



**Town of Farmington
Regular Town Council Meeting
September 21, 2020 – 6:00 PM
Telephone Dial-in Available
Telephone: 1-315-925-6338 / PIN: 167 597 295#**

Open Regular Council Meeting:

Farmington's September 21, 2020 Regular Town Council Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

Roll Call:

Mayor Brian Oliver, Councilmembers: Lavon Walser, Jaime Lopez, Diana Oliver, Shelly Lobdell and Blanche Rhea.

Visitors:

Layne Merritt JUB Engineers, Shelly Ausmus and Sandra Hansen

Approval of the Consent Agenda:

Diana Oliver **MOVED** to approve August 17th Regular Council Meeting Minutes. Lavon Walser **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.**

Total claims and payroll from July 21st to August 17th totaled \$12,036.66, with claims totaling \$8,626.60 and payroll totaling \$3,410.06. Lavon Walser **MOVED** to approve claims and payroll from August 18th to September 21st. Blanche Rhea **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.**

The August 2020 Treasurer's Report showed a balance of \$270,233.23, with \$180,044.23 in the checking account and \$90,189.00 in the MMDA account. The report was missing from the table so will be furnished and approved at the next council meeting along with the September 2020 Treasurer's Report.

Layne Merritt with JUB Engineers is in attendance to discuss with council some ideas about the water system in Farmington and how to go about receiving grant opportunities to improve the system. The last time the town tried for a CDBG grant in 2015 it was declined and at the time resubmitting without making some alterations was not recommended. At the time, there were no matching funds for the project, and the water rate was not high enough to justify the grant being issued. In order to submit again, the town would need to complete a rate study and income survey, which would cost between \$6,000 and \$10,000. Layne encourages the town not to get frustrated in filing, that sometimes it can take up to 10 years to be granted a program that will work for the town.

Layne said most lines in town are 6" and are generally undersized for firefighting capacity and it would be better if the town had at least 8" lines in the ground. There was a grant issued and used on Well #1 and that money went a very long ways, the town was even able to get a well house built with this funding. Mayor Oliver said he would like to see the iron and manganese removed from the water system and Layne responded a lot of times when you remove it, it will start to draw out what has attached to the pipes over time. Sometimes it is better to bind and remove than to just filter it out. Shelly Lobdell wonders if there are some students at WSU, as a project, that would like to conduct the rate study and income survey so the town would not have to absorb that cost. For the town to be eligible for a CDBG grant, 51% of the population must be considered lower income.

Diana Oliver said our community is small enough that Cody might be able to conduct a general survey to see if we would even qualify. Layne recommends that the town put together a scope of work and derive a potential cost from this rough estimate. The IACC conference is a great one to attend as there are several teams there that work together to bring awareness and expertise to a project and its needs. As far as selecting an engineer for the project, the town would need to go through an official selection process which entails; receiving proposals, interviewing the engineers and then ranking them based on the town's needs. This will need to be advertised including with the Office of Minority Women in Washington State. Also, the town will have to update the small water system management plan. Mayor Oliver asked if JUB has grant writers in house and Layne replied yes, they can assist with everything needed from start to finish and can attend meetings until the project is completed.

Shelly asked how JUB is compensated for their time and Layne said payment would start once the project began, that technically they are not allowed to work for free. Shelly said the town will need to raise rates in order to pay for the loan to cover the matching cost of the grant and although the \$80 rate hasn't moved in a long time, it is time to start putting money into a reserve account so that a project like this could be completed. Mayor Oliver expressed a project like this isn't going to happen overnight, but the town needs to start taking steps in the right direction. Blanche Rhea suggested having a small committee put together and start small, working towards a goal. Diana would like to know where we stand with an income ratio in town as that would be the first bit of helpful information. Shelly thinks that starting with the 6% rate increase would also be a good step forward. She called some surrounding communities, and many have a percentage rate increase in place to put away for future projects and to keep up with inflation. There are two more engineering firms scheduled to come in and talk with the council about options.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mayor Oliver said the fix it shop roof and bathrooms in town hall have been replaced. The fix it shop will still need new windows and some paint touch up but this can happen next spring.

Sheriff Myers has said the county will buy the first electronic speeding sign for the approaches to town. They are willing to cover the first \$3,000 if the town will have the second one covered. Cody said in January the town can apply for another safety grant and purchase the second one. Mayor Oliver will have a talk with Sheriff Myers and let him know that the town will agree to getting the second sign covered.

Mayor Oliver said the CARES Grant Funding for Covid relief as been filled out and the town is eligible to get up to \$30,000. The library said they could use about \$6,000 of this money for a couple laptops that could be checked out and for PPE and cleaning supplies for the library. Mayor Oliver thought maybe the first responders could use a portion? Also, there are several towns in the county that have less than desirable internet connections, Farmington being one of them. A portion of the money could be used either with the port or with Cascade Computing to increase the internet reception in town. Diana thinks that giving some of the money to local EMS agency would be a good fit since they need to be protected when going on calls. Lavon Walser did not feel the town should be taking the Federal relief grant money for Covid expenses, all other council members were in support of filing the grant application.

NEW BUSINESS:

Shelly expressed that she would like to return to the conversation of the town needing to increase the utility rates and thinks that the 6% increase for water and sewer would be a step in the right direction. Diana also agree this should be taking place so the town can afford to do infrastructure projects in the future. Shelly proposed the town institute the new rate increase on the November 1st billing cycle and use the October 1st bill to notify utility customers of the rate increase. Shelly Lobdell **MOVED** to approve a 6% water and sewer rate increase starting November 1st, 2020. Lavon Walser **seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.**

Mayor Oliver said the planning and zoning committee will be meeting soon and Cody will post a notice about this event on the town reader board 24 hours in advance of the meeting.

Jaime Lopez said that Eagle, Id has become a sanctuary city for the second amendment and put in place a Resolution to protect second amendment rights. He wonders if the Town of Farmington should possibly entertain something similar for people living in the town and to make a statement that the town supports the second amendment as written. Jaime will gather some more information about their Resolution and bring that to a future council meeting.

The levy for the Town of Farmington is currently failing. Cody will place, along with the utility rate increase, the main items that the levies pay for on the next utility bill. Citizens need to know what the money is used for so they can make an informed decision when they cast a vote in the general election.

Blanche Rhea **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 pm. Diana Oliver **seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.**



Mayor Brian Oliver

Attest: _____

Cody Lord Clerk-Treasurer

Town of Farmington - Regular Town Council Meeting

Monday, September 21, 2020 - Farmington Community Center

6:00 PM – 7:30 PM