

**Town of Farmington
Regular Town Council Meeting
April 19, 2021 – 6:00 PM
Telephone Dial-in Available
Telephone: 1-916-750-3496 / PIN: 953 456 694 #**

ROLL CALL:

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

VISITORS: Brian Westgate

OPEN REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING:

Farmington's April 19th, 2021 Regular Town Council Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM. This was an all-virtual meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA:

- Approval of March 15th, 2021 Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes
- Approval of the March 16th, 2021 through April 19th, 2021 Check Register with expenditures totaling \$14,805.46, claims total \$10,417.11 and payroll total \$4,388.35.
- Approval of the March 2021 Treasurer's Report; total cash balance of \$271,688.58 with \$181,462.92 in the checking account and \$90,225.66 in the MMDA Account.

Blanche Rhea **MOVED** to approve the consent agenda for the April 19th, 2021 council meeting. Jaime Lopez **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.**

OLD BUSINESS:

Mayor Oliver provided council with a Route A and Route B map for road oiling. Last year the road oiling was expensive because much of the town's dirt roads were oiled. There is only enough money collected through the street levy to cover about half that surface area yearly. The routes will be alternated each year to help keep the oiling costs in line with levy money collected. The town will place the map on the website and once the winning bid is declared, the oiling companies contact information will be posted so those that are not on the route that year, can contact the oiling company directly and personally pay to have their section of road for the same rate the town pays. Shelly Lobdell asked what the timeline would be for road oiling to be done and Mayor Oliver said they will shoot for the first week in August just before harvest kicks off. Monty will call and get the oiling bids rolling. Council agreed the A-B route will be a good way to reduce costs and cover as much road as feasible while rotating the schedule.

The adjudication contract is back with Whitman County and the town is waiting on any revisions that they may have. Once this contract is back, Mayor Oliver will get it signed and sent back to the commissioner's office for approval. At that time, the fines can be set up within their system and the ticket book in place to start issuing citations. Blanche Rhea said her neighbor's garbage is still piled in the front yard. She would like to see the process sped along so that issues like this could be addressed and resolved. Shelly Lobdell reminds council that the town is not an HOA and cautions telling people what they can and cannot do with their personal property. Blanche believes what is occurring at the Washington Street property is turning into a safety issue. Jaime Lopez added if there are already ordinances in place to address these issues, then they should be enforced.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution 404-21 Current Expense and Street Levy

The town has a May 14th deadline to submit the resolution detailing the current expense and street levy. Shelly is aware that the town cannot promote passing the levies but thinks the town should put out an informative letter about what the levy funds are collected and what they are used for. Traditionally the town has run the levy in the primary just in case it failed so they could re-run the levy in the general election and have a second chance at passing it. Shelly was in support of running the levy in the primary and asked if Cody could put together a list of what the levy supports and put in on the bulletin board and in the utility bills, so citizens are aware of the importance of it passing. Shelly Lobdell **MOVED** to approve Resolution 404-21, setting the 2021 primary election levy amounts for collection in 2022. Jaime Lopez **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.**

Ordinance 250-21 Sidewalk Policy for the Town of Farmington

Mayor Oliver explains this is the ordinance to designate town policy for sidewalks within town limits. The rules are black and white for adjacent property owners and their sidewalk responsibilities. Blanche and Shelly both responded that the ordinance seems

straight forward and logical and are in support of passing the ordinance. Shelly Lobdell **MOVED** to approve Ordinance 250-21 stating the policy for sidewalks within the Town of Farmington. Blanche Rhea **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.**

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Shelly states that with the growth the town is seeing, the council may need to step up a little more and start investing some more time to research and change policy to match the changes that are occurring. A year ago, the town probably did not foresee a developer coming and creating some growth within the town, so now it is up to the council to make sure policy is in place to allow for decisions that are the best for the community. Shelly said she did not know a lot about the building permit side of town business, but she invested some time to research FEMA and some other resources to help put together a checklist of what is required when getting a building permit in Farmington. Currently, if someone is in violation of a building permit, there is nothing that stops them from progressing on their project. The town needs to better leverage the permitting process and if someone is currently in violation, they should not be allowed to approach another permit until all violations are cleared up.

Blache noted that the current builder is in violation of a clear set back requirement and has refused to move his structure back to accommodate the set back rules and she wonders what will be done about this. Jaime said since that setback is detailed in the planning and zoning ordinance, it would be up to the code enforcer to make sure that rule is followed. Jaime is for some growth in town but says the town would be best to enforce the ordinances that are currently in place. Jaime asked how far out the process for enforcing ordinances within town is and Mayor Oliver responded they are currently waiting on changes from the county to come back so that he can sign, and it can go in front of the commissioners for review. At this time, the mayor or town hall can send out notices of violations in preparation that homeowners will be facing violations if their issues are not resolved.

Clerk-Treasurer's Comments:

There is more Covid relief money coming, and this round of funding should allow for water and sewer infrastructure. Cody suggests getting the proper registrations in place and to take advantage of this round of funding so that possibly the money can be used for purchasing new de-ragging pumps at the lift station. The current pumps are aging and slowing, and they currently do not have the vari-drive to kick out rags. Mayor Oliver said he would strongly encourage this and if there were funds left over after purchasing the pumps, to replace some of the worst hydrants around town and improve the water system as well. Monty will get to work on pump bids so when these funds arrive, the town is ready to make that purchase and get them in the lift station as soon as possible.

Public Work's Comments:

Monty Rojas said a magnetic switch malfunctioned on well #1 with the last power surge and has been malfunctioning ever since. He talked with the mayor and got approval to have Phil Stradley come out and replace it. That has been scheduled and will be completed soon.

Mayor's Comments:

Mayor Oliver said that Monty also got to fire the big generator today. When the power went out the lift station went down, and he received a call from Monty saying the lift station had just filled and sewage was beginning to run back into the system. The generator was fired and connected to the system to lower the levels of sewage until the power came back online. Mayor Oliver asked Monty if he could arrange to get the street sweeper over here for a couple hours from Garfield.

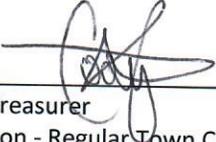
Blanche questioned the home on 3rd and Washington and wonders if they have set up a water sewer account with the town yet and Mayor Oliver confirmed they are now registered as the utility owners there and have made payment. Shelly asks concerning the RV ordinance, are they just electing to continue with the no one living in anything under 500 square feet and start enforcing that rather than addressing the RV issue through a new ordinance? Jaime asked about the construction type, wondering does this size square footage omit even 2x4 construction and Mayor Oliver said it means anything less than 500 square feet cannot be resided in within the town limits, regardless of construction type. Jaime questioned Julie being able to come back to town and work on her property and says this would prevent her from being able to do this in the future, the mayor confirmed this will affect those that come for harvest or to work on their properties, since council elected not to revise the current ordinance, it clearly states now that no one is to reside in a property less than 500 square feet in size.

Jaime said he disagrees with the 500 square foot limit and Mayor Oliver said that is what is currently enacted and how the rule currently reads. Mayor Oliver asked everyone to provide input on the ordinance that was submitted from the town's attorney and only a couple comments were received. Mayor Oliver asked Cody to send the RV ordinance again so that everyone could read through it again and hopefully come up with new terms that make sense for the town.

Balance Rhea **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 pm. Jaime Lopez **seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.**



Mayor Brian Oliver



Attest: _____

Cody Lord Clerk-Treasurer

Town of Farmington - Regular Town Council Meeting

Monday, March 15th, 2021 - Farmington Community Center

6:00 PM – 7:20 PM