

Town of Farmington
Public Preliminary Budget Hearing / Regular Council Meeting
November 21st, 2022

ROLL CALL:

Mayor Brian Oliver

Council members: Lavon Walsler, Blanche Rhea, Haleigh Varney

GUESTS:

Lonnie and Mike Erickson

PUBLIC PRELIMINARY BUDGET HEARING:

Public Hearing Started at 6:04PM

Mayor Brian Oliver opened a motion to approve the 2023 budget. Lavon Walsler **MOVED** Blanche Rhea **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.**

Following up the mayor brought up the 1% tax increase Lavon Walsler **MOVED** Haleigh Varney **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.**

The public hearing ended at 6:06PM.

OPEN REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING:

Meeting Started at 6:06PM.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of the October 17th, 2022, Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes.

Approval of the October 18th, through November 21st, 2022, check register.

Approval of the October 2022 Treasurer's Report.

Blanche Rhea asked about the Minutes being posted early on the town website. She said usually the council approves before they get posted and was confused. Mayor asked if she would rather wait to post the Minutes till the next meeting? Blanche said yes, she thinks that would be a better idea. Mayor Oliver told Gavin Dewmer not to post the minutes online for the November 21st meeting till the next meeting in December.

Haleigh Varney **MOVED** to approve the consent agenda for the November 21st, 2022, council meeting. Lavon Waiser **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.**

OLD BUSINESS:

Mayor Oliver brought up the water tower clean out and how the job has been delayed. Both companies inquired about having an ETA for next spring. Blanche said there is no need to find another company if they are all going to be an ETA next spring. Haleigh Varney asked if the contract price was going to change since we must wait till next year? Mayor Oliver said most likely not that they may try to make some up on the back end on parts and labor but, regardless, it seems as if it's not going to happen soon. Mayor Oliver also brought up that if water starts to look dirty. To tell citizens to run their tub for a bit and it should clear up. Blanche asked what was in the water that made it look and smell like that? Mayor Oliver said it is most likely the iron and manganese built up in the system from the hard water. Mayor Oliver asked Gavin if he had found out the cost of TXTMygov. Gavin said yes, \$1,500 and the same cost every 2 years after. Gavin explained how it is a Text messaging system that the town can use TXTmygov to notify the town if there is a problem / notify citizen who sign up if there is a problem. Mayor Oliver asked for a motion to approve of the TXTmygov Blanche **MOVED** and Haleigh Varney **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.** Haleigh brought up that the sign-up form should be super easy and simple and gave Gavin an example to use.

NEW BUSINESS:

Lavon Waiser asked if the mayor had found anything out for the town lawn mower? The mayor said no he didn't bring any information, however, was willing to show what he has looked at thus far and proceeded to do so. Mayor Oliver and Haleigh then brought up the Ferris website and said that the IS 600 series with a 52in deck should do the job fine. If not maybe, the IS 700 Series. Mayor Oliver said John Deere might have a grant or price cut program for the town and he will investigate it more. Blanche expressed concern about the price of the new mower. Understands, but wants to make sure the new mower will last. Mayor Oliver will do more research and bring back information for the council at the next meeting.

Next order of business was Lavon Waiser's hire. Mayor Oliver offered her the maintenance position at \$17 an hour. Her main duties will be parks and streets, and she may come out and help with maintenance when needed, Also Lavon will be working on the snowplow to get it running for winter for the town. Mayor Oliver asked for council approval for Lavon to start as of November 1st. Haleigh Varney **MOVED**, and Blanche Rhea **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.**

New flag in town park was the next order of business. Mayor Oliver said the new flag does not need to be a 10-foot flag, but rather a smaller flag to see if it holds up the weather longer. Mayor Oliver asked Gavin to look at the cost of the flags and send him the prices and sizes. Blanche

asked how the rope holding the flag's condition? Lavon said it is a cable and it is just fine, a few burrs but nothing bad. Mayor Oliver Brought up that the pole however may need to be the next thing that needs work and or replaced. Lavon brought up how she and others in town were the ones who put the pole up in 1976 and has sentimental value to her.

