chip sealing? Council President Tessmer stated that the City has no where to store the oil that is purchased in advance, and that more detailed planning for source rock chips is needed as well as looking into gradient design plans to improve drainage off the City streets before further action can be taken.

The Council motion to adjourn at 8:19 p.m. Motion carried. The next Regular Council meeting will be on Monday, May 13, 7:00 p.m. at the City Office.



Grady Parsons, Mayor



Maribel Cahalan, City Clerk