

**Town of Farmington  
Open Public Hearing – 2020 Revenue Sources  
2020 Preliminary Budget Hearing  
Regular Town Council Meeting  
October 21st, 2019  
Farmington Community Center  
6:00 PM – 7:30 PM**

**Roll Call:**

Mayor Brian Oliver, Councilmembers: Lavon Walser, Jaime Lopez, Diana Oliver, Shelly Lobdell and Mark Hellinger.

**Visitor:**

George Martzall, Katherine Barnes-Pawson, Barbara Dial-Flomer, Robert Brooks, Barney Buckley, Joe Keller, Lydia Alkas, Kelly Turk, Mary Jo Turk, Christine Drewien and Fred Drewien.

**Open Public Hearing: 2020 Revenue Source -1% and Presentation of Farmington's 2020 Preliminary Budget:**

Farmington's Open Public Hearing for the purpose of discussing the 2020 1% Levy Revenue Source and 2020 Preliminary Budget was called to order at 6:00 PM.

- **2020 Revenue Sources:**

The open public hearing to discuss revenue sources was opened at 6:00 P.M. Cody Lord explained to the council that the 1% levy comes from Public Utilities per RCW 84.55.120. Farmington is currently at the legal statutory limit of \$3.10 per \$1000.00 of assessed property values therefore the taxes of Farmington residents cannot be increased ABOVE WHAT THEY ARE ALREADY PAYING UNLESS the value of their property increases. This 1% funding comes from public utilities such as Avista and Frontier who pay to operate their business in Whitman County

- **Resolution 394-19:**

Jaime Lopez **moved** to pass Resolution 394-19 allowing the county assessor to collect a 1% levy on behalf of the town of Farmington in 2020. An approximate total of \$159.57– which is - 1% of Farmington's actual levy amount (collected in 2019) of \$15,957.24. Lavon Walser **seconded the motion, the motion passed.**

- **2020 Preliminary Budget Hearing:**

Cody Lord presented Farmington's 2020 preliminary budget to the council. Farmington's revenues and expenditures are expected to remain close to those of 2019. The budget did not see many significant changes from 2019 to 2020. Council was advised that the 2019 budget may require an amendment to the sewer fund in November.

**Council & Citizen Comments:**

There were no council or citizen comments.

**Closure of the Open Public Hearing:**

Farmington's Open Public Hearing for the purpose of discussing 2020 revenue sources and the 2020 preliminary budget was closed at 6:10 PM.

**Open Regular Council Meeting:**

Farmington's Regular – October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019 Town Council Meeting was called to order at 6:10 PM.

**Approval of the Consent Agenda:**

Mark Hellinger **moved** for approval of September 16th, 2019 Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes and the September 2019 Treasurers Report (showing Farmington with a total cash balance of \$265,386.31, \$178,010.48 in checking and \$90,007.52 in the MMDA account), as well as the September 17<sup>th</sup> through October 21<sup>st</sup> 2019 claims of \$10,676.51 and payroll of \$2,712.62 totaling \$13,389.13, Diana Oliver **seconded the motion, the motion passed.**

