



Minutes of the Arlington City Council Workshop

Council Chambers
110 East 3rd Street
Monday, April 11, 2022

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

Council Members Absent: Marilyn Oertle was excused.

Staff Present: Mayor Barb Tolbert, Paul Ellis, Bryan Terry, Sarah Lopez, City Attorney Steve Peiffle, Wendy Van Der Meersche and Julie Petersen.

Also Known to be Present: Kathy Vanney, Bob Nelson, Katie Impson, Nate Impson, Jamyang Dorjee, and Roland Behee.

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 Debora Nelson seconded the motion, which passed with a unanimous vote.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Community Transit Director of Planning and Development Roland Behee provided the 2024 Planning Update.

WORKSHOP ITEMS – NO FINAL ACTION WAS TAKEN

Ordinance Approving the Operation of Wheeled All-Terrain Vehicles (WATVs)

City Administrator Paul Ellis reviewed the ordinance approving Wheeled All-Terrain Vehicles. This ordinance would amend Title 10 of the AMC by the addition of new Chapter 10.92 Wheeled All-Terrain Vehicles, authorizing the operation of WATVs on designated city streets; establishing limitations, conditions, requirements and enforcement standards. This allows the operation of WATVs on all city streets where the speed limit is 35 miles per hour or less, excluding State Routes 9, 530 and 531. Discussion followed with Mr. Ellis answering Council questions.

Lease Approval with Enterprise Fleet Management, Inc.

City Administrator Paul Ellis reviewed the funding mechanism that will allow the City to replace aged vehicles more quickly, increase fuel efficiency, increase safety, and reduce maintenance costs. Another program objective is to move the fleet toward hybrid and/or electric vehicles. Two amendments are included with the master lease agreement.

Amendment A to the lease agreement clarifies Section 11 regarding insurance coverage, and Section 17 is amended to read that agreement will be governed by laws in the State of Washington. Amendment B removes Section 19, as that provision is not in accordance with debt obligation laws of the State of Washington. Discussion followed with Mr. Ellis answering Council questions.

Interlocal Agreement (ILA) with Snohomish County for Haller Park Improvements

Community Engagement Director Sarah Lopez reviewed the interlocal agreement for the Haller Park Improvement project. This project is part of the master plan for the park. Snohomish County has agreed to contribute \$50,000 to build a shelter at Haller Park near the restroom/concession building. The County's Capital Improvement Program identifies specific projects to be funded as City Council Partnership Projects, and chose this project for Arlington for 2022. Discussion followed with Ms. Lopez answering Council questions.

Resolution Authorizing Application for Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Grant

Community Engagement Director Sarah Lopez reviewed a request for authorization to apply for an RCO grant to help fund a bike pump track at Jensen Park. Arlington Rotary has expressed interest in raising money to fund the project. The approximate cost of the facility is \$260,000. This grant, if awarded, could fund up to 50 percent. Grant deadline is May 3, 2022, and grants are awarded June of 2023. Discussion followed with Ms. Lopez answering Council questions.

Resolution Recognizing the City's Safety Program

City Administrator Paul Ellis reviewed the resolution recognizing the City's Safety Committee practices. The City has continued its formal safety program, and continues to hold monthly meetings and follows Labor and Industries and OSHA standards. Staff members from each department participate on the safety committee to enhance existing practices and create new solutions. The City continues to improve the safety of City employees, which in turn benefits both the City's workforce and its citizens by decreased workplace injury rates, more efficient employees, less employee turnover, increased morale, and lower insurance premiums.

Opioid Litigation Settlement

City Attorney Steve Peiffle reviewed the Opioid Litigation Settlement with Washington State, numerous other states, and 33 local governments in Washington, that brought litigation against three distributors of opioids for their role in the opioid epidemic. Arlington did not pursue a lawsuit, but may be the beneficiary of settlement. A proposed settlement has been reached with Washington cities and counties. (The state Attorney General continues to pursue litigation and is not part of this settlement.) A proposed MOU attached sets up a structure for distribution of settlement proceeds if enough WA cities sign on to the MOU. Generally, funds would be distributed to cities via existing Washington State Accountable Communities of Health regional networks, and based on formulas which take into account the historic opioid-related expenditures made by cities in the past. The regional council would oversee use of the funds to assure they are applied towards impacts of the opioid crisis. Arlington would participate through the North Sound ACH (Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish, Island and San Juan Counties).

The opioid litigation against these distributors started in 2016, and is now approaching resolution. Cities are asked whether they want to participate. Those who choose to adopt the MOU by April 30, 2022 will have the ability to share in the proceeds (provided enough cities agree to participate). Those who do not will forfeit their share (and it will be absorbed by those cities in the region who do accept the MOU). Discussion followed with Mr. Peiffle answering Council questions.

ADMINISTRATOR AND STAFF REPORTS

None.

MAYOR'S REPORT

None.

COMMENTS FROM COUNCILMEMBERS

Councilmember Deborah Nelson shared that she is proud of the North County Fire Department teamwork and how they work together to save lives.

COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS

Councilmembers had nothing to report this evening.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Katie Impson of 437 N. Macleod Ave stated her concern about the City Council considering the approval of an ordinance to operate wheeled all-terrain vehicles within the Arlington city limits.

Nate Impson of 437 N. Macleod Ave stated does not agree with allowing these types of vehicles to occupy the streets of Arlington

REVIEW OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Councilmembers discussed and agreed to place items #4 and #6 on the consent agenda for the April 18, 2022 Council meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.



Barbara Tolbert, Mayor

