

**Town of Farmington
Regular Town Council Meeting
July 20th, 2020 – 6:00 PM
Telephone Dial-in Available
Telephone: 1-510-646-1647 / PIN: 484 318 003#**

Open Regular Council Meeting:

Farmington's July 20th, 2020 Regular Town Council Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

Roll Call:

Mayor Brian Oliver, Councilmembers: Lavon Walser, Jaime Lopez, Shelly Lobdell and Blanche Rhea were present. Diana Oliver dialed in to the meeting.

Visitors:

Sandra Hansen, Shelly Asmus, Heather Lopez and Chad Hansen. Mark Hellinger was present on the phone dial-in line.

Approval of the Consent Agenda:

Shelly Lobdell **MOVED** to approve the minutes of the June 15th, 2020 regular council meeting. Blanche Rhea **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.**

Lavon Walser **MOVED** to approve the check register for claims and payroll processed between 6/16/2020 and 7/20/2020. Claims totaled \$4,364.64 and Payroll totaled \$4,248.02, the check register totaled \$8,612.66. Shelly Lobdell **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.**

Diana Oliver **MOVED** to approve the June 2020 Treasurers Report showing Farmington with a total June cash balance of \$273,720.79, \$183,542.51 in checking and \$90,178.28 in the MMDA account, Lavon Walser **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.**

OLD BUSINESS:

Grading, graveling and oiling the roads in Farmington. Mayor Oliver said it appears they have run out of time to grade the roads and they should elect to oil the roads instead at this time. Blanche Rhea wonders if the roads that are needing to be graded could be done in the fall after the oil is applied. Jaime Lopez asked what streets would be getting oil this year. Mayor Oliver said all roads north of the highway would be completed and 2 or 3 on the southside. The cost to oil these roads will be far less than grading and graveling at this time.

Mayor Oliver asked Mark Hellinger if he would still be willing to grade the roads if the town compensated him for his time and fuel. Mark responded that he is not licensed or bonded and the volunteer policy for the town does not seem to cover items such as this, so at this time he would have to decline. Mayor Oliver asked if the town could use his grader and Mark said not unless the town's insurance policy could indemnify him. Cody will call AWC and see if this is possible. There are three bids provided, two of them at \$.08 a square foot and one, TAK, was \$.07 a square foot for oil abatement. Based on prior roads that were oiled the estimated cost to complete would be about \$5,200. Shelly Lobdell **MOVED** to preauthorize \$5,200 for dust abatement and having TAK complete the project. Blanche Rhea **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.**

Mayor Oliver said there is some interest in new building in town and because of this, it may require the town to re-start a planning and zoning committee. Shelly Asmus, and Sandra Hansen are here in interest of seeing what this entails. Mayor Oliver said basically the planning and zoning would be responsible for looking over what is already in place and suggesting additions or changes to the current zoning for what is currently suitable for the town. Shelly asked how many files were in place at this time for the committee to look at and Cody said he would get to them what he is aware of. Shelly is concerned that the town's infrastructure be able to keep up with new growth and not prohibit future town property owners from being about to build on their vacant lots.

There is a developer who has expressed building some new homes in town however, has pulled no building permits or submitted plans for the vacant lots at this time. The builder/developer needs to understand the importance of working with the town, ideally the planning and zoning committee to make sure whatever is planned fits the code within the town limits. The planning and zoning

will be responsible for laying the parameters for new or remodeled homes and what can and can't happen, but they will not be an enforcement agency just an advisory committee.

Future town enforcement will be carried out by Whitman County Sheriff's office. Sheriff Meyer will be designating a local new recruit to Farmington and they will be making more frequent passes through town. They will be responsible for enforcing any ordinance that is currently in place and being violated. Mayor Oliver said he posted two notices this week, one parking violation and one animal violation. The ordinance and letters were taped to the property and told that if they did not comply, the Sheriff's office would be responding next. Shelly Asmus, Sandra Hansen, Heather Lopez and Chad Hansen have expressed interest in being on the planning and zoning committee. Joni Denton has also expressed interest and Cody will be sending out a follow-up email to all the members.

With the increased building activity in town and the potential for new homes to be built, the current building inspector will be required to likely come to town more frequently to make sure things are progressing appropriately and rules and regulations are being followed. Mayor Oliver said in the future, if a person is not following the rules while working on a place, they will likely receive a red tag and be shut down until they can come into compliance. Shelly Lobdell asked how long a building permit is good for and Mayor Oliver responded a year from the time of issue. Shelly thinks probably the most pressing issue for this committee would be looking at the ordinances to see what types of buildings are allowed in Farmington and the size of lots needed in order to build on. The hope would be to carry on the consistent look with what Farmington currently has. Another matter that will need to be addressed is residential homes being allowed in commercial zones and whether or not the town allows Air B and B type businesses to exist and if they are allowed does the town require a person to live on or in the property in order to have an Air B and B business so that they aren't just transient people coming to town.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution 397-20 Mayor Oliver explains this is the resolution we need in place in case the levies don't pass in the primary election. Election night is August 4th and this must be on file with the county by August 4th. If the levies pass this will be obsolete but if they fail, this will be on record so the town can try to pass the levies in the general election. Lavon Walser **MOVED** to approve Resolution 391-20 placing the 2 levies on the 2020 General Election if needed. Jaime Lopez **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.**

Mayor Oliver said he has received multiple concerns about the German Sheppard dogs that are running loose in town. 3 people have said the dogs are showing signs of aggression and roaming freely in the town park. Mayor Oliver left a copy of the animal ordinance on their door and said they must be contained in their own yard and on a leash no longer than 6 feet when out of their yard and must be accompanied by the dog owners. The residents have been warned if they don't follow the rules of the animal ordinance, they will be receiving a visit from Sheriff Myer in the future.

Ordinance 153-93 concerning junk vehicles needs to be enforced on a property in town. Hoyt's property has vehicles from one end of his property past the other end and all of them are in the town right of way. These vehicles need to be stickered and if not moved in the near future, then the Whitman County Sheriff will be advised to tow them. Also Mr. Hoyt is using town water instead of hooking up his own water source and paying water and sewer charges in the town. The Turks have also called to complain about their neighbors having multiple vehicles piling up on their property. Mayor Oliver said all of them are on their own property, so it is permissible. When it is not permissible is when they start trickling out to the town's property or surrounding properties. Blanche asked who would have to foot the bill if a vehicle is towed, Cody will have to look this up to verify.

The fireworks Ordinance 231-15 needs to be reviewed and make sure that the conditions are still appropriate for the town. The mayor would like to see the fireworks only occur on the 4th of July from dusk to whatever time is approved. There should be a regulation that all the debris caused by the fireworks must be quickly picked up and fireworks would only be permissible with the Fire Chief's approval and oversight and within a specific location. Shelly said she would like to see the 4th of July become a community day. Jaime wonders if the town should not collect donations for fireworks and then the town put on the show, and wonders if this might be safer in the future. Also, a designation should be made for New Year's as a lot of people like to light fireworks then.

Barney has requested another load of rock to be taken to the lagoons to shore up the banks.

Jaime Lopez **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. Blanche Rhea **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.** The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 pm.



Mayor Brian Oliver

Attest: 

Cody Lord Clerk-Treasurer
Town of Farmington - Regular Town Council Meeting
Monday, July 20, 2020 - Farmington Community Center
6:00 PM – 7:28 PM