

## Arvada City Council Meeting, May 2, 2016

Notes taken by Susan Shirley

### *Citizens Encourage Awareness of Rocky Flats Dangers*

In attendance were Mayor Marc Williams, Mayor Pro Tem Bob Fifer, and Councilmembers Don Allard, Nancy Ford, Dave Jones, John Marriott, and Mark McGoff.

At 6 p.m., attendance by citizens was about 30; at 7 it was around 9.

Minutes from the April 18, 2016, meeting were approved with no changes.

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### **Proclamations:**

Councilmember Don Allard proclaimed the month of May Poppy Month in Arvada. The poppies have been made by veterans since World War I, and help to raise funds for the benefit of disabled veterans and the survivors of deceased veterans.

Economic Development Week: Councilmember Nancy Ford proclaimed May 8 through May 14 Economic Development Week. AEDA representatives accepted the proclamation. They are proud of efforts resulting in significant projects over the past several decades, which include the Arvada Center, the Parks system, and Olde Town redevelopment.

Councilmember Dave Jones proclaimed the week of May 1 through May 7 National Small Business Week in Arvada, encouraging everyone to buy from small businesses.

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**Public Comment:** Prior to any comment from citizens, Mayor Marc Williams said that the Council had the opportunity to look at the grant proposal, and approve it administratively, but has decided to bring that item to the May 16, 2016, City Council meeting, and to allow public comment on the subject at that meeting. However, Williams said citizens were also welcome to comment at tonight's meeting if they wished.

A resident of Denver who is a former Arvadan, Tiffany Hansen described her reasons for creating the group Rocky Flats Downwinders in 2015. Hansen is a survivor of ovarian cancer who found, in her discussions with other Arvadans she knows, a very high incidence not only of cancer but of autoimmune diseases, early-onset Parkinson's disease, and other maladies. Hansen said this month the Downwinders, in concert with Metro State University, will be conducting a health survey of people who lived within 10 miles of Rocky Flats between 1952 and 1992. The more than 500 concerned residents who have responded will be of help in making the first current map of disease and cancer clusters.

Another Arvada resident spoke of her husband who died at age 47 of cancer caused by radiation he had received in his twenties for testicular cancer, which was no doubt environmental in origin in his home state of Pennsylvania. The citizen encouraged Councilmembers to take seriously the dangers of radiation. She pointed out a problem with plutonium, which is that it emits Alpha radiation, which can very easily elude monitoring--for example, a twig can block rays emitted by a small hot spot beneath it. She asked that Council please err on the side of caution, saying that there are plenty of places to hike and bike without opening up areas where nuclear bomb triggers were produced.

A former science teacher brought the recent copy of 5280 Magazine, which contains an article detailing the current status of Rocky Flats. The citizen stated that ecosystems change all the time, because of wind and other things, such as water flowing across the land. She said if you look at an old map of the sand dunes, it would no longer be current for today's conditions, since that's a representation of conditions in the past. Same, she said, for whatever testing was done in prior years to determine the conditions at Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Plant--those conditions changed, and will change, over the course of years.

The next commenter was once appointed by Governor Roy Romer to a science panel, and said that the Colorado Health Department determined 25 years ago that the greatest danger from Plutonium 239 is airborne emissions--yet, to date, there are no regulations governing those. So, when the EPA says the hazards are within acceptable limits, there are no limits, no standards have been set, so how can the emissions meet the standards? He said that once in the body, plutonium stays there for life--and it is so toxic that one tablespoon of plutonium, spread evenly over the Denver area, would eventually kill everyone here. Yet, during the time the weapons plant was still operating, this commenter said that he was told by workers there that the management of the plant was so bad that there were not enough places to safely store radioactive waste, and that it was sent up the main exhaust flumes as smoke. He concluded by saying that if a trail is built across the area, families will go there, families with children "who will be lucky if they live to graduate from college."

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### **Consent Agenda:**

Slope Mowers, two, from Potestio Brothers, \$83,647 (R16-057)  
Concrete repair and replacement, about a dozen sites throughout city, Triple M Construction, \$752,318 (R16-058)

Water main replacement, Diamond Contracting Corp., about \$1.5 million (R16-059)  
Acceptance of right of way, 6205 Carr Street, from Daas, Inc., for railroad quiet zone equipment. (R16-060)

Trenchless Sewer Main Replacement, Insituform Technologies, about \$1.3 million (R16-061)  
Conference center, consulting services for analysis of need, best locations, construction costs, etc., REVPAR International, \$68,300. (R16-062)

All items passed on a 7 to 0 vote.

