

**Town of Farmington
Regular Town Council Meeting
July 17th, 2021 – 6:00 PM
Telephone Dial-in Available
Telephone: 1-424-341-5798 / PIN: 509 818 017#**

ROLL CALL:

Mayor Brian Oliver, Councilmembers: Lavon Walser, Shelly Lobdell, Blanche Rhea and Diana Oliver (phone in). Absent:

VISITORS: Monty Rojas, Logan Coles, John and Noreen Ewing, Dwayne Alexander, Todd Lobdell and Mark Hellinger

OPEN REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING:

Farmington's July 17th, 2021 Regular Town Council Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM. This was an on-site meeting made available with a phone in option.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA:

- Approval of the June 21st, 2021 Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes
- Approval of the June 22nd thru July 17th, 2021 Check Register with expenditures totaling \$17,235.56, claims total \$12,126.40 and payroll total \$5,109.16.
- Approval of the June 2021 Treasurer's Report; total cash balance of \$278,407.12 with \$188,170.91 in the checking account and \$90,236.21 in the MMDA Account.

Blanche Rhea **MOVED** to approve the consent agenda for the July 17th, 2021 council meeting. Shelly Lobdell **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.**

OLD BUSINESS:

- Adjudication Contract

Mayor Oliver explained the adjudication contract has finally been signed by the commissioners. The town can now submit the Ordinances and fine fees to the Washington State JIS system to start issuing code violations.

- ORDINANCE 251-21 Recreational Vehicle Ordinance

Mayor Oliver asked if everyone had a chance to review the revised ordinance with the changes the council requested be made. He asked if there was any further input? Blanche Rhea **MOVED** to approve Ordinance 251-21 describing the use of recreational vehicles within the Town of Farmington. Shelly Lobdell **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.**

NEW BUSINESS:

- ORDINANCE 252-21

Mayor Oliver explained this ordinance is to detail the penalties that may be assessed if a person is in violation of the town ordinances. He asked council if they had all had a chance to review the ordinance and if any changes were needed? Shelly Lobdell **MOVED** to approve Ordinance 252-21 detailing penalty assessments for violating ordinances within the Town of Farmington. Lavon Walser **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.**

Shelly Lobdell put together a checklist and acknowledgement list a person should get when applying for a building permit. She believes this will be a better process, so the town has something to go on and the customer knows exactly what to expect in the permitting process. Shelly explains this was taken directly from the FEMA website and she copied and pasted items 1-7 and omitted the items that were not pertinent to Farmington. Blanche agrees this would be a great thing to have and make the customer sign off on the form, so they acknowledge they have received it and understand the process. Lavon Walser **MOVED** to approve the building permit checklist for future use. Blanche Rhea **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.**

Mayor Oliver said in front of council and distributed is the Whitman County 2019 building permit fee schedule. The Town of Farmington currently uses a very old and outdated fee schedule, and it needs to update its rates. Shelly asked if this was the most recent fee schedule for the county and it was thought they hadn't altered the rates in the last two years. Cody said the council could elect to adopt these rates and then move their rates up at the same time the county assess and changes their rates. Lavon Walser **MOVED** to update the building permit fee schedule and follow future updates from the county. Blanche Rhea **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.**

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Mayor Oliver said he would open the floor to citizen comments and the comment time would be limited to three (3) minutes. Mark Hellinger identified himself on the phone and said he was having a hard time hearing some of the conversation. Mayor Oliver said the town can look into a microphone to better facilitate the phone part of the meeting. He also made Mark aware that the meeting was onsite with a phone dial-in option. Mark exited the telephone portion of the meeting and joined the meeting in person at town hall.

Dwayne Alexander approached the council and said he would like to respond to a text that was received. Due to the text being read so fast the clerk was unable to capture the exact wording. Mayor Oliver asked Dwayne to read the several exchanges before the portion of the text he was choosing to read. Dwayne said that he would like to know what town ordinance he is breaking and that he constantly hears bad things about his employees. He explained to council he can't control his workers and he is tired of hearing his jobsites are dirty and having people come and threaten him. He tells council he took the two worst properties in town and fixed them up and repaired the old restaurant building and stuck in a nice sidewalk.

Mayor Oliver responded to Dwayne saying that he was never once authorized to light the massive fire he had in town limits. There was never an authorized fire to be done within the old foundation. Dwayne said tell me what I have done to ruin this town, that he could go anywhere and do what he is doing here. Dwayne later exited the meeting.

Resident Noreen Ewing said she would like to explain that she is having trouble breathing because her neighbor is burning, and their smoke is bothering her. She details how the neighbors turned in the fire at Rose and Blaise's house however, when they came to put that fire out, they drove right by the neighbors who also had a fire. Noreen also complained about the mayor taking time to put a fire break around the south side of town by burning the brush. She said her neighbors have a swimming pool and trampoline on the road and their kids ride dirt bikes up the town's rock pile. She said they are also shooting air rifles that are much like a .22 caliber in the vicinity of their animals across the creek.

Mayor Oliver said he had a talk with Adam about the fires that were located just outside the town in the county and asked him to reduce the size of the fire. The mayor said if that fire were to burn out of control and enter town and do destruction to other residents, then the homeowner not following the burn rules would be at fault and responsible for the damages. Mayor Oliver said in the future if the fire is illegal in size or during a burn ban, call it in and the fire department will have to respond. Noreen said in the future if the mayor or anyone is going to do a controlled burn, she would like to be notified so that she can leave town. The mayor explained he burned the brush on the south side of town to better prevent an issue like Malden in the future but will make sure to notify the community in the future. He did call it in to Whitcom and it was a legal and controlled burn.

Clerk-Treasurer's Comments:

Cody informed the council that the first truncated portion of the COVID relief fund has been deposited. He reminds council they have several years to allocate these funds and they can be used on water and sewer infrastructure programs. Shelly asked if this was a Federal Grant and Cody explained it is a Federal Grant passed through the State Agency, Office of Financial Management. Mayor Oliver explained the funds could be used to replace sewer pumps, water meters and hydrants. The mayor would also like to see whether the town could purchase a used 1 ton with straight or V plow on the front so that Monty can run the snowplow in the winter. Monty will be working on getting sewer pump pricing. Cody also informed the council that an audit is tentatively scheduled for the end of August, and it may be an in person audit this time instead of a box audit, which will end up being more costly for the town.

Mayor's Comments:

Mayor Oliver said the mower had to go in for repairs again and so far, it has come to about \$1,800 in service and parts. There are about 2,300 hours on the motor. It is now burning oil badly and tends to overheat. At some point the town will have to purchase a new mower and the equivalent of what the town currently runs will cost about \$13,000. There is a TORO zero turn in the shop that can be serviced as a backup but not a good long-term option. Blanche asked if the town got a new mower could all the old implements fit the new one and the mayor thinks some of them may but there are a few that will be irrelevant with a mower change. Shelly suggested waiting until the end of the season to see if the prices come down. Shelly also suggested reaching out to Avista to see if they had any upcoming surplus trucks that would work for the town's needs.

Shelly Lobdell **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 pm. Lavon Walser **seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.**



Mayor Brian Oliver



Attest: _____

Cody Lord Clerk-Treasurer

Town of Farmington - Regular Town Council Meeting

Monday, July 17th, 2021 - Farmington Community Center

6:00 PM – 6:46 PM