

Arvada City Council Meeting Workshop, February 8, 2016

Notes taken by Nancy Young

Headlines

- JeffCom - a centralized 911 county-wide Call Center providing faster, more effective response times
- APEX Bond "election" in May - voters choice: renew expiring \$25 mm debt authorization OR reduce taxes by allowing it to expire.

6:00 pm Meeting called to order. Councilmembers attending: Allard, Jones, Fifer, Williams, Marriott, and Ford. Councilmember McGoff was not present. 29 people were present for the JeffCom presentation; 5 people remained for the APEX presentation.

JeffCom: Regional (county-wide) 911 Call Center

- What is JeffCom:
This regional consolidation of 911 call centers involves 8 large police-fire-emergency response agencies ("Big 8") in Jefferson County. Some smaller jurisdictions with low call volume, now served by the one of the Big 8 organizations, brings the total to 21 emergency response agencies

- "The 21". It was noted that the national trend is to consolidate emergency call response, with the States of Indiana and Utah now requiring consolidation at the county level.

- The need for the center:

Now, 911 calls can be received at various call centers: in Arvada, 911 calls go to the Police Department. After a citizen provides the address of the emergency and other details, the call might be transferred to Arvada Fire, where the citizen must again provide details of the emergency. By centralizing these calls, citizens give the information once, and emergency responders are dispatched immediately, thereby saving time and potentially saving lives.

A real life example presented: someone suffered a heart attack in west Arvada. The cell phone tower routed the call to Jefferson County, who took the information and transferred the call to Arvada. In Arvada, the Police Department answered the transferred call and took the information (again), then transferred it to Arvada Fire-EMS, who took the information (a third time) and dispatched an ambulance. Valuable minutes to save a life were wasted in this process, not to mention the citizen's aggravation at being asked for the same information three times!

- The consolidation has been negotiated with the concerned districts for nearly two years, and a draft intergovernmental agreement has been developed. The key concerns addressed during this development phase include:

- Estimated cost savings across the participating districts are estimated at \$3.0 million, largely related to technology. For example, the cost of GIS mapping technology can be spread across multiple districts rather than each district purchasing the same technology. The center is expected to open by July 2017.

- Staffing. Existing employees of various centers will have a job at the new center with generally enhanced pay and benefits packages. The new center will offer greater career opportunities, as well as better training. For example, an existing call center with only 5 employees offers few advancement opportunities.
- JeffCom will be governed by a board consisting of representatives of the Big 8 (5 police departments - Arvada Wheat Ridge, Golden, JeffCo Sheriff, and Lakewood, and 3 fire departments - Arvada Fire, Evergreen Fire, and West Metro Fire). On certain, limited and key policy issues, a super-majority of Board votes would be required by the preliminary intergovernmental agreement (IGA).

Councilmember questions/comments:

- The loss of local control over budgets and operations was a major concern expressed by Mr. Fifer. Arvada Police Chief Wick responded that yes, some local control might be lost, but the benefits to the citizens and the health and safety of the community far outweigh any loss of local control. He noted that the City Council would continue to approve Police Department budgets, which would include the costs of the centralized call center.
- Super-majority voting was also a concern, with Mr. Fifer suggesting that a weighted vote might be more appropriate in those situations requiring a super-majority. It was noted that the Board would have 5 police departments and 3 fire departments represented. Police and fire generally have common interests, but also have different priorities based on their different missions. The super-majority would equalize decisions in those few instances where these interests might have conflicting requirements.
- Westminster is not part of the consolidation, having expressed no interest.

NOTE: Arvada Fire Chief Greer expressed his support for the proposal. Members of the Arvada Fire Board were present. In addition, police chiefs of most participating jurisdictions and the Jefferson County Sheriff's office were present.

- The Council instructed the City Manager to proceed with the intergovernmental agreement and to address the concerns raised during the session.

APEX - \$25 million debt authorization expiring - planned projects if voters re-authorize

APEX has strategically selected projects across Arvada to encourage voters to approve the re-authorization of the debt, originally approved 20 years ago to build the APEX Center. Jim Whitfield, the presenter, noted that it is difficult to get voter approval of tax increases for new projects. He also noted that only one-third of APEX funds come from property taxes, with the remainder from fees and advertising.

The election will be May 3, with ballots mailed to every voter in the APEX district around April 11 to 18.

The proposed projects are:

- \$7.4 million - Secrest Center at 66th & Pierce, to expand the center and add a warm water therapy pool and auxiliary gym.
- \$4.9 million - Fitzmorris Park Center at 63rd & Independence, a new facility with a 6-lane outdoor lap pool and indoor facilities (weights/exercise equipment and a general exercise room).
- \$5.8 million - Tennis Center at 64th & Miller, to resurface eight existing courts (\$550,000) and to build 4 new indoor courts.
- \$4.3 million - Lutz Sports fields at 58th & Kipling, to construct 4 new fields in a “pod” configuration (backstops organized in the center creating easy movement for players, umpires, and spectators to move between fields), with lighting, parking and restroom/concession.
- \$1.6 million - APEX Center, construct a new splashpad on the southwest corner and renovate the center play pool (“APEX Pump House No. 5”)
- \$4.3 million - Long Lake Ranch Park at 64th east of Highway 93, to construct two new ballfields (completing the 5-field complex) with restrooms/concession, and to construct two new, artificial turf, multi-sport fields (midget football, lacrosse, and rugby) with restrooms/concession.

The total cost of these projects is \$28.2 million, with proposed funding as follows:

- \$25.0 million from debt re-authorization
- \$ 3.0 million from City of Arvada for a pool
- \$ 0.1 million from APEX general fund

Councilmembers welcomed the proposal.

- Concern was expressed about parking at Fitzmorris Elementary and whether users of the new facility would compete with the school for parking. It is anticipated that the outdoor pool would be open in the summer when school is not in session. Also, adult users of the indoor facilities would tend to arrive after work, with school dismissed in the afternoon.
- Council members noted a desperate need for more parking at Long Lake, and that parking is also an issue at the Lutz Sports fields.
- Providing an easy connection between the pedestrian underpass at Kipling and the Van Bibber trail needs to be considered so that users of these different facilities do not interfere with each other.

The City Manager was instructed to draft a Resolution of Support for this proposal.

City Manager Deven noted that the next Council meeting will be a workshop on March 14.

Monday February 15 is a holiday, and Monday February 22 is set aside to interview candidates for Boards and Commissions. The March 7 regular Council meeting was cancelled since several Council members will attend the National League of Cities conference.

7:55 pm Meeting adjourned.