

Town of Farmington
April 18, 2022
Farmington Town Hall
Telephone Dial in Available

ROLL CALL:

Mayor Brian Oliver, Councilmembers: Lavon Walser, Haleigh Varney, Diana Oliver, and Blanche Rhea

GUESTS: Joan and Ben Smith, Rose Anderson, George Martzall, Mark and Liz Hellinger

OPEN REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING:

Farmington's April 18th, 2022, Regular Town Council Meeting was called to order at 6:09 pm. This was an onsite meeting with a phone in option.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA:

- Approval of the March 28th, 2022 Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes
- Approval of the March 29th, 2022 thru April 18th, 2022 check register
- Approval of the March 2022 Treasurer's Report

Lavon Walser **MOVED** to approve the consent agenda for April 18th, 2022, council meeting. Diana Oliver **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.**

OLD BUSINESS:

Mayor Oliver said they have received a bid from Bill's Tree Service to remove 7 trees for \$5,600. Bill is saying since they all hang over the power lines, he would suggest all 7 coming down. Diana Oliver and Blanche Rhea said they would prefer to leave a few trees on that side of the building with Haleigh agreeing. Blanche asked if there was more than one bid and Mayor Oliver said that Jeske also bid it and his came to \$1,500 a tree to remove, so Bill's Tree Service was less expensive.

Mark Hellinger explained to the council why the trees needed to be trimmed so heavily back in the day due to an unusual weather event. He had to make an emergency decision as Mayor Pro-tem at the time to cut the branches back drastically to get them off the power lines. He suggested that in another 10 years, likely the remainder of the trees will have expired and will need to come down so taking them down now and making space for new decorative trees might be a better plan. Mayor Oliver said the trees were responsible for 3 power outages this winter so there is a definite need to get them removed. He suggests removing all of them and plant some new 15 to 20-gallon decorative trees in their place for \$100 to \$150 per tree.

The price that was quoted from Bill will be to drop, limb and cut in fire wood lengths and leave on the property. All debris will be removed from the property. After discussing further Lavone, Blanch and Haleigh were in favor of removing all 7 trees at this time. Blanche Rhea **MOVED** to hire Bill's Tree Service to remove all 7 trees on the west side of town hall. Lavon Walser **seconded the motion and the motion passed.** Haleigh was a yea vote and Diana Oliver was a

nay vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

Council Position #4 is vacant and Farmington resident Ben Smith is interested in occupying the seat. Ben provided some details about how he came to Farmington and why he had an interest in the position. Council asked Ben a series of questions. At the conclusion of the question and answer session, council was unanimous in appointing Ben Smith to council Position #4. This will be a short and full term to expire in 12/25 and Ben will need to come to town hall and complete the "Oath of Office".

The street and current expense levies are needing to be placed on Primary Election Ballot to be voted on in August. Cody has provided two differing draft resolutions one asks for all voted funds to be placed into the street levy or option two is to swap the amounts that have traditionally been asked for in the current expense and street levies. Option 2 would ask for \$15,000 to support the street levy and \$8,000 to support the current expense levy.

Because the street fund is so low, the current expense levy funds would be used to transfer to the street levy to prop it up this next year. In 2020 the street fund was at break even and in 2021 with the current expense levy failing, the street levy became insolvent. If the levies are not passed in 2022, the street fund will run negative and there will need to be drastic changes made to the street program. The levies are the only funds available to provide services in the street fund so it is crucial that they pass. Council was in support of swapping the requested amounts and placing both levy ballot measures on the 2022 Primary Election ballot. Lavon Walser **MOVED** to approve the Levy Resolution 408-22 placing the levies onto the Primary Election ballot for 2022 vote to be collected in 2023. Haleigh Varney **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.**

MAYOR COMMENTS:

Mayor Oliver said the Mayor Pro-tem rotation has been scrambled so they will start over with the position #1 having this responsibility for 6 months starting May 1st. Lavon Walser will be Mayor Pro-tem from May 1st to October 31st, 2022.

Mayor Oliver has reached out to Code Enforcement Officer Tina Coe several times but hasn't heard anything back. He asked Sheriff Myer to also help with contacting her. If there is no contact before too long, they will need to recruit a new code enforcement officer so they can take care of the numerous outstanding issues in town.

Keltic Engineering sent their contract for review and signatures, there are a couple of small text changes. If council would like to move forward with Keltic Engineering to provide professional consulting services on the sewer and water systems, Mayor Oliver will need approval from council to sign the contract. Blanche Rhea **MOVED** to authorize to allow Mayor Oliver to sign the engineering services contract on behalf of the town. Lavon Walser **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.**

Mayor Oliver explained the first order of importance will be replacing the sewer lift station pumps since these have been the main source of expenditures due to repairs in the prior years.

Then they can start looking at things like, a manganese removal program for the water system, cleaning and vacuuming the water reservoir, replacing aging service lines and meters and various other water projects. Keltic also mentioned that there should be lots of funds available for solar array grants. The town may be able to capitalize on this by adding solar and powering all town owned utilities and buildings.

Diana Oliver **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. Lavon Walser **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously**. The regular town council meeting was closed at 6:52 pm.

Mayor Brian Oliver

Attest: _____
Cody Lord Clerk-Treasurer

Town of Farmington – Regular Town Council Meeting
Monday, April 18th, 2022 - Farmington Community Center
6:00 PM – 6:52 PM