

## **Arvada City Council Meeting, August 4, 2014**

### *Wanco Win-Win-Win Wangled*

Notes taken by Susan Shirley

Members of Boy Scouts Troop 21 led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Public attendance at 6 p.m. was about 30, at 6:30 it was 40. At 6:45, following the exodus of the Boy Scouts and their entourage, it was 7.

Minutes from the July 21 meeting were approved with no changes.

Public Comment: none.

Consent Agenda:

R14-102 is to approve a quitclaim from the City back to John Sand, of a five-foot strip of land no longer needed for a right-of-way along the frontage of Sand's property.

R14-103 is to approve a purchase order to RTD in the amount of \$462,129. Earlier, RTD designed signals for the crossings at Lamar Street, Saulsbury Street, Vance Street, Independence Street, Miller Street, and Robb Street. Following approval of the designs by the Public Utilities Commission, City engineers requested some changes to allow the signals to "conform to changes being done with Traffic Operations." The signals will change from video detection to microwave detection at traffic lights, and signals will be interconnected by fiber optic rather than by radio. The locations and configuration of the signal poles will be modified as well.

R14-104 accepts an easement from Ralston Development Corporation as part of the construction of a water main which will run between Leyden Rock, Candelas, and Spring Mesa subdivisions. The cost to the City is \$21,647 for a 10-foot-wide permanent easement.

R14-105 is to approve a four percent pay raise for City Manager Mark Deven, adding \$7,952.67 to his annual salary and bringing it to a total of \$206,769, as authorized by City Council on June 30, 2014.

R14-106 is to approve a seven percent pay raise for City Attorney Chris Daly, increasing his annual pay by \$11,572.29 and bringing it to a total of \$176,890, also as authorized by Council on June 30.

R14-107 is to approve a seven percent pay raise for Presiding Municipal Judge David Cooke, increasing his annual pay by \$9,100 and bringing it to a total of \$139,100, again as authorized by Council on June 30.

R14-108 authorizes renewal of and an increase in the amount of a contract between the City and Colorado Code Consulting of Parker, for residential plan review services. The contract increases to an amount not to exceed \$100,000. Applications for building permits have increased to a level not seen in

the last 20 years. Since July 10, 2014, permits have been issued for 374 new single family homes and 14 duplexes. There is also a significant increase in basement finishes and interior remodels. The increase in permit and plan review fees will offset the increased payments to Colorado Code Consulting.

R14-109 accepts a petition for annexation of Richards Farm at 72nd and Alkire Streets, and sets a public hearing for September 15, 2014 at 6:30 p.m., to determine whether the area meets the requirements of C.R.S. 31-12-104 and -105 and is considered eligible for annexation. There is a plan to build 126 single family homes on the land.

Presentation:

The 2013 Audited Comprehensive Financial Report:

Bryan Archer began by introducing Jodie Cates, Managing Director of BKD Accountants. This is the first audit by BKD, as the city changes auditors every four or five years and the most recent agreement is with BKD.

Cates said first-year audits are always really tough, but this one came out well and she is even expecting one part of it to receive a quality certificate of excellence from the Government Finance Officers Association. She said that, for the first time in five years, Arvada's housing program qualifies as a "low-risk auditee," which represents an improved track record.

BKD came up with some recommendations for improvements in the city's overall operations, but the audit turned up no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies.

Public Hearings:

CB14-029 adds a subsection to the City Code, allowing for the imposition of court costs in certain cases of violation of handicapped parking. If the defendant admits or is found to have not had a visible placard, the court may assess a \$30 fee for court costs. Councilmember John Marriott asked, if the defendant proves they did have a placard, and the judge decides to dismiss the ticket, is it at the judge's discretion to impose court costs, or is it mandatory. City Attorney Chris Daly said it would be at the discretion of the judge. This ordinance passed, 7 to 0.

CB14-030 seeks to add uniformity to various City codes by cross-referencing Arvada City Code Sections 1-5 to set forth the possible maximum monetary fee and terms of imprisonment for applicable violations. City Attorney Daly said that the State Legislature authorized raising maximum fines from \$999 to \$2,650, and this amendment is to make sure all provisions are uniform within the City Code. This ordinance passed, 7 to 0.