| Trans               | Date       | Type    | Acct # | Chk # | Claimant                         | Amount           | Memo   |
|---------------------|------------|---------|--------|-------|----------------------------------|------------------|--|
| 639                 | 09/30/2019 | Payroll | 1      | 1885  | Alkas Lydia                      | 724.24           |  |
| 653                 | 09/30/2019 | Payroll | 1      | 1886  | George Martzall                  | 934.78           |  |
| 659                 | 09/30/2019 | Payroll | 1      | 1887  | Barney Buckley                   | 342.17           |  |
| 675                 | 10/04/2019 | Payroll | 1      | 1888  | Alkas Lydia                      | 711.43           |  |
| 650                 | 09/24/2019 | Claims  | 1      | 6476  | Avista Utilities                 | 1,217.11         | September 2019 Avista Utility Bill   |
| 652                 | 09/25/2019 | Claims  | 1      | 6477  | Chappell Auto, LLC.              | 579.17           | Ford Truck Maintenance Work Done   |
| 654                 | 09/26/2019 | Claims  | 1      | 6478  | Barney Buckley                   | 50.00            | Water Service Flat Rate  |
| 668                 | 10/02/2019 | Claims  | 1      | 6479  | KME Specialties, LLC             | 1,245.63         | Well #2 Troubleshooting  |
| 669                 | 10/02/2019 | Claims  | 1      | 6480  | KME Specialties, LLC             | 1,020.46         | Check Into The Floats Inside The Wet Well  |
| 670                 | 10/02/2019 | Claims  | 1      | 6481  | Town Of Farmington               | 247.14           | Park Community Center Fire Dept. Utilities                                       |
| 671                 | 10/02/2019 | Claims  | 1      | 6482  | Bishop Law Office                | 200.00           | Bishop Law Office Retainer Fee September   |
| 672                 | 10/02/2019 | Claims  | 1      | 6483  | Cartridge Works                  | 79.99            | Black Ink For Printer  |
| 673                 | 10/02/2019 | Claims  | 1      | 6484  | Pullman Building Supply          | 473.43           | Shop And Hose Supplies   |
| 691                 | 10/21/2019 | Claims  | 1      | 6485  | Anatek Labs, Inc.                | 25.00            | 2019 SEPTEMBER - Water Testing For Coliform                                      |
| 692                 | 10/21/2019 | Claims  | 1      | 6486  | BIAS Software                    | 750.00           | 2019 JUNE - Basic Essential Training For Lydia Alkas                             |
| 693                 | 10/21/2019 | Claims  | 1      | 6487  | Bob's Fire Equipment             | 67.38            | 2019 SEPTEMBER - Fire Extinguisher Service - 6                                   |
| 694                 | 10/21/2019 | Claims  | 1      | 6488  | Busch Distributors               |                  | Duplicate payment of \$674.07. Check # 6498 issued to Busch for \$80.40.         |
| 695                 | 10/21/2019 | Claims  | 1      | 6489  | Empire Disposal                  | 48.96            | 2019 OCTOBER - Garbage Collection  |
| 696                 | 10/21/2019 | Claims  | 1      | 6490  | Frontier Communications NW, Inc. | 167.64           | 2019 OCTOBER - Phone/Fax/Internet  |
| 697                 | 10/21/2019 | Claims  | 1      | 6491  | John Deere Financial             | 468.99           | 2019 AUGUST - John Deere Financial   |
| 698                 | 10/21/2019 | Claims  | 1      | 6492  | KME Specialties, LLC             | 1,039.19         | 2019 SEPTEMBER - Lift Station Pump Repair  |
| 699                 | 10/21/2019 | Claims  | 1      | 6493  | Master Card                      | 507.63           | 2019 SEPTEMBER - Master Card Charge  |
| 700                 | 10/21/2019 | Claims  | 1      | 6494  | Personnel Concepts               | 336.10           | 2019 SEPTEMBER - Labor Law Posters   |
| 701                 | 10/21/2019 | Claims  | 1      | 6495  | Pullman Building Supply          | 503.98           | 2019 OCTOBER - Shop Repair Supplies  |
| 702                 | 10/21/2019 | Claims  | 1      | 6496  | Whitman County Auditor           | 898.31           | 2019 AUGUST - Primary Election Costs   |
| 708                 | 10/21/2019 | Claims  | 1      | 6497  | US Postal Service                | 56.00            | 2019 JULY - Annual Post Office Box Rent  |
| 714                 | 10/21/2019 | Claims  | 1      | 6498  | Busch Distributors               | 80.40            | 2019 SEPTEMBER - Diesel Purchased For Alkas Personal Vehicle.                    |
| 715                 | 10/21/2019 | Claims  | 1      | 6499  | Cody Lord                        | 614.00           | 2019 OCTOBER - Clerk-Treasurer Consultation Fees, 2019 OCTOBER - Travel/Training |
| 001 Current Expense |            |         |        |       |                                  | 5,343.25         |  |
| 101 City Street     |            |         |        |       |                                  | 1,224.60         |  |
| 401 Water Fund      |            |         |        |       |                                  | 4,742.38         |  |
| 409 Sewer Fund      |            |         |        |       |                                  | 1,878.90         |  |
|                     |            |         |        |       |                                  | <b>13,389.13</b> | <b>Claims: 10,676.51<br/>Payroll: 2,712.62</b>                                   |

**OLD BUSINESS:**

• **Update from Barney Buckley on the Lift Station and Water Wells:**

Barney Buckley, Farmington's Water and Sewer Operator reported that the replacement of the pump at the sewer lift station has been completed, and that the controller at Well #2 has been changed out and re-programmed. Barney is monitoring the chlorine injection levels on both Well #1 and Well #2. Barney advised the council of a need for rock replacement prior to the onset of winter on the South side of the West lagoon (known as lagoon #2) and that the East lagoon (known as lagoon #1) needs rock reinforcement due to excessive wind erosion. Barney stated that the delivery price from Palouse River Rock is \$400.00 per 12 yard load and that the project will require approximately two loads. Councilmember Hellinger **motioned** to allow for the purchase of a second load of rock as well as the cost of wages paid out to a backhoe operator if necessary all-inclusive not to exceed \$1,500.00. Lavon Walser **seconded the motion, the motion passed.** Barney Buckley will make arrangements for the delivery of the rock and coordinate the completion of the project within the next month with Councilmember Hellinger.

