

**Town of Farmington
Regular Town Council Meeting
March 16th, 2020
Farmington Community Center
6:00 PM**

Open Regular Council Meeting:

Farmington's March 16th, 2020 Regular Town Council Meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM.

Roll Call:

Mayor Brian Oliver, Councilmembers: Lavon Walser, Jamie Lopez, Diana Oliver and Shelly Lobdell were present.

Visitor:

Mark Hellinger, George Martzall and Barney Buckley.

Approval of the Consent Agenda:

Diana Oliver **MOVED** to approve the January 20th, 2020 Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes and Lavon Walser **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously**. Jaime Lopez **MOVED** to approve the January 2020 and February 2020 Treasurer Report (showing Farmington with a total January cash balance of \$252,164.00, \$162,035.58 in checking and \$90,128.42 in the MMDA account and February cash balance of \$255,114.22, \$164,971.48 in checking and \$90,142.74 in the MMDA account), Lavon Walser **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously**.

OLD BUSINESS:

Only one bid has come in to tear off and replace the roof on the fix it shop. Mayor Oliver would like to see it go back to an architectural shingle roof. There is a problem getting a contractor to come and bid the roof replacement but the mayor will continue to try and get a couple contractors out to look at the project.

No one has shown an interest in council position #5. Cody will put a note in the upcoming utility bill asking if anyone in the community has an interest in filling the position.

Mayor Oliver would like to entertain occasional policing services in Farmington and he hopes to talk with Mayor Pfaff in Garfield about seeing if Officer Handley would be willing to pass through the community from time to time. Mayor Oliver will also reach out to Sherriff Brett Myers and see if they will be willing to roll a car through on occasion. Shelly Lobdell likes the idea of having an agency that can enforce the ordinances the town has.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Mark Hellinger said he emailed the council about the comprehensive emergency plan and wonders if the town has anything in place. He is concerned as one of the few business owners in town that residents of the town may show up to his place looking for information. Mayor Oliver said the town will take direction from the CDC and Whitman County Health Dept. concerning the COVID-19 situation. Currently there are lots of organizations trying to figure out how to handle the situation. Shelly wonders what can be done to help those affected by this situation, possibly the town could waive late fees or give a grace period and Mayor Oliver says the council has the discretion to allow either of those if need be.

Barney said the town uses bleach to disinfect the water. Jaime Lopez wonders how much bleach supply the town has on hand and George says that he will check in the next couple days. Barney notes the town uses residential grade bleach for the water supply but a commercial grade that not all citizens would have access to, could be ordered if the town starts to run low and the supply chain is still disrupted. Jaime also wonders how often the town tests the water and Barney replies it is done daily and because this is a small system, the numbers can fluctuate quite a bit. Monthly, these test are sent to Spokane to be recorded.

NEW BUSINESS:

Barney Buckley present to talk about the water and sewer systems. Barney reports that everything with the water department is operating as intended. However, the sewer plant is having a couple of issues. The first is the card reader at the lift station. This is the flow meter sewer totalizer which talks with the data recorder. This information is then downloaded and the clerk uses these numbers to submit the DMR report to Ecology on a monthly basis. The reader is still in production and Barney is in contact with the guy that put the unit in. Phil came and worked on the unit for a couple hours and then took the manual home to read. The invoice for reading the material was billed at a journey men's labor rate so likely Barney will have to get a little more creative on getting this equipment worked on. For the time being George can continue to read the totalizer manually and Cody can use that info to update the DMR each month until it is repaired.

The sewer pumps that were recently overhauled are having some issues. When the high flow came, the sewer runoff created infiltration into the system. Likely some sediment and grit got into the pumps causing them to grind and slow down. The symptoms don't appear to be rags in the system like before. They will have to pull the pumps and see what is going on. A couple of years back, Roto-Rooter came in and sucked out the wells and vacuumed the sediment out of the bottom. Shelly Lobdell clarified this isn't a maintenance issue and Barney said he didn't think so, it appears to be foreign material in the system that jammed up the pumps. It was also curious that both pumps slowed at the same time.

Shelly asked how long ago the card reader was installed and Barney said that Woomack was the person who had it installed. Shelly thinks some time should be spent trying to find someone that might be trained on how to fix the reader instead of paying someone to learn how to fix the reader. The cost for the reader and installation was \$3,500 so paying \$800 to learn how to fix something might not be cost effective. Mayor Oliver asked what the charge would be to clean out the wet wells and Barney said he would get with Roach Construction and get an estimate. The pumped material could be taken right over to the lagoons saving the disposal and travel costs. Mayor Oliver asked Cody to post in the monthly bill the reminder not to stick anything down the toilet but toilet paper. handi wipes don't belong in the system, they belong in the garbage.

Council Comments:

There appear to be several raccoons and beavers moving back into the town. Mayor Oliver said the town had to pay over \$800 to the last guy to come and round the animals up. He would suggest the town just purchase their own live traps and start to take care of the issue themselves. These animals could be trapped and relocated. Mayor Oliver believes that the traps will run about \$55 a piece and he would suggest purchasing between 6 and 8 of them. Lavon Walser **MOVED** to approve the mayor purchasing 6 traps. Jaime Lopez **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.**

Clerk-Treasurer Comments:

Cody is doing some research on potential grant opportunities for the speed radar signs that the council would like to see placed on either end of town. These signs run about \$5,000 each. Cody purchased a new computer for the Town of Garfield from VGH and while there collected a bid for a new computer for Farmington. Farmington's computer was purchased in 2014 for \$1,500. The bid provided by VGH would be a 1 tb computer with a Raid back up system in case the computer ever crashed and would include two monitors and a Windows 10 operating system. Jaime Lopez asked Cody to collect a couple more bids to see how the VGH bid stands up to others.

Mayor's Comments:

Mayor Oliver will also be looking to collect a couple of bids for the remodel of the men's and women's restrooms at town hall. The women's toilet is no longer working and all the sinks and toilets need to be updated. The mayor offered another option in that the town could supply the toilets and sinks and the contractor would do the work.

Shelly Lobdell **MOVED** to adjourn the regular council meeting. Diana Oliver **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.** The meeting closed at 6:52 pm.



Mayor Brian Oliver

Attest: 

Cody Lord Clerk-Treasurer

