

Arvada City Council Meeting, August 17, 2015

Notes taken by Susan Shirley

Present for this evening's meeting were Mayor Marc Williams, Mayor Pro Tem Mark McGoff, and Councilmembers Don Allard, Bob Dyer, Bob Fifer, Jerry Marks, and John Marriott.

At 6 p.m., attendance by citizens was 42, and at 7 p.m. there were 21.

Minutes from the August 3, 2015 meeting were approved with no changes.

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Proclamations:

From Councilmember Bob Dyer, to the Arvada Harvest Festival and Parade Committee, for the upcoming 90th Harvest Festival, September 11 through 13. Dyer presented the proclamation to Chair Renee Nelson, saying that in ninety years, the Festival has been held every year but three: once during the Great Depression, once in World War II, and one of the years of the polio epidemic. It is the second oldest continuing volunteer event in Colorado, and was accepted by the Jaycees in 1966.

Nelson thanked the hundreds of volunteers, who she said usually start working in October or November of the prior year. She said that a large number of the current volunteers are fourth-generation Arvadans, a fact they are all very proud of. This year, the 1927 Olde Town photo will again be recreated, to go with photos from 1977 and 1982. A new feature will be a kids' pedal car raceway, at St. Anne's. The carnival is moving to the theater lot, and the parade route is reversed, running eastward from Field Street to Olde Town this year. There will be the Arvada Harvest Run, and an International Stage courtesy of Sister Cities International, on Saturday the 12th, from noon to 5.

From Councilmember Don Allard to Commander Ed Shreeve, a proclamation that September 16 will be American Legion Day. The Colorado Chapter of the Legion was named for soldiers from Arvada and Wheat Ridge who lost their lives in World War I. The American Legion has 2.5 million members in 14,000 posts worldwide.

Recognition: From Councilmember Bob Fifer, to the 21 members of the Citizens' Capital Improvement Project Committee. These members volunteered over a thousand hours to assist with prioritizing the City's future spending on major projects. Fifer thanked them all, and their facilitator, Heather Bergman, for their time and energy in producing a report the Council will use "extensively."

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Public Comment:

Don Ackerman spoke on behalf of the Edge Soccer Club. He thanked Gordon Reusink, Director of Parks, Golf, and Hospitality, as well as APEX Executive Director Mike Miles, for their continuing

support and for the many improvements to the facilities at Long Lake Park. Ackerman said the Edge is proud to have contributed close to \$150,000 as a club and another nearly \$200,000 from foundation grants. He is proud of the players and the top soccer program, which has been highlighted on news programs.

Jefferson County Public Library Executive Director Pam Nissler said that the Library will be asking for a one-mill levy in the November elections. The net effect for the average homeowner will amount to an extra \$1.95 per month added to their property tax. The last time the Library asked for a mill levy was 29 years ago; since then, the county has increased by over 130,000 people, there are 1.6 million more library visits per year, six million more items, five new libraries, and of course, the enormous expansion in everything technological and digital. Nissler said JCPL has fallen to the bottom quartile in service levels and is no longer competitive, compared with other libraries.

If passed, Nissler said the library hours will be restored, there can be renewed investment in books and materials, facilities can be repaired, technology can improve, and the library system's finances can recover.

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Consent Agenda:

Use agreement amendment, Edge Soccer, Long Lake Regional Park (R15-106)
This item passed, 7 to 0.

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Resolutions:

Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Arvada and Adams and Jefferson Counties, regarding the November 3, 2015 election. Costs will include personnel, mailing and printing costs, and Arvada will be contributing \$50,000 toward the effort. (R15-107)
This passed, 7 to 0.

Acceptance of donated sculptures: Art collectors Polly and Mark Addison wish to donate four sculptures, with a combined estimated value of \$48,000, by artists Carolyn Braaksma, Lyle Nichols, Frank Swanson, and John Young, for display at the Arvada Center and elsewhere in the city. The sculptures will require minimum maintenance. (R15-108)
The donation was accepted on a 7 to 0 vote.

The Blue Wall ("Skyline"): Artist Clarice Dreyer created the wall and accompanying bird baths and bird houses in 1992. The wall, Arvada's most valuable single item of art, needs maintenance and restoration which can be expected to last ten years. The cost is expected to be \$87,390. The cast-aluminum vines running along the entire wall will be removed and cleaned, the wall will be repainted and missing plaster replaced, the vines will be reattached, and there will be some modification to the amount of vegetation growing in front of the wall, to enhance visibility. (R15-109)

There will be some partial closings of the road into the Arvada Center off of Wadsworth; traffic will still enter the property from either the east or south side, but exiting will sometimes be only onto 68th on the south end.

