

Town of Farmington
Regular Town Council Meeting
May 18th, 2020
Telephone or Video Conference Meeting
6:00 PM

Open Regular Council Meeting:

Farmington's May 18th, 2020 Regular Town Council Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM. This meeting was conducted via telephone and video conference to abide by the Washington State Governor's Office Proclamation 20-05 Due to the Covid-19 situation.

Roll Call:

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

Visitor:

Mark Hellinger and Blanche Rhea

Approval of the Consent Agenda:

Diana Oliver **MOVED** to approve the minutes of the April 20th, 2020 regular council meeting. Shelly Lobdell **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.**

Jaime Lopez **MOVED** to approve the check register for claims and payroll processed between 4/21/2020 and 5/18/2020. Claims totaled \$10,519.04 and Payroll totaled \$4,108.93, the check register totaled \$14,627.97. Shelly Lobdell **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.**

Shelly Lobdell **MOVED** to approve the April 2020 Treasurers Report showing Farmington with a total April cash balance of \$263,220.37, \$173,052.64 in checking and \$90,167.73 in the MMDA account, Diana Oliver **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.**

OLD BUSINESS:

Mayor Oliver said that Council Positions #1, #3 and #5 were up for election in Dec of 2019. Council positions #1 and #3 both put their names on the ballot, however Mark Hellinger in Council Position #5 did not put his name on the ballot. Mayor Oliver asked Mark Hellinger if he would like to put his name back in the hat for the appointment of position #5. Mark said he would only be interested in the position if he was allowed to carry out the term he was elected for and fill the position until 2021. Mayor Oliver said the 3 positions were truncated to 2019. The new appointment would be through 2023 but will have to be on the ballot again in 2021.

Council members questioned why if Mark was elected, his term wasn't a four year term. Whitman County elected to truncate some council positions so the town wasn't having to replace all the council positions on the same election. Cindy Pitts made Mark aware of this action before the deadline of putting his name on the ballot. Mark Hellinger asked what name appears now in Position #5 at Whitman County Elections office and Mayor Oliver responded no one, it is a vacant position. Mark said that is conflicting information from what he was told from the elections department. Mark said he would do whatever the county and town deem appropriate for this position but was only willing to be in Council Position #5 if he was able to carry out his original term. Mark added that if someone else was willing to carry out the term limits that were set forth for Council Position #5, he would suggest going with them as he wasn't able to do another 4 year commitment.

Jaime and Shelly Lobdell both were concerned about the vacated position and wonder what evidence would there be to help them support moving forward with another appointment. Shelly asked if Cody had any information that could help clarify the matter. Clerk-Treasurer Cody said he was going off of the documents that he was provided. The first being the election notice that Council Position #1, #3 and #5 were notified that their names needed to be on the ballot for the November 2019 Election. Another document from Cindy Pitts describing why the position had been altered and the need for Position #5 to be on the ballot or the position would become vacated. Mayor Oliver had the documents for review and offered to bring the documents to the council members at the conclusion of the meeting so everyone could see what he was viewing. Mayor Oliver told Mark he would also

supply the documents to him so he could see the paper trail requesting that position #5 be placed on the ballot. Mayor Oliver and Shelly Lobdell suggested possibly tabling the issue until everyone could see the documents.

Diana Oliver said there was plenty of information provided and it was well known that if the elected official didn't place their name on the November ballot, then the position would be vacated. She was told specifically if they didn't do this then the position would end. Diana and Lavon chose to put their names on the ballot. Mark said he would like to respond to that, he didn't want to put his name on the ballot because that would mean another four years in Council Position #5 and that he only wanted to complete a total of 4 years. Mark added he didn't want to sign up for another 4 years because he will be approaching retirement age and he has plans that may take him out of the area. Mark explained that he talked with Mish at the Elections office and she stated to him he was in the position #5 until 2021. Mayor Oliver said he was willing to table the matter until another conversation could be had with the Elections Department and see if they can provide some more support. Mark said he would go by what the town and Whitman County had decided and if there was someone ready and willing to fill the position, he would suggest moving in that direction.

Shelly Lobdell, Lavon Walser and Diana Oliver said they were alright with moving forward with appointing the position since it was known that positions #1, #3 and #5 should have been on the November ballot and Position #5 didn't put their name on the ballot which resulted in a vacated position. If Mark is unable to fulfill the needs of the appointment at this time due to time constraints they felt it was alright to move forward with another possible candidate.