CB14-031 is for an ordinance to allow municipal court judges to enter a default judgment against a defendant in a non-criminal traffic case, who is properly served but who fails to appear or otherwise answer the court. The procedure up to now has been to issue a warrant. With this ordinance, a default judgment is entered, notice is sent to Colorado Motor Vehicles, and when the defendants attempt to renew their driver's licenses, they are unable to do so until the warrant is satisfied, usually by paying their fine, most likely including interest, and clearing the ticket.

Municipal Judge David Cooke spoke very much in favor of this measure, citing the substantial waste of resources under the current system. Of particular concern to Cooke is the use of police officers to handle warrants and make arrests. He said, "Anytime police have to take someone into custody it raises safety issues," which will not happen with the default judgment system.

This ordinance was said to be "long overdue" by several Councilmembers, and passed 7 to 0.

CB14-032 approves an intergovernmental agreement between the City, Hyland Hills Park and Recreation District, and Wanco, Inc., for the sale of 5.2 acres of land to Wanco by Hyland Hills, and for the initial phases of design and development for a park to be known as Clear Creek Valley Park, to be located near 60th and Tennyson Streets. Benefits of this agreement include retention of a 215-person employer by giving them room to expand their operations, and the construction of a regional park serving southeast Arvada.

Wanco is a manufacturer of variable traffic sign equipment, a rare specialty.

City Manager Mark Deven said the entrance is expected to be oriented off of Tennyson, greatly improving access for Arvada residents. He called the agreement a "win-win-win" and cited the large number of meetings necessary to bring it about. Calling Wanco a valuable manufacturing business, Deven said there was even a possibility the company would have left Arvada if they were unable to expand.

Councilmember Bob Fifer noted the need to promote more international commerce, saying that Wanco is our exporter from Arvada. He also mentioned his appreciation of the City taking an interest in the part of Arvada which is in Adams County.

Mayor Williams, agreeing with the win-win-win characterization, also noted that the city is required to spend some parks money in Adams County, and this is a good value for that money.

This ordinance also passed, 7 to 0.

Public Comment: None.

Reports from City Council:

The Council reports actually happened at 6:15 because the public hearings cannot begin until their scheduled time, which on today's agenda was 6:30.

Councilmember John Marriott said that he and his children participated in the weekend's .5K run benefiting the Ralston House. He said it was well attended, there was a great band, and it was a great snapshot of the best of Arvada. He recommended putting it on our calendars for next year.

Councilmember Jerry Marks said that the Public Works did a much better job this year of patching and paving the roads.

Councilmember Mark McGoff spoke about the weekend service project of the Arvada Latter Day Saints (LDS) Church, which was to extend portions of the Leyden Creek Trail with gravel. This happened just this side of Highway 93, with about 400 volunteers tackling this huge project and

covering "a lot of area." McGoff said this is the third or fourth year the LDS volunteers have worked on this trail. Following the work was a well-attended picnic at the LDS church on 72nd Avenue across from the APEX Center.

Councilmember Marriott added that the cost of trailbuilding can be up to \$1 million a mile, depending on where it is built--so this was a tremendous value to have this work done by volunteers. He observed that one of the best things about Arvada is its trail system and the amount of open space which has been preserved to allow connectivity of trails.

City Manager Deven, Mayor Williams, and Councilmember Fifer encouraged attendance at Warbirds Over the Rockies, which for the first time will be in Arvada rather than Fort Collins. This event will coincide with the Harvest Festival, and will be held at the Air Field near Highway 93 on September 12, 13, and 14 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Mayor Williams said that the .5K and the trailbuilding events were absolutely incredible; he also enjoyed the Tarzan presentation at the Arvada Center and encouraged people to see that. Also, he said that he had visited the new Fire & Ice Bistro just south of Olde Town, and that the food was excellent. Their grand opening is not until October but they are having their soft opening now.

Mayor Williams then nominated Moni Piz-Wilson, President of Grandma's Noodles to fill the vacancy on the AURA board. The motion passed 7 to 0.

Reports from City Manager:

There is no workshop scheduled for next Monday, August 11. The August 25 workshop features a presentation on City of Arvada branding and discussion about the Healthy Places Initiative, followed by sequestered interviews for the Board of Adjustments position. The September 8 workshop will include an update on Baja cable television, on employee benefits regarding Paladina health care, and an overview of the 2015-2016 budget.

Mayor Williams noted that tomorrow night, Tuesday, August 5, is National Night Out. He and Police Chief Don Wick will be participating in the Ice Water Dump to benefit the Police Officers' Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Following the public hearings, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55.