Councilmember Dyer remarked that he was there when the wall was added, and that the original art looked very much like what we sometimes see at sunset time. He also noted that there is a trail next to the wall, but it's hidden by all the vegetation, and just needs to all be pulled back together again. Mayor Williams noted that the before and after photos showing the difference between the wall when new, and now, show a dramatic change in its appearance because of how much fading has occurred. This item passed, 7 to 0.

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Ordinances, First Reading:

Public Hearings for these items will be September 21, 2015, at 6:30 p.m.

Amendment to Land Development Code: There are three proposed areas of change. The first divides commercial land use into the categories of Light Industrial, Heavy Industrial, and Heavy Logistics Center. The second would add more allowable uses for Planned Unit Development. Third is to place religious institutions into the general category of "Places of Assembly." The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing August 18, 2015. (CB15-031)

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: Arvada wishes to participate with the Army Corps of Engineers on a feasibility study of flood risk reduction surrounding Ralston and Clear Creeks. The study is expected to cost the City about \$496,000, but upon completion of the two-year study, the City is eligible for up to \$10,000,000 in construction funds from the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. (CB15-032)

Comcast, extension of current agreement to the end of 2015 (CB15-033)

These passed on first reading, 7 to 0.

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2015 Mid-Year Financial Report: Finance Director Bryan Archer said the report will be available on the City's website. For the most part, revenues meet or exceed what has been budgeted, while expenditures are in line with the budget.

Property taxes are about \$200,000 below projections, but should rebound enough in 2016 and 2017 to offset this year's shortfall. Sales tax and building revenues are doing well, auto use tax is up more than 14% for the year. Sales tax is up 6.2% year-over-year, due to increases in fast casual dining, office supplies, auto care, and furniture, appliances and flooring. Utilities are down five percent but expected to even out by the end of the year.

Building revenues are up for the 4th straight year. In 2011 there were 125 permits issued, in 2012 that increased to 321, and at the pace we have, there are over 600 permits expected for 2015.

Councilmember Dyer pointed out that that is still considerably smaller than the growth Arvada experienced in the 1980s.

Funds being monitored, but still basically OK, are the Arvada Center, Water and Wastewater, and Golf and Hospitality. Water, of course, was impacted by the wet season, with people beginning to water their lawns one or two months later than usual this year. Councilmember Dyer clarified that, since 75% of our water is purchased from Denver, there is a corresponding drop in expenses. He asked if that impacts our contract with Denver Water, and was told it does not, so that we can still buy the normal amount of water next year. Councilmember Allard made the point that when revenue drops it makes a rate increase necessary. Councilmember Fifer said that Council has agreed a few years ago to do small rate increases slowly over time rather than large, abrupt increases. City Manager Mark Deven agreed. Allard said it's important to let the public know, frequently, that rate increases can and will happen. The City is receiving a little bit higher yield on investments, with an increase from \$168 million to \$179 million in its portfolio.

There will be more, much much more, finance information in upcoming Council meetings. Stay tuned.

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Public Hearings:

APEX Park and Recreation District, agreement with the City for maintenance of parks. This five-year agreement provides for 100% reimbursement to the City for park maintenance, tree care, trash pickup and removal, and irrigation systems. (CB15-028)

Agreement with APEX for athletic field programming and maintenance: Five-year agreement, providing 100% reimbursement to the City for maintenance of athletic fields. (CB15-029)

Agreement with APEX for maintenance of Ralston Central Park: APEX is responsible for the maintenance of the restroom, exterior shower, and splash pad. The City is responsible for everything else in the park. (C15-030)

There was no public comment and there were no questions from Councilmembers, for any of the items, although Williams and Fifer remarked on the good relationship between the City and APEX, which is a completely separate entity and did not always have such a cordial bond with the City. All three items passed on 7 to 0 votes.

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Public Comment:

None, but three Boy Scouts from Troop 1876, incognito in street clothing, introduced themselves at the urging of Mayor Williams.

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Reports from City Council:

Councilmember Fifer gave an update on DRCOG. There are currently some heavy debates on voting, with some trials going on to test "weighted" votes vs. "one for one" votes. The heavy hitters would, of course, be Denver and Aurora, if the organization went with weighted votes. Fifer said they are reviewing Metrovision 2040, as required by the Federal government.

Mayor Williams offered condolences to Councilmember Dyer on the recent loss of his mother, as well as appreciation for Dyer's continued professionalism in maintaining his duties to the city while also caring for his mother and going through a very trying time on that account.

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Report from City Manager: Next Monday's workshop will be about the Northwest Corridor, and the Forward Jeffco Initiative.

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Report from City Attorney: None.

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The meeting was adjourned at 7:07.