



Minutes of the Arlington City Council Zoom Workshop

Monday, January 24, 2022

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

Council Members Absent: Debora Nelson, excused.

Staff Present: Mayor Barb Tolbert, Paul Ellis, James Trefry, Jim Kelly, Marc Hayes, Tony Orr, City Attorney Steve Peiffle, and Sarah Lopez.

Also Known to be Present: Five 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 Oertle seconded the motion, which passed with a unanimous vote.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS AND PRESENTATIONS

None.

WORKSHOP ITEMS – NO ACTION WAS TAKEN

Public Works Personnel Requests

Public Works Director Jim Kelly reviewed a request for a revision to the 2022 pay plan for the addition of three new full-time employees, and reclassification of two current employees.

The City's infrastructure system is in excellent condition—a condition that is better than cities of equal or larger size, and is accomplished with much less staff than comparable cities. The recent growth in Arlington is quickly highlighting the need for required expansion of water/sewer treatment operations, an expansion in distribution and collection obligations to keep up with development, and an expansion of capital infrastructure needs in design, replacement and new construction. Failure to provide staffing needed to maintain water, sewer, storm, and transportation infrastructure will have dire consequences for the City, the citizens, and for general public health.

Public Works is requesting the following personnel action:

- Reclassification of the City Engineer to Deputy Director of Public Works
- Reclassification of a two-year seasonal GIS Technician to a full time two-year GIS technician

- Hiring a Senior Engineer with strong utilities experience
- Hiring a Sewer Collections staff person, and
- Hiring a Water Treatment Plant Operator (scheduled for late 2022)

Discussion followed with Mr. Kelly and City Administrator Paul Ellis answering Council questions.

Procurement of Remaining Membranes for Water Reclamation Facility

Public Works Director Jim Kelly reviewed a request for purchase of Kubota Membranes for Water Reclamation Facility MBR trains #1, #3, and #4.

The City of Arlington's membrane bioreactor (MBR) process was placed into operation in 2010. The facility was designed using Kubota Flat Plat membranes. Per the manufacturer, Kubota Membrane USA flat plate membranes are expected to have a service life of approximately 10 years. The City's membranes are currently two years past this estimated service life.

In 2021, Public Works presented a sole source justification memorandum to Council summarizing why using Kubota flat plat membranes to replace existing membranes was the preferred choice. Council issued Resolution 2021-027 authorizing the sole source procurement of Kubota membranes allowing staff to procure and replace membranes in MBR train #2. We are now ready to move forward with the replacement of membranes in trains #1, #3 and #4. This item was budgeted in the 2022 budget. Discussion followed with Mr. Kelly answering Council questions.

ADMINISTRATOR AND STAFF REPORTS

Community and Economic Director Marc Hayes spoke of the Housing Action Plan Grant that is available from Department of Commerce for \$100,000. The City could apply for funding to plan the element of the subarea plan as part of the Comprehensive Plan Update. The grant is due February 4, 2022, and the next Council meeting is February 7, 2022. Council was in agreement to apply for the grant.

City Administrator Paul Ellis reminded the Council that next Monday is the fifth Monday of the month, and there will be no meeting.

MAYOR'S REPORT

None.

COMMENTS FROM COUNCILMEMBERS

Councilmember Jan Schuette is looking forward to the SCCIT (Snohomish County Citizens for Improved Transportation) meeting tomorrow. She will report out to the Council after the meeting.

Councilmember Mike Hopson commented on several state senate bills concerning the housing crisis, and supports all measures. He spoke of an example of a family who came to Arlington for a job, and could not find housing in Arlington. He suggests Arlington take measures to provide more affordable housing in Arlington.

Councilmember Marilyn Oertle showed a photo of a new art sculpture, located at 188th Street and 59th Avenue.

Councilmember Don Vanney spoke of a meeting with County Council Member Nate Nehring, where lack of housing for sale in all of Snohomish County was discussed. Councilmember Vanney has concerns about vandalism, and requested the possibility of security cameras downtown.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

REVIEW OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Councilmembers discussed and agreed not to place items on the consent agenda for the February 7, 2022 meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.


Barbara Tolbert, Mayor