



Minutes of the Arlington City Council Meeting

Council Chambers
110 East Third Street
March 16, 2020

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

Council Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Mayor Barb Tolbert, Paul Ellis, and Wendy Van Der Meersche.

Also Known to be Present: Kathy Vanney.

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

Mayor Tolbert read a statement regarding COVID-19 precautions the City is taking, including social distancing set up for tonight's meeting.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS AND PRESENTATIONS

None.

PROCLAMATIONS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem Jesica Stickle moved and Councilmember Jan Schuette seconded the motion to approve the Consent Agenda that was unanimously carried:

1. Minutes of the March 2 and March 9, 2020 Council meetings
2. Accounts Payable: EFT Payments and Claims Checks #99157 through #99278 dated March 3, 2020 through March 16, 2020 for \$599,197.14; and Payroll EFT Payments and Checks #29508 through #29516 dated February 1, 2020 through February 29, 2020 for \$1,390,386.74.
3. Professional Services Agreement with Karen Reed Consulting, LLC
4. Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 2019-012 Regarding Legal Description

PUBLIC HEARING

Resolution Declaring Certain Property (Vehicles) as Surplus

City Administrator Paul Ellis requested Council approve the resolution declaring certain vehicles as surplus.

The public hearing was opened at 7:04 p.m. With no one wishing to speak, the public hearing portion was closed at 7:04 p.m. Council questions were opened at 7:04 p.m. With no further comments or questions, the public hearing was closed at 7:06 p.m.

Mayor Pro Tem Jesica Stickles moved and Councilmember Debora Nelson seconded the motion I move to approve the Resolution Declaring Certain Property as Surplus, and authorize the Mayor to sign the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution for Emergency Declaration for Burn Road Waterline Break and Repair

City Administrator Paul Ellis requested Council approve the resolution declaring an emergency for water main repair at 207th Street and Burn Road. Discussion followed with Mr. Ellis answering Council questions.

Councilmember Debora Nelson moved and Councilmember Jesica Stickles seconded the motion to approve the Resolution Declaring an Emergency and Waiving Competitive Bidding Requirements due to a Break in the Burn Road Water Main, and authorized the Mayor to sign the resolution, pending final approval by the City Attorney. The motion passed unanimously.

Financing for New Fire Station 48

City Administrator Paul Ellis reviewed financing options for new Fire Station 48.

The City is currently leasing space for Fire Station 48. The lease agreement was entered into April 1, 2018 and can be terminated by either party, at any time. The current owner of the facility would like the City to vacate as soon as possible as they would like to use the facility for a different purpose. The short term nature of the lease agreement is driving the City's need for a new fire station as there isn't an alternative facility that can be used.

Councilmember Marilyn Oertle moved and Councilmember Debora Nelson seconded the motion to authorize the finance director to sign the term sheet, as presented, with Sterling Bank, authorizing continued negotiations on the financing of the new fire station.

ADMINISTRATOR & STAFF REPORTS

City Administrator Paul Ellis indicated that IT Director Bryan Terry is working on a process to give Councilmembers remote access to council meetings. In the near future, he will conduct testing, and provide training. Mr. Ellis has contacted the City Attorney to prepare a resolution to make changes to Council Rules and Procedures to allow remote access. It is still in process. There will be protocols in place to provide structure and allow all councilmembers to make comments. This will allow councilmember and members of the public the opportunity to call in.

Mr. Ellis also stated that many public utility districts, in light of the coronavirus, have waived late fees and suspended shutoffs, due to people being without jobs, and businesses closing. Council does have authority to do that, as well. A resolution is not required at this point, but a motion can be made tonight for the March and April billing period with an emergency action. Anything beyond that, a resolution would be generated. Discussion followed.

Emergency Waiver of Utility Bill Late Fees and Suspension of Water Shutoffs for March and April 2020

Mayor Pro Tem Jesica Stickles moved and Councilmember Marilyn Oertle seconded the motion to waive utility bill late fees and suspend water shutoffs on overdue bills for March and April 2020. The motion passed unanimously.

In the upcoming months, Mr. Ellis wants to limit the amount of staff present at Council meetings, and will try to perform presentations himself. He asked Councilmembers to consider holding one Council cycle a month (one workshop, one meeting), during this time. If video conferencing becomes available, that would be the first priority. Discussion followed. The Mayor indicated that with the Governor's updates, physical Council meetings may have to be suspended temporarily. In that case, workshops would be suspended, and packets would be distributed early, with a Council meeting held remotely.

City revenues and economic downturn was discussed. The Mayor indicated an in depth discussion would likely occur at the retreat. She asked Councilmembers to remain flexible about the April 3-4 retreat date. That date may be pushed out. She indicated that information would be coming.

COMMENTS FROM COUNCILMEMBERS

Councilmember Don Vanney stated that he received a phone call today from a local business owner who would like to paint the exterior of his business, but has been unable to connect with the Permit Center staff. City Administrator Paul Ellis indicated he would follow up.

Councilmember Michele Blythe inquired whether there is a provision for citizens who unable to pay utility bills. Mr. Ellis indicated that those individuals are directed to services in the area, such as the Arlington Community Resource Center. Discussion followed.

MAYOR'S REPORT

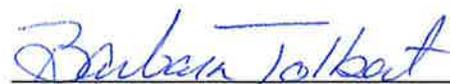
None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.



Barbara Tolbert, Mayor

