

Town of Farmington
Public Hearing – Final Budget Hearing 2021
Regular Town Council Meeting
December 21st, 2020 – 6:00 PM
Telephone Dial-in Available
Telephone: 1-754-900-4580 / PIN: 259 744 061#

Roll Call:

Mayor Brian Oliver, Councilmembers: Jaime Lopez, Diana Oliver, Shelly Lobdell and Blanche Rhea.

Open Public Hearing:

Mayor Oliver opened Farmington's December 21st, 2020 Public Hearing to discuss the Final Budget for 2021, at 6:02 pm. Cody sent out the final version of the 2021 Final Budget proposal. Council members Blanche Rhea and Shelly Lobdell stopped by town hall for

Mayor Oliver suggested they may need to evaluate a further adjustment to rates in the water and sewer accounts in 2021. Numerous times, Phil Stradley was out to repair the pumps at the lift station. Cody explained that the Current Expense levy for collection in 2021 has failed, resulting in \$15,000 less in revenue for the year. Council questioned if cutting back labor hours would be a good way to make up for the budget shortfall and Mayor Oliver said he would suggest that this be the last resort.

Jaime Lopez said the town would likely need to rely more on volunteers to get things done in town. Jaime said Mark Hellinger was told by Cody that he was not able to volunteer for the town. Cody clarified there is a difference between light duty volunteering and heavy equipment volunteering and that likely the town's insurance would need to be involved if heavy equipment were involved. Cody will call the insurance to see what is and is not covered but reminded everyone, this is a policy matter, council would be responsible for creating and carrying out the volunteer policy.

Diana Oliver said volunteering has always been an issue in town, the same people show up to volunteer and that pool of people is small. Potentially a list of volunteer needs could be put on the website so people could more easily find what the town needs help with. Blanche Rhea suggested having a list of items that needed to be completed in the spring and fall and post that online and host a meeting to organize how it will get done. Mayor Oliver said he would be fine with that, but this should not be something planned to replace labor hours of the maintenance guy. Jaime said he was not in support of raising rates to pay for additional labor hours.

Shelly Lobdell said she does not want to have to raise utility rates either, but the other alternative is to not have money to utilize if something happens in the water or sewer system and then have a non-functioning system as a result. In order to have more money to support town infrastructure there must be a larger tax base and the town does not always do things to encourage growth. Shelly suggested a one-time service fee for new utility users as a way of collecting from new homeowners building in town. Guest Dwayne Alexander said that should be a cost that is passed onto the new homeowners. Mayor Oliver suggested that Jaime and Blanche coordinate to start exploring options for volunteer efforts in town this spring.

The Public Hearing portion of the December 21st, 2020 council meeting was closed at 6:28 pm.

Open Regular Council Meeting:

Farmington's December 21st, 2020 Regular Town Council Meeting was called to order at 6:28 PM. This was an all-virtual meeting.

Visitors: Dwayne Alexander and David Birge

Approval of the Consent Agenda:

- Approval of November 16th, 2020 Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes
- Approval of the November 17th to December 21st, 2020 Check Register; expenditures total \$7,354.72 with \$2,758.27 in claims and \$4,596.45 in payroll.
- Approval of the November 2020 Treasurer's Report; total cash balance of \$273,940.63 with \$183,735.89 in the checking account and \$90,204.74 in the MMDA Account.

Blanche Rhea **MOVED** to approve the consent agenda for the December 21st, 2020 council meeting. Shelly Lobdell **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.**

OLD BUSINESS:

- ORDINANCE 248-20 Amending the 2020 Operating Budget.

Mayor Oliver said the 2020 operating budget would need to be amended. The funds needing amended are the street fund, which was higher than expected due to dust abatement, the short-lived asset replacement to accommodate the purchase of a new computer for the clerk/treasurer office, and the sewer fund because numerous professional services were required to repair the pumps at the lift station in 2020. Shelly Lobdell **MOVED** to approve Ordinance 248-20, amending the 2020 operating budget. Diana Oliver **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.**

- ORDINANCE 249-20 Adopting the 2021 Final Operating Budget

Mayor Oliver said the 2021 Final Operating budget was distributed and talked about in the Public Hearing portion of the meeting with no objections. Diana Oliver **MOVED** to approve the 2021 Final Operating Budget. Shelly Lobdell **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.**

Jaime Lopez questioned the additional costs to the sewer fund in 2020 and is curious if maintenance on the sewer system will keep the costs down that are associated with the pumps. Mayor Oliver explained that anytime Phil Stradley is needed to work on the pumps, it is quite expensive. Several factors add to pumps having issues, small rocks get into the impellers causing damage, cloth wipes get into the system and jam the pumps up and then grease can also play a part. In the future, the Garfield guys will be helping with the water and sewer system since the current operator, Barney Buckley, is preparing to retire. Some system flushing and vacuuming the lines may be required in the future to get the debris out of the lines.

NEW BUSINESS:

Diana Oliver said there are several new recreational vehicles in town that are being used as residences and she is curious what the current rules say about this. Mayor Oliver said the zoning ordinance does clearly state that there should be no one residing in a property less than 500 square feet. Diana said she believes there is a property in town with up to 3 water and/or sewer connections at this property and Shelly said the town should go up and flag the lines that are in violation and at the very least start collecting money on them. A letter will be drafted to explain the no less than 500 square feet living rule and the need to cease water or sewer connection if there is one to the recreational vehicle. Some clarification will need to be made on what constitutes living in a recreational vehicle, how many days is considered living in and then the town will need to figure out how to enforce this ordinance. Cody will check with Palouse and see if they have a good policy in place that may be helpful since they were having issues with this in their town not too long ago.

Jaime Lopez asked that the county be notified of the missing building and blank building permits so there is a record at the assessor's office.

Guest Dwayne Alexander and David Birge were on the line to talk about the discussion they had with the water/sewer operator Barney Buckley. A permit will be needed to tap the water and sewer lines at the new Washington Street residence. Barney has provided his best support for how the lines should be run and where the lines should connect or fall into the town's lines. Barney also told Dwayne a licensed and bonded plumbing contractor would need to make these connections. Mayor Oliver explained all costs to hire and hook up to the system must be paid by the property owner. Dwayne said he will coordinate with Cody and provide the name and details of the contractor who will be doing the work.

MAYOR COMMENTS:

Mayor Oliver provided all council with a list of tools he would like to purchase to make the town projects go easier. He accommodated Jaime's request of finding three other bids and in each case, Moscow Building Supply was the lowest estimate. Jaime does not think the equipment would be used that much because he feels the town currently takes care of too much lawn that the adjacent homeowners should be responsible for. Some discussion took place about how to enforce residents, especially those on the main pass-through streets, to take care of the lawns in front of their houses. Blanche suggested tabling the idea until the early spring to see what exactly was needed for equipment in the coming year. Mayor Oliver said he was more inclined not to ask again for the purchase stating he is trying to provide equipment that will help speed the time to complete a project so Monty can move onto some other projects within town, including water and sewer responsibilities.

There is a planning and zoning meeting scheduled for January 6th, 2021 at 6:30 pm. The recreation vehicle topic and also plans for the Washington Street property will be reviewed.

Shelly Lobdell **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 pm. Blanche Rhea **seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.**

Mayor Brian Oliver

Attest: _____

Cody Lord Clerk-Treasurer

Town of Farmington - Regular Town Council Meeting

Monday, December 21st - Farmington Community Center

6:00 PM – 7:41 PM