



Minutes of the Arlington City Council Zoom Workshop

Monday, March 14, 2022

Councilmembers Present: Mike Hopson, Marilyn Oertle, Debora Nelson, Don Vanney, Jan Schuette, Michele Blythe, and Heather Logan.

Council Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Mayor Barb Tolbert, Paul Ellis, James Trefry, Sarah Lopez, Jay Downing, Josh Grindy, Jim Kelly, Tony Orr, City Attorney Steve Peiffle, and Wendy Van Der Meersche.

Also Known to be Present: Tom Beckwith and four YouTube viewers.

Mayor Barb Tolbert called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, and the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call followed.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem Jan Schuette moved to approve the agenda as presented. Councilmember Marilyn Oertle seconded the motion, which passed with a unanimous vote.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS AND PRESENTATIONS

None.

WORKSHOP ITEMS – NO ACTION WAS TAKEN

Ordinance Amending Chapter 2.36 of the Arlington Municipal Code

City Administrator Paul Ellis reviewed the ordinance amending Chapter 2.36 of the Arlington Municipal Code.

With the Arlington Fire Department's merger with North County Regional Fire Authority (NCRFA), the City's code provisions require updates to reflect NCRFA as the sole provider for EMS and fire services in the city, including inspections. This ordinance addresses these code revisions, and avoids competition for services.

The voters of the City approved, by election, the annexation by the City to the North County Regional Fire Authority, pursuant to a service plan jointly adopted by the NCRFA and the City of Arlington. Brief discussion followed with Mr. Ellis answering Council questions.

Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Part One

Community Engagement Director Sarah Lopez introduced Tom Beckwith, FAICP, principal at Beckwith Consulting Group. With the use of a PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Beckwith reviewed part one of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Discussion followed with Mr. Beckwith answering Council questions.

Contract with Zen City

Community Engagement Director Sarah Lopez reviewed the contract with Zencity.

Zencity is a community engagement tool for local governments. This program gathers and analyzes residents' input from online channels and allows local governments to hear from and understand all of their community members' real-time needs and priorities. They do this with unique methodologies and technology that combine organic resident dialog found in public domains and cutting-edge survey sampling.

The program also includes a community engagement public interface that can link to our website to share hot topic, essential project information and collect feedback.

Zencity will deliver real-time actionable insights that can help us prioritize resources, track performance, and connect with more of our community.

The City released a call for proposals for community engagement online data analysis services on February 3, 2022 and received four proposals. Discussion followed with Ms. Lopez answering Council questions.

Request for Unscheduled Equipment Purchase

M&O Manager Jay Downing reviewed a request to utilize funds originally scheduled to replace the City's road grader, to purchase a skid steer loader, attachments, and trailer.

The City currently owns a 1988 Caterpillar road grader, due for replacement in 2024. There is currently \$200,000 budgeted for its replacement. These funds were set as a place holder approximately five years ago, and are not sufficient to replace for like equipment. The current fund balance is \$207,185.40.

The Grader is primarily used in narrow gravel alleyways throughout the City, which is challenging due to the size of the grader. Staff manages, but it is not ideal. Staff thought to replace it with a similar, but smaller machine. However, while evaluating and researching this, multiple contractors and vendors suggested keeping the large grader and rather than replace it, instead, purchasing a skid Steer Loader with multiple attachments, providing more versatility, while keeping within the current budgeted amount.

Staff proposes to purchase a Caterpillar 279D3 Skid Steer Loader, attachments, and trailer. Staff also proposes to keep the road grader until it reaches the end of its useful life, estimated 10-15 years, rescheduling its replacement to 2035, at which time staff will reevaluate the condition and need for replacement of the grader. The total requested expenditures include the skid steer loader, attachments, trailer, tax, and a 5yr/3000hr warranty. This purchase will not impact any future purchases. The current grader will remain in service, but not replaced at the end of its useful life. This purchase is the replacement. Discussion followed with Mr. Downing answering Council questions.

Appointments to Cemetery Board

Public Works Director Jim Kelly reviewed applications of Allen Ice and Annette Patterson.

The Cemetery Board serves as an advisory board to the Mayor and City Council with respect to all aspects of the Arlington Cemetery. The board meets bi-monthly and reviews activities and operations as well as finances, capital planning, future expansion plans/needs and any other issues that may arise.

Allen Ice has been in the funeral profession for over 40 years and has served on the Cemetery Board since 2002. Allen wishes to continue to serve in this capacity for the next four-year term. Annette Patterson is a strong community member who has served on the board since 2015, and wishes to continue to serve in this capacity for the next four-year term. The City is very grateful for Allen and Annette’s many years of service and staff recommends both Allen and Annette for reappointment to the Cemetery Board.

Utilities and Transportation Quarterly Report (2022-Q1)

Public Works Director Jim Kelly presented the first quarterly report of 2022. Discussion followed with Mr. Kelly answering Council questions.

ADMINISTRATOR AND STAFF REPORTS

None.

MAYOR’S REPORT

None.

COMMENTS FROM COUNCILMEMBERS

None.

COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS

Councilmembers had nothing to report this evening.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

REVIEW OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Councilmembers discussed and agreed to place two items on the consent agenda for the March 21, 2022 Council meeting.

- 1. Ordinance Amending Chapter 2.36 of the Arlington Municipal Code
- 5. Appointments to Cemetery Board

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.


Barbara Tolbert, Mayor