Mayor Oliver then asked the council if they were against tearing out the juniper shrubs in front of the town hall? Everyone in the Council agreed to have the shrubs removed.

Clerk-Treasurer / Maintenance COMMENTS

Gavin brought up that his classes are going to be scheduled at the beginning of next year, not only for budget purposes but also for scheduling purposes.

Lavon said that she is charging the battery to see if she can get the town plow running for winter. Mayor Oliver asked Gavin to email/call Whitman County to make sure that they drop the blade from bridge to bridge through town. Haleigh asked if we needed someone with a class B to drive the snowplow. Mayor Oliver said no, he does not care who drives it if they have a valid driver's license. Mayor Oliver asked Gavin to reach out to Tim Hokenson, Rudy Gossen, Eli Walser to see if any of them were willing to drive the snowplow for the town. If not, Lavon said she would be willing to drive it.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mike Erickson Brought up the complaint letter that he sent to the mayor and asked what was done about it. Mayor Oliver proceeded to tell Mike how he had gone and talked to a group of people around town to try and get to the bottom of everything. All individuals said that Gavin was not the one gossiping or spreading rumors. Mike then dismisses the claims from the mayor; proceeding to insist the group is covering for Gavin. Mike proceeded to tell Mayor Oliver that "he expects results, and he will be pursuing legal action against Gavin and the town." Blanche then brought up the altercation between her and Gavin and insists that Gavin was the one to start the problem and "she did nothing wrong". Gavin went to talk to Blanche where he got interrupted immediately. Mayor Oliver interrupted Blanche and explained how Gavin listened to the other party's complaints and they needed to allow Gavin a chance to defend the claims. Gavin proceeded to explain how Blanche aggressively ripped documents out of his hands, belittled him and became very unprofessional. At which time Gavin told her she needed to get out of the office. Upon refusal Gavin said he would call the appropriate authorities to handle the situation, Blanche obliged. Gavin then went to discuss matters with Mike. Gavin tried to explain that Mike was in violation of Washington State RCW 9.41.270 which is the regulation of unlawful display of firearms. When Mike yet again interrupted Gavin and said, "it was his right to carry a firearm." Mike then brought numerous pictures and comments from Gavins personal Facebook page and proceeded to slander Gavin personally. Blanche then insisted as well that she had done nothing wrong and that she was out of town the day after the altercation, therefore Gavin is the party who is spreading the rumors. Blanche then asked Mayor Oliver if he had known her to spread rumors as long as he had known her? Mayor Oliver said that he has absolutely heard her name as the one to not only start but spread rumors throughout town. Lonnie Erickson asked the

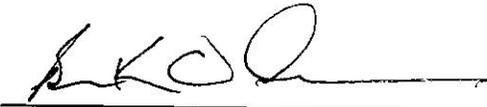
council if they understood her complaint from the last meeting. Both Lavon and Haleigh said that they understood the complaint that someone was not in the office and did not call her back.

MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor Oliver stated that he wanted to send out a letter to everyone in town to get rid of some of the gossip and rumors around town. He would like for it to go out in the next utility bill, but he would like a few weeks of calm thought prior.

Effective DEC 31, 2022, Mayor Brian Oliver will be stepping down as Mayor. Mayor Oliver asked Gavin in the next utility bill to put out that his chair will be available. The requirements are they have to be a resident for at least a year. Can be a minimum of at least 6 months' residency. Whoever is interested write a letter, attach a resume, and leave it in the Black box Infront of town hall. If someone on the council is interested, it only takes 3 yeses. Blanche Rhea will be the acting mayor as of JAN 1, 2023.

Blanche Rhea **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. Lavon Walser **seconded the motion and the motion was carried unanimously.** The regular town council meeting was closed at 7:34pm.



Mayor Brian Oliver

Attest: _____

Gavin Dewmer Clerk-Treasurer

Town of Farmington – Preliminary Budget/Regular Town Council Meeting

Monday, November 21st, 2022 - Farmington Community Center

6:00 PM – 7:34 PM