



Minutes of the Arlington City Council Special Meeting

Council Chambers
110 East Third Street
September 7, 2021

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

Council Members Absent: Mike Hopson.

Staff Present: Mayor Barb Tolbert, Paul Ellis, James Trefry, Kristin Garcia, City Attorney Steve Peiffle, Jonathan Ventura, Tony Orr, Sarah Lopez, Marc Hayes and Ashleigh Scott

Also Known to be Present: Bryan Terry and family, Heather Logan and family, Dave Kraski and Avery Hufford.

Mayor Barb Tolbert called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m., and the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call followed.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Recognizing IT Director Bryan Terry

Mayor Tolbert presented former IT Director Bryan Terry a plaque for his amazing and respectable years of service. She thanked him for all his dedication and work he has brought to Arlington over the last ten years. Bryan Terry was accompanied by his family.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Avery Hufford, Arlington stated that he and other residents of the Centennial Park complex are facing parking issues. There are concerns that with new buildings being completed, there will be a future of continued parking problems. He distributed photos to Council and staff showing how the reserved parking spaces and guest parking are completely full during work hours. Mr. Hufford would like to have a further discussion to fix the issues.

PUBLIC HEARING

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Appointment of Heather Logan to Fill Vacated Seat of Councilmember Jesica Stickle

City Administrator Paul Ellis reviewed the appointment of Heather Logan to City Council Position #1, previously held by Jesica Stickle, and vacated by Ms. Stickle on September 1, 2021.

Council member Jesica Stickle served on City Council from 2014 to 2021. She resigned September 1, 2021, before her December 31, 2021 term ended, leaving a vacant Council seat that will last only until the election. Heather Logan is running unopposed for that seat. Because the appointee will only serve until the election, and because it appears Heather Logan is running unopposed, the City Attorney and City Administrator believe the most practical course of action is to appoint Ms. Logan to fill the seat now until the November 2, 2021 General Election. Discussion followed with Mr. Ellis answering Council questions.

Councilmember Debora Nelson moved and Councilmember Jan Schuette seconded the motion to temporarily suspend the City Council rules of procedure, and to appoint Heather Logan to City Council Position #1, to fill the vacant seat of Councilmember Jesica Stickle. The motion passed unanimously.

Following the motion to appoint Heather Logan to City Council Position #1, City Attorney Steve Peiffle administered the oath of office to Ms. Logan.

Mobile Integrated Health

City Administrator Paul Ellis reviewed the Washington State Health Care Authority Agreement and draft Professional Services Agreement with Kaitlyn Goubeau, LICSW.

The Mobile Integrated Health Program is a pilot program funded 100% with a grant from the Washington State Health Care Authority. This program will utilize interns who are obtaining their Master's Degrees in social work, to assist individuals experiencing behavioral health distress. Under the direction and supervision of a mental health professional, the interns will receive requests from Arlington police officers and North County Regional Fire Authority emergency medical staff.

The interns will identify the individuals' behavioral health needs, and make referrals to address their needs by professional services. The program will begin in September 2021, and be completed no later than July 31, 2023. Discussion followed with Mr. Ellis answering Council questions.

Councilmember Debora Nelson moved and Councilmember Jan Schuette seconded the motion to accept the grant funding for the Mobile Integrated Health Program, and authorized the Mayor to sign the agreement with Washington Health Care Authority, and authorized the Mayor to sign a Professional Services Agreement with Kaitlyn Goubeau, to provide services for the Mobile Integrated Health Program, subject to final review by the City Attorney. The motion passed unanimously.

Selection of Mayor Pro Tem

Mayor Barb Tolbert and City Attorney Steve Peiffle reviewed the selection of a new Mayor Pro Tem.

Councilmember Jesica Stickle served as Mayor Pro Tem from January 2020 to August 31, 2021. She resigned September 1, 2021, leaving a vacancy for Mayor Pro Tem. This selection by Council is for a Mayor Pro Tem to serve until the second meeting in January 2022, when the two year selection for Mayor Pro Tem will be made.

The City Council is to select a Mayor Pro Tem every two years. The Council Rules of Procedure state as follows:

Selecting Mayor Pro Tem and Alternate Mayor Pro Tem: The Mayor Pro Tem will be selected by a majority vote of the Council members at the second meeting in January in even years or when there is a vacancy. In selecting the Mayor Pro Tem, the Council will be guided by the following principles:

- To preserve continuity in the office, the Mayor Pro Tem shall generally serve for a term of two (2) years.
- The Mayor Pro Tem should have served as a Councilmember for at least two (2) years before appointment to the office of Mayor Pro Tem.
- In general, the appointment of Mayor Pro Tem will be to the eligible Councilmember who has served the longest in office.

The Alternate Mayor Pro Tem will be the Councilmember who most recently served as Mayor Pro Tem.

Councilmember Debora Nelson spoke on behalf of herself and Marilyn Oertle in nominating Jan Schuette to become the new Mayor Pro Tem.

Councilmember Debora Nelson moved and Michele Blythe seconded the motion to select Councilmember Jan Schuette as the City Council's Mayor Pro Tem, to serve until the January 18, 2022 Council meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM COUNCILMEMBERS

None.

ADMINISTRATOR & STAFF REPORTS

City Administrator Paul Ellis discussed the increase of COVID cases with the new variant, and asked the opinions of Council about reverting back to virtual City Council meetings, moving forward, until the case counts decline to safer levels.

Mr. Ellis stated that City Hall and other departments will remain open until further notice. Staff have options to work from home, and are also able to work safely within the offices, as well. Mayor Tolbert asked Council to state their choice in this matter, and with a majority vote, City Council will revert back to virtual City Council Workshop and City Council Meetings following summer break on September 13, 2021.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Tolbert stated that she met with Congressman Rick Larsen and Senator Maria Cantwell to provide the City's final plea for 169th funding as they go through the reconciliation process with the big bill. Both the Congressman and Senator have committed to do so.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Tolbert". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Barbara Tolbert, Mayor