Blanche Rhea was on the phone and introduced herself as a resident who lived in Farmington from 1995 to 1997. She has retired from the Marriott Group in Human Resources. Council asked Blanche some questions to see if she would be a good fit for Council Position #5. Mayor Oliver asked, "What are the two biggest challenges you see for Farmington?" Blanche responded that she sees a breakdown in communication and views this as a great challenge to get everyone on the same playing field. She also doesn't see the same great sense of community as when she lived here back in the 90's and would like to help to find ways to bring that sense of community back to the town. Mayor Oliver asked her how she would separate herself from personal interests if she were to sit on council and be there on behalf of the community. Blanche responded that personal interests would never come into play while on council or volunteering, she has a career of knowing how to keep matters focused and professional. Blanche wrapped up her interview by briefly giving a history of her time in Farmington and why she is so excited to be back.

Since the meeting was conducted over the phone Mayor Oliver said he would take a verbal yea or nay vote to fill Council Position #5. Position #1 was a yea, Position #2 was a yea, Position #3 was a yea, and Position #4 was a yea. Mayor Oliver said the appointment was unanimous and asked Blanche to recite after him the "Oath of Office". Blanche will stop by town hall and provide the signatures needed for the appointed position "Oath of Office".

The women's restroom in town hall is still out of service. A materials bid was provided through Pullman Building Supply for an estimated \$600. With a couple of other fittings needing to be purchased, the materials will likely come to about \$650.00. Don Scoles provided a bid for materials and labor and it came to \$1,489.58 which is a reasonable bid. Currently this is the only bid that has come in. Shelly and Jaime asked Mayor Oliver to see if he could get one or two more.

The town received a grant for the roof on the fix it shop for \$5,000. Two bids have been provided. The first one is from Affordable Roofing and was \$12,400 and includes a tear off without replacing sheathing and replacing with a composite roof. If they had to re-sheath, it would then be about \$16,400. Princeton Builders was the second bid provided and they were \$7,200. This includes removing the existing metal, installing ice and water shield and membrane on eaves and re-covering the roof with GAF Timberline HD Shingles. If the roof required sheathing, it would be an additional \$2,600. Princeton would send out 3 or 4 guys to do the project and it would be completed in a couple days. Affordable roofing is a one man show so likely it would take longer to get him to Farmington and will likely take him longer to complete. Council suggested getting one more bid before moving forward with Princeton. Blanche said she could have her contractors drive by and provide the town with an estimate. This matter will be tabled until the next meeting.

Eli provided a contact for the grading and graveling of the roads. Mayor Oliver will be making contact with them to see if their rate would be better than that provided from the county or Hard Rock. Mayor Oliver suggested that he and Jaime drive around town and take a look at the worst roads that need the most help. This matter will be tabled until the third bid can be received.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Oliver said he wanted the restrooms and park re-opened. George will need to properly sanitize everything and start cleaning frequently after opening.

Council Comments:

Blanche said her neighboring yard is getting tall and the branches in the front yard have been sitting for a while and are likely becoming dry and could pose a fire threat. For the safety of the community, she wonders if this issue can be dealt with.

Clerk-Treasurer Comments:

Cody provided three bids to replace the town computer system. The bidding agencies were VGH at \$933.86, DELL at \$1,060.06 and HP at \$1,879.00. VGH was the least expensive bid and brought advantages of having a local company to work on the computer if there was ever an issue with it. The VGH computer would have a RAID system and two monitors. There will be an additional cost for the software needed on the machine. The current computer system is 6 years old and in need of replacement so nothing is lost in a potential failure situation. Shelly Lobdell **MOVED** to order a new computer and two monitors through VGH. Blanch Rhea **seconded the motion and the motion pass unanimously.**

Mayor's Comments:

Mayor Oliver also said he would like to talk with Officer Handley and see if he is willing to cruise through Farmington from time to time and make a presence. Jaime questions the reason for the police visits. Mayor Oliver said now that Garfield has an active Marshal, problem individuals will start to be pushed out into surrounding communities and he just wants to make sure a bunch of nuisance doesn't end up in the Farmington community. Diana Oliver said she would be more interested in the policing to carry out the ordinance restrictions when a violation occurs. Currently there are many ordinances with no way to enforce them. There are a few properties within town limits that are currently abusing some of these restrictions laid out in the ordinances. Mark Hellinger offered that a Law Enforcement Officer is trained on how to deal with people and nuisance environments where a citizen of the community most likely is not. Shelly and Diana both stated they like the thought of an occasional police pass through, this way if there is ever an emergency, they have more awareness about the community.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 pm.

Mayor Brian Oliver

Attest: _____

Cody Lord Clerk-Treasurer

Town of Farmington - Regular Town Council Meeting

Monday, May 18, 2020 - Farmington Community Center

6:00 PM – 7:12 PM