

City Council Meeting, May 5, 2014

Notes taken by Susan Shirley

Eminent Domain Issue Approved for Public Hearing, May 19

All members were in attendance: Mayor Marc Williams, Mayor Pro Tem Mark McGoff, and Councilmembers Don Allard, Bob Dyer, Bob Fifer, Jerry Marks, and John Marriott.

Citizens in attendance at 6 p.m. numbered about 28; by 6:45 there were nine.

Approval of minutes from the April 21 meeting: approved with no changes.

Petitions, Recognitions and Communications:

Councilmember Fifer presented a proclamation for Poppy Month in Arvada, to members of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 161. This custom has its roots in World War I, when poppies grew in profusion on battlefields where many had lost their lives. Several years after that war, volunteers from the American Legion began making crepe paper poppies to be sold both as a remembrance of those who had fallen, and as a means of raising funds for veterans and their families. Some of the funds are also used to help provide care packages for those serving overseas in the military.

Members of the Auxiliary Unit were present to accept the award, thanking Arvada United Methodist Church for a great deal of help and support this year and last; the poem Flanders Field was read aloud. Poppies were distributed around the room by a fetching young lady.

Councilmember Marks presented a recognition of Dominic Brazeau, an Eagle Scout finishing his freshman year at Arvada West High School. Arvada.org states that Brazeau's Eagle Project was to spearhead the refurbishing of Meiklejohn Elementary's playground. Successful beyond his original goals, he managed to muster enough funds and volunteers to paint doors, install landscaping, re-mark the playground and add new basketball nets and tether balls; over thirty volunteers contributed 180 hours of labor, and many more donated money.

Councilmember Marriott presented a recognition to the firms which built the two community police stations. Barker/Rinker/Seacat Architecture of Denver, and Adolfson & Peterson Construction of Aurora, brought the projects to completion on time and within budget, and through efficient use of resources were able to include some upgrades initially thought too costly. Problems were few, and those which did occur were quickly resolved.

Councilmember Allard presented a proclamation for Mental Health Month in May. According to the city's website, mental illness is a leading cause of disability in Colorado, and the state has the country's sixth highest suicide rate. Colorado is generally ranked at around 32nd place nationwide--well below Mississippi, for example-- in public sector spending on mental health, but according to a February 12, 2011 article by the Denver Post, the American College of Emergency Physicians ranked the state 50th of 50 states and the District of Columbia in the number of inpatient psychiatric beds per resident, and at the time of the article, there were twenty-two counties in Colorado with neither a psychiatrist nor a psychologist.

Dr. Daniel Fishbein was present to accept the plaque. He said that five years ago this month, a total of 250 new clients were welcomed at Jefferson Center; this year, for the first time, new clients numbered over 700.

Read more: Mental health services in a fragile state in Colorado - The Denver Post
http://www.denverpost.com/ci_17367464#ixzz30IFibM3C

Mayor Pro Tem McGoff presented a recognition to John Braselton, a senior at Arvada West High School who set up a chapter of Sparkles, a special-needs cheerleading squad at the school. He has been recognized as a Student Hero by the Jeffco Public Schools Foundation. The Sparkles program, begun in Iowa in 2008, now boasts over 50 chapters nationwide, allowing students with disabilities to more fully participate in student life.

A video was shown of an Arvada West game in which the Sparkles presented the halftime show. Student peer coaches were interviewed, as was the head coach, and all involved expressed how gratifying the program has been. The opportunity for inclusiveness has led to a number of rewarding friendships and discoveries for everyone the program has touched.

Following the video, Braselton said that he was very happy that something he created has made such a difference. Councilmember Bob Dyer said that Braselton made him proud to be a graduate of Arvada West, and Bob Fifer said Braselton didn't impact only those students with disabilities, but everyone at the school. He said, "I do believe it's something that can be sustained at that school forever, and I thank you for that."

Public comment: Nancy Young voiced some concerns regarding a remark made by Mike Elms at the April 28 City Council workshop. Here is the relevant quote from Nancy's report on that workshop: "- Neighborhood communication is important to minimize the impact of the 'vocal minority that will try to influence the city.'" Tonight, Nancy said, "We supposedly live in a representative democracy where the 'vocal minority' is not only appreciated, but revered...The intent of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is to encourage citizens to vocalize their viewpoints to influence government actions...So imagine this citizen's amazement at Mr. Elms' statement. Not one of Arvada's elected officials...questioned this comment. So, my question to all members of the Arvada City Council - do you agree with Mr. Elms that the so-called 'vocal minority' should be silenced? If so, then you do not deserve to sit on this body!"

