

Arvada City Council Meeting, November 09, 2015

Notes taken by Susan Shirley

City Council Swearing-In, November 9, 2015, 7 p.m.

First, some editorializing. I have to say that for me, this was a bittersweet event. It's the first time I've been present as newly minted councilmembers take their first steps into office, and I'm glad for the opportunity. I admit I've lived in Arvada since the 90s, but took little interest in local politics until 2013. Now, in attending most City Council meetings and paying attention to what's happening with other Arvada governmental bodies, I wonder how I could have missed seeing how important these individuals are in shaping the daily lives and surroundings of over a hundred thousand people. So, yes, I find it exciting to have paid attention to the campaigns of Nancy Ford and Dave Jones, and now to witness the very beginnings of their City Council careers. And I hope someday to be watching others of this year's challenger candidates--Carl Campanella, Dave Chandler, Kathy Drulard, and Dave Palm--as they, too, take office.

But goodbyes are hard, they are never my favorite things, and I wish the very best for Bob Dyer and Jerry Marks as they begin the next chapters in their lives. I'm sure many of us will be looking forward to hearing about how their future adventures unfold. I'd especially like to sincerely thank Bob Dyer for his many years of efforts to safeguard the future of Arvada, and I trust he will continue those efforts in other capacities. It has truly been a pleasure to observe his thought processes and vast archive of local anecdotes, from the perspective of an interested citizen.

Public attendance this evening was over 60 people.

The first order of business was the presentation of plaques to the two outgoing councilmembers, with thanks for their service. Mayor Marc Williams first talked about Jerry Marks, saying that Marks applied to fill the vacancy left by Rachel Zenzinger because he wanted to be of service, as he had been previously for the fire department and the Chamber of Commerce. Calling Marks a hard worker who did his homework and asked good questions, Williams said Marks was the right person at the right time for the job, and thanked him for his service. Councilmember John Marriott pointed out the large amount of behind the scenes work Marks did, and said that he very much appreciated Marks' time and effort into his work on Council. Councilmember Bob Fifer commended Marks for his passion and dedication, and said he looks forward to new endeavors together. Councilmember Mark McGoff said he was most impressed by the newly selected Marks because he had a plan for meeting people and getting familiar with the issues. McGoff said throughout his two year term, Marks was an effective voice for District 1. Councilmember Don Allard agreed and said it was a pleasure to work with Marks. Marks thanked everyone for the "lovely eulogy," and said that he was very appreciative of the chance to serve on City Council, which is a chance only a limited number of people have. He welcomed Nancy Ford and Dave Jones, wishing them every success; thanked staff and the city manager, city attorney, and the judge. He said it was true what he'd heard about the great staff and the wonderful job they do, and that Arvada's staff "makes us look good up here."

Next, Mayor Williams remarked about his "friend since the 80s," Bob Dyer. He said, "There's a reason his license plate says 'tenacity'--this is a man who has been a tireless advocate for the city he truly loves." Noting that Dyer has brought a wealth of knowledge and insight to the position, Williams said he most appreciates that he knows Dyer will stay involved, perhaps putting his energies into the Arvada Vitality Association and the Arvada Center. He said having Bob Dyer involved in those ventures guarantees success. Councilmember McGoff said he learned a lot from Dyer, because of Dyer's ability to turn an issue sideways and look at it from a different perspective. Councilmember Allard said he doesn't know who will help him remember what happened 20 years ago--he might have to call Dyer on the phone for that. Fifer thanked Dyer for his passion and dedication, and most of all for being a visionary who could look at things with a unique perspective and innovative thought. Councilmember Marriott added that Dyer helped him very much as a new councilmember. He said, "For a guy who's been around awhile, he's far from set in his ways," and that he appreciates Dyer's out-of-the-box thinking.

Dyer thanked his wife, Erica, who "has put up with a lot of meetings and a lot of elections," and thanked also the staff, city manager, city attorney, and municipal judge, as well as all the Arvada employees who are out there every day. He also thanked his City Council colleagues, past and present, saying they were all a pleasure to spend time with. Over the past 25 years, Dyer has been in eight elections, winning five and losing three. He said it's more fun to win than lose, but you have to be willing to accept both ways. Referring to the past year as a difficult one for his family, Dyer said they have learned other lessons about life and its purpose. He closed with a reading from a 1965 essay by Leo Rosten: " I think the purpose of life is to be useful, to be responsible, to be honorable, to be compassionate. It is, above all, to matter: to count, to stand for something, to have made some difference that you lived at all."

The next item was the swearing-in of all newly elected councilmembers, in this order: Mayor Williams, then Councilmembers Fifer, Ford, McGoff, and Jones.

Remarks by new councilmembers:

Fifer: Thank you for believing in me.

Ford: I have met some wonderful people during the campaign, and look forward to serving my district and the city.

McGoff: It has been an honor to be on City Council for eight years, and an even greater honor to be awarded a third term. Collectively, we have achieved great things.

Jones: I am full of gratitude for the opportunity, and honored to serve. I want to thank everyone, especially my wife and boys. Over the last four months I have learned a lot about myself, the city, campaigning, the community, and citizen involvement. I've met with department managers and the city manager, who showed me what was going on in the city, and who showed a genuine sense of love for the city. I have tremendous respect for what they do everyday. Running a campaign is a hard job, and I have new respect for those who do it. The work Mr. Dyer has done over the past 25 years, I hope I can follow in his footsteps of community service.

Williams: It is a tremendous honor to be reelected to Mayor of Arvada--there is no better job. My gratitude to my wife Luanne is immeasurable...Frank Barone and Allen Parker are great friends and supporters, and I am especially thankful to Allen Parker for buying me a beer on a night I was getting down in the dumps, and getting me back on track. Welcome to Ms. Ford and Mr. Jones. This new council has a lot of challenges and opportunities ahead of us. We are on the right track and I think the citizens of Arvada in this last election agreed we are on the right track. We will listen, we will give people the opportunity to give input, and we as a group of seven will be thoughtful.

Councilmember McGoff nominated Councilmember Bob Fifer to be Mayor Pro Tem. This was approved on a 7 to 0 vote, and Fifer was sworn in a second time.

Adjournment was at 7:40.