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### **Resolutions:**

The police department finds itself repeatedly using excessive resources handling calls which would better be served by mental health professionals. In the interests of cost savings, greater efficiency, and a better fit for the citizens involved in these calls, this item establishes an agreement with the Jefferson Center for Mental Health. In exchange for an amount not to exceed \$80,000 over the next year, JCMH staff will be available to assess and otherwise assist with calls requiring mental health expertise. (R16-063)

Arvada Police Chief Don Wick and Section Commander Melanie Thornton presented the case for this arrangement. Police officers and jails "have become the default mental health system," and the Arvada police receive over a thousand calls in this regard every year, compared with about 425 calls just ten years ago. Through early and proactive intervention, it's hoped that few of those crises will escalate to the point of emergencies. Councilmember Dave Jones asked if this is meant to be an ongoing partnership. Chief Wick said the current funding is just for 2016, and if it is shown to be an effective program then he will request ongoing funding to be added to grants which JCMH is adept at accessing. There will be comprehensive quarterly reports, and Commander Thornton will work closely with JCMH. The two JCMH clinicians will be given office space at the Lake Arbor substation, but will work all over the city. Jones asked what will be the measures of the program's success; Wick said it's expected that the frequency of calls from specific individuals will be reduced, as well as a reduction in how often officers encounter problems in the field related to mental health issues from those same individuals.

Wick also said many officers now receive crisis intervention training, an intensive, 40-hour training with actors who simulate individuals with mental health issues. The training is valuable in teaching officers how to de-escalate that type of situation.

Councilmember Bob Fifer said that since the state has cut back funding, the burden has fallen largely on first responders. He asked how many of the thousand yearly calls come from the same individuals. Wick said there are about ten or fifteen people who are regularly in contact with the department. Mayor Marc Williams said he appreciates the proactive way this problem is being addressed, and thanked Dr. Harriet Hall and JCMH, calling it a "great organization," and saying he appreciates the partnership.

The item passed, 7 to 0.

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### **Ordinance, First Reading:**

Public Hearings for this item will be May 16, 2016, at 6:30 p.m.

Second amendment to intergovernmental agreement between the City of Arvada and RTD: This agreement provides some wiggle room in the time frame to have the parking garage substantially completed. The City will be able to construct an area of temporary outdoor parking while working to

finish the parking garage. As has been mentioned in previous meetings, there were several unforeseen problems which cropped up during this construction and which added significant time and money to its completion. Under the City's agreement with RTD, there are severe financial penalties to the City for not completing the garage on time. (CB16-012)

This passed, 7 to 0.

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**Public Hearings:**

New agreement with the Arvada Fire Protection District to provide the City with emergency services. This agreement runs until 2021 and can be renewed at that time for three additional five-year terms, which puts its expiration date at May of 2036. (CB16-010)

There was no public testimony. Councilmember Mark McGoff said that one section of the agreement calls for the fire department to be accredited. McGoff said that AFD has recently become accredited, and is now one of only a few such agencies across the country to be accredited. This passed on a vote of 7 to 0.

Clarification of language within the Arvada City Code. These are housekeeping measures which are done periodically to update or otherwise correct deficiencies in the wording of various portions of the Code. (CB16-011)

There was no public testimony, and the item unanimously passed, 7 to 0.

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**Public Comment:** None

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**Reports from City Council:**

Councilmember John Marriott said he echoed what was said in the proclamation for Small Business Week. "If you can buy it in Arvada, do so--" it keeps people employed here, the money stays here--"evaluate your habits when purchasing, and ask if there's a way to purchase here."

Councilmember Bob Fifer recently attended the DRCOG award dinner, and said he expects in a year, Arvada will win an award for the Transit Hub. He said the commuter rail to DIA is a smooth ride, it's possible to have a conversation, and he's excited for the appearance of the Gold Line because of that.

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Reports from City Manager: Next week's workshop will feature a presentation on drones titled "Up in the Air," and an update on the Land Development Code with respect to self-storage facilities.  
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**Report from City Attorney:** None

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The meeting was adjourned at 7:10.