Mayor Williams responded that he believes Nancy has once again mischaracterized something that was said, and is taking it out of context. He said that of course it is important for citizens to have input. Councilmember McGoff followed with a remark that he found Nancy's characterization "amazing," and that the discussion was about finding ways to get neighborhoods to come forward and join into discussions.

Consent Agenda:

R14-068 is a resolution to accept an easement from Mathews Family, LLC, at 4750 W. 60th Avenue. Mayor Williams said that he does some legal work for the Mathews Family, but was not involved in any way with this easement, and does not believe there is a conflict of interest, nor does he stand to benefit financially or in any other way from actions of the Council in this matter.

R14-069 authorizes purchase orders for five Ford utility trucks from Julesburg, Colorado dealer Stone Motors, in the amount of \$175,392. These are for use by the Arvada Utilities Department.

R14-070 accepts easements at the site of the development for Panera Bread and Noodles and Co., at 64th Avenue and Yank Way.

R14-071 is for a construction contract for installation of 1200 linear feet of storm sewer pipe at Quaker Street south of 64th Avenue. The bid went to Golden, Colorado's Edge Construction, and is in the amount of \$376,400.

R14-072 authorizes purchase orders for five Ford utility trucks and seven Ford pickup trucks from Lakewood Fordland, in the amount of \$225,904. These are for use by Arvada Utilities, Public Works Department, and the Parks Maintenance Division.

All consent agenda items were approved, 7 to 0.

Resolutions:

R14-073 authorizes a contract for miscellaneous asphalt patching, sealing, and the installation of conduit, between the City and Denver's A-1 Chipseal, in the amount of \$1,573,506.

This item was approved, 7 to 0.

Ordinances, First Reading: public hearings for these items is set for May 19, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.

CB14-020 and -021 are to annex and rezone Britton Park into the City of Arvada as Residential-Low Density. Britton Park is located at 5574 W. 69th Avenue.

CB14-022 and -023 are for the annexation and rezoning of land belonging to Allied Waste at 18900 W. 82nd Ave.

CB14-024 is An Ordinance Determining the Necessity of, and Authorizing, the Acquisition of Certain Property Interests by Either Negotiation or Condemnation, for the Construction of a Bus Transfer Station and Parking Facility. This is in reference to the land adjacent to the Landmark Olde Town Theater and also the Tiller Lot, currently leased to Sullivan One Limited Liability Company and assigned to the theater.

The ordinances are set for public hearing on a vote of 7 to 0.

Public Hearings:

CB14-019 is to authorize an intergovernmental agreement between the City and other municipalities, in forming an information-sharing entity, to be known as the Colorado Information Sharing Consortium. Presently, software costs are covered by the E-911 Authority, another intergovernmental entity; however, if that should change, Arvada could be liable for costs relating to the software used for information sharing. Arvada and other members are responsible for membership fees.

There was no public comment, and there were no questions from councilmembers.

Reports from City Council: Former City Councilmember John Malito, who we may recall from the March 17 Council meeting speaking up against allowing retail marijuana stores in Arvada, was appointed to the open seat on the Transportation Committee.

Jerry Marks said that he will be hosting a District 1 community meeting on Thursday, May 8 at 6 p.m., at the Lake Arbor Police Station. City Manager Mark Deven, Parks, Golf and Hospitality Manager Gordon Reusink, and a representative from Arvada Police will be attending.

Bob Fifer commended the Arvada Fire department for their assistance to some special-needs students who were having trouble arranging accessible transportation to the prom. He also said that he will be going to Sierra Elementary to recognize Cathy Wright, a special education teacher for 42 years. He said she is reluctant to appear at a Council meeting and so he will instead take the recognition directly to her at her school

Report from City Manager: The May 12 workshop will cover the Business Improvement District and the City Council Policy Manual.

Report from City Attorney: None.

Adjournment was at 6:50 p.m.