

Approval of the May Treasurer's Reports:

Brian Oliver **moved** for approval of the May 2018 Treasurers Report showing Farmington with a cash balance of \$244,931.37 \$155,103.67 in checking and \$89,827.70 in the MMDA account. Jaime Lopez **seconded the motion, the motion passed.**

Introduction of Whitman County District Court Judge Candidate Dan LeBeau:

Mr. LeBeau introduced himself and stated that he will be seeking election in November for the Whitman County District Court Judge position. Dan LeBeau is Whitman County's chief deputy prosecutor, where he has practiced law for his entire career. He started as an intern in 2005 and became a prosecutor a year later. LeBeau has judge experience, having sat on the bench in the Colton Municipal Court since June 2016. He graduated from the University Of Idaho College Of Law in 2006.

OLD BUSINESS:

• **Farmington's Building Permit Fee Schedule Update**

Councilmember Hellinger explained the concern over Farmington's current building permit fee schedule is the minimum valuation threshold requirement for a building permit, which is currently \$500. Farmington's current fee schedule is based on the 1997 U.B.C. fee schedule. Mark's research of inflation suggests \$500 in 1997 equals roughly \$800 in today's dollars. Also for consideration is Farmington's "small town" aspects, in-that, in the 1997 U.B.C. fee schedule presumes building inspectors are generally "in house" government staff as is common in larger communities. Farmington contracts its building inspector for a 50/50% split, and thus likely does not enjoy the economy of scale of larger communities in servicing building permits. As a comparison, the existing \$500 cost threshold considered with the 140 sq. ft. threshold equates roughly to the current cost of constructing standard pallets... and with that, requiring building permits for pallet level construction projects doesn't serve the public nor the town's interest. Last month Councilmember Hellinger **moved** to update Farmington's current building permit fee schedule. Brian Oliver **seconded the motion and the motion passed.** Mayor Baker appointed Councilmember Hellinger to Chair a committee to research updating Farmington's building permit fee schedule and Councilmember Lopez to serve on the committee. Councilmember Hellinger explained his research and stated that based on that research he would recommend Farmington increase the minimum threshold for purchasing a building permit from \$500.00 to \$1500.00. A \$1500.00 minimum valuation building permit will cost the resident a \$54.00 fee plus a \$6.50 State Fee. Councilmember Brian Oliver **moved** to increase the minimum valuation for the purchase of a building permits in the Town of Farmington from \$500.00 to \$1500.00. Brian further **motioned** to increase all Flat Fee building permits up from \$40.00 to \$54.00. Councilmember Jaime Lopez **seconded the motion, the motion passed.**

• **FVFD Update:**

Councilmember – Volunteer Fire Chief Brian Oliver stated that in the near future he will be driving Farmington's Pumper truck through the streets of Town and cutting any limbs which over hang into the street and obstruct the truck's passage. Brian asked the Mayor and Council to consider purchasing an additional 2 or 3 portable radios for the FVFD, the topic will be added to the July meeting agenda. Brian stated that he intends to invite the Director of Whitman County Emergency Management, Bill Tensfeld to the Council's July meeting so that Bill can provide the Council with an update on the proposed RFA.

NEW BUSINESS:

• **Town of Farmington Web Site Updates:**

Councilmember Hellinger stated that many of the local business listings on the Town's web site <http://farmingtonwa.com/> are out of date. Palouse Pulse specifically requested that their information be brought up to date on the site. Mark suggested to the council that the following updates be considered:

On the Business page:

- A) Remove "Thygeson Drywall", as the business no-longer exists in Farmington nor in the Farmington area zip code.
- B) "Quarter Horses and Paints by Gumm" website link is seemingly dysfunctional and should be updated if appropriate.
- C) "Accidental Antiques" phone number is dysfunctional and should be updated if appropriate.
- D) Add "Thompson Barn, LLC" if Amy Thompson so desires.
- E) Add "Buttercup & Blossom's Caramels" if Marci Goossen so desires.
- F) Add any area farm businesses if the owner/operators so desire. Mark stated that this may be of interest to some area farmers for various reasons concerned with "internet searches".

- Include the Community Center "use policy" on the Community Center page.
- Include "City Hall regular office hours" on the City Hall page. The RCW requirement is that City/Town hall hours be posted. It was noted that Farmington's are indeed posted on the bulletin board in from of the community center and in all AWC – RMSA and MRSC publications.
- Consider changing the wording of "City Hall" and "City Council" appropriately to "Town Hall" and "Town Council".

- Consider adding our "tall flagpole" and the "bell tower" to our City Park page. Reportedly the bell came from Farmington's school and dates to possibly 1891(?). And the town's flagpole was mentioned on the town's website as a point of interest, being "The second tallest wooden flagpole in the state."
- Consider editing the first sentence of the "Welcome page" to include the word "incorporated" between "smallest" and "Town".

Councilmember Diana Oliver **moved** to allow the webmaster (Councilmember Mark Hellinger) permission to update all of the above listed items on the Town of Farmington's Web Site (as well as any other items deemed appropriate by the web master). Brian Oliver **seconded the motion, the motion passed.**

- **Review of the Community Center User Rental Fee:**

Councilmember Hellinger explained that the current \$35.00 per day rental fee in place does not cover the cost to the Town for renting the space once the wages of staff used to re-set furniture and clean the building are taken into consideration. Mark researched town hall meeting room rental rates and policies to get a general idea as to what is common. Mark's thought is that the City of Poulso's rates and policy are seemingly representative of municipalities who offer their city/town hall conference room(s) for rent to the general public: The following link outlines the City of Poulso City Hall Conference room rental fees and policy: <https://cityofpoulso.com/facility-rentals/> Mark also called Pullman City Hall and ascertained that their current fee for renting a small conference room is "\$25/hr" with quite a few stipulations and exceptions as explained to him by the employee he spoke to. Councilmember Mark Hellinger **moved** to review for consideration updating the Community Center Rental Fee Schedule. Council asked that a committee of Councilmember Diana Oliver and Councilmember Mark Hellinger be appointed to study the topic and to report back their findings at the Council's July meeting. Council tabled the topic until their July 16th meeting.

Council Comments:

None.

Clerk-Treasurer Comments:

None.

Mayor's Comments:

Mayor Baker reported that the 2018 year to date budget is well within the scope of reasonable revenues and expenditures. However he warned the Council that due to Farmington's extreme decrease in revenue in 2018, he will be seeking advice from BIAS personnel when compiling the 2019 budget.

Meeting adjourned 6:45 PM

Mayor David Baker

Attest: _____

Barbara Dial-Flomer, Clerk
Town of Farmington - Regular Town Council Meeting
Monday, June 18th, 2018 - Farmington Community Center
6:00 PM – 6:45 PM