**NEW BUSINESS**

• **Kelly Turk's Proposal for 5<sup>th</sup> Street:**

Kelly Turk proposed to the council that 5<sup>th</sup> Street be issued a width revision. Mr. Turk's contention is that the unused portion of the public right-of-way in-front of the houses on 5<sup>th</sup> Street is basically an extension of the property owner's front yard. The Turks have an issue with a neighbor who views the Turks maintenance of that portion of the public right-of-way as an infringement on his/her public right-of-way use rights. The neighbor exercises his/her right to utilize whatever portion of that "yard maintained" right-of-way to drive on as he/she sees fit. Kelly's proposal (for a solution to satisfy their agenda) would be to have the town abandon to the property owner the town's unused portion of the right-of-way in-front of the respective properties (thus the portion of the street right-of-way in-front of the property owners house - which they are maintaining as "lawn") would become private property, and the property owner could then exercise control precluding their neighbor from driving on their lawn. Councilmember Mark Hellinger suggested that this matter be tabled until the November 18<sup>th</sup> Town Council meeting so that the town's attorney as well as a land use attorney and the town's engineering firm, can be consulted in regard to the ramifications of the town abandoning these right-of-ways. Councilmember Shelly Lobdell expressed her concern in regard to this action possibly opening the door for every land owner in the community to petition the Council to adjust the widths of the right-of-ways in front of their properties to fit their preferences. Councilmember Mark Hellinger stated that he would personally reach out to the town's attorney for guidance in this matter and report back his findings to the council at their November 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. Kelly and Mary Jo Turk stated that they would gladly submit their proposal to the council in writing.

**Council Comments:**

None.

**Clerk-Treasurer Comments:**

None.

**Mayor's Comments:**

At 6:45 PM Mayor Oliver announced to the public that the council would be retiring into executive session per **RCW 42.30.110** to evaluate charges brought against a public employee. The Mayor and Council remained in executive session for a total of 35 minutes. Executive session ended at 7:20 PM.

Upon reconvening to the regular council meeting Mayor Oliver asked if there were any further comments. Lydia Alkas addressed the mayor and council by asking why she was terminated from her employment as clerk-treasurer for the Town of Farmington. Mayor Oliver advised Ms. Alkas that he had already told her that her employment was terminated for forging his signature on to a payroll check which was issued to her on September 20th, 2019. The Mayor stated that further reasons for her dismissal consist of misappropriation of public funds by using a Town owned MasterCard (issued in her name) to purchase \$74.01 of diesel and \$50.00 of gasoline from the Busch card lock fuel pumps in Palouse and Garfield respectfully. As well as the additional purchase of \$80.00 in gasoline from the Busch card lock fuel pump in Palouse with the use of the Town owned Busch card lock credit card - which was issued to the Town of Farmington Maintenance Department, and held in the exclusive possession of the Town Clerk-Treasurer. Mayor Oliver also advised Ms. Alkas that she had created an Amazon Prime account without his authorization and had signed an authorization form allowing herself to be issued a Town of Farmington MasterCard (which she used to purchase fuel for her personal vehicles). Additionally, Mayor Oliver told Ms. Alkas that she had also made an unauthorized on-line purchase from the United States Postal Service for 1, 2, and 3 cent stamps which she affixed to approximately 160 pre-printed water billing envelopes – thus ruining both the stamps and the envelopes. The Mayor noted that the cost of a first-class stamp is currently 55 cents and that the Town clerk's office would have NO use for 1, 2, and 3 cent stamps. Mayor Oliver advised Ms. Alkas that he will be consulting with the Town's Attorney to determine how the town will proceed in dealing with this matter.

Joe Keller requested a copy of any evidence the town may have to support the above allegations as well as a copy of Lydia Alkas's personnel file. Mayor Oliver advised Mr. Keller to pick the information up from Town Hall at 5:00 PM on Tuesday, October 22, 2019.

Meeting adjourned 7:30 PM



Mayor Brian Oliver

Attest:   
Barbara Dial-Flomer, Interim Clerk-Treasurer  
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