

Town of Farmington  
Regular Council Meeting  
Onsite Town Hall  
June 26th, 2023

**ROLL CALL:**

Mayor Blanche Rhea, Council Members: Lavon Walser, Haleigh Varney, Diana Oliver and Ben Smith

**VISITORS:** Joan Smith, Josh Williams, Max Mohan and Brian Oliver

**OPEN REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING:**

Farmington's June 26th, 2023, Regular Town Council Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. This was an onsite meeting.

**APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA:**

- Approval of the May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes
- Approval of the May 16<sup>th</sup>, thru June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Check Register.
- Approval of the May 2023 Treasurer's Report

Haleigh Varney **MOVED** to approve the consent agenda for June 26th, 2023, council meeting. Diana Oliver **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Advanced Diving:** Mayor Rhea talked with Liquid Engineering to ask about cancelling the contract. They said that the soonest they could potentially get a diver out was now going to be September, so they would understand completely if we wanted out of the contract and was fine with cancelling it.

Mayor Rhea contacted Advanced Diving and they can come out some time in August to clean the water reservoir. Their only request was that there was a 2x2' hatch and somewhere for the water to drain. Diana Oliver asked about letting the town know of the water work being done. Hydrants will be opened and flushed at the same time.

**METER Foundation Grant:** Mayor Rhea informed the council that we got the grant but do not know when funds will be coming in yet.

**Water Meters:** New meters are scheduled for July 11-13, 2023.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Port of Whitman:** Mayor Rhea and Beth Anderson met with Jody Opheim and Kara Riebold from the Port of Whitman to discuss future potential needs of the town. They can help tremendously with Grants. There is a large opportunity for one for the park. Ideas already consist of a sprinkler system, updating the bathrooms and repairing other items in the park. It is a 100% funded grant. The town does not need to match funds.

**Banking Options:** With Farming State Bank coming to a close at the end of August, council is considering other local banks. Haleigh Varney works at Banner Bank in Tekoa, so gave a presentation on what they offer.

Diana asked if there was anyone interested in purchasing the bank building. Not that anyone knows of at the moment.

**Council Seat #5:** Joshua Williams was present to be interviewed for Council Seat #5. Council had a list of 5 questions and they were asked of Joshua. After answering all of the questions, Mayor Rhea asked if they would like to go into Executive Session to discuss the position before voting. All of council declined to do so. **Mayor Rhea asked for the vote and it was unanimous.** Joshua Williams was approved as the new Seat #5 and will go in and sign the Certificate of Appointment when it is convenient for him.

## **MAINTENANCE COMMENTS**

Lavon Walser said the new grass around the Community Center is coming up nicely. There are now lights in the bell tower. Phillip from Correct Equipment got the antenna installed so that the RTU works 100% for the Mission Communication system for the Lift Station. PumpTech found that we did not have a bad seal after all, so now we have an extra on hand for future use. Lavon got more of the gravel swept up out of the gutters and away from the storm drains. She sprayed weeds, but wasn't able to finish as a fitting on the sprayer pump broke.

There are some concerns with unsupervised children during a birthday party in the park. There was quite a bit of property damage. A board was ripped off the back of the bell tower; trash/debris stuffed into the drinking fountain drain; the telescope and steering wheel broken off the play equipment; and dog feces spread out all over the playground. A couple of weekends later, the steering wheel again was broken off and the soap containers in the bathrooms were busted. Diana Oliver asked about contacting the child's parents, and/or imposing fines for the damage. The town does use security cameras and some of the activity is recorded.

Lavon asked if the smaller town bulletin board could be removed as it has shifted enough in the ground that the doors do not easily slide and it's cement footings are halfway out of the ground.

## **CLERK COMMENTS**

Beth said the budget is looking good. Seems to be right on schedule. She also got the annual report completed.

## **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Max Mohan expressed his concerns about individuals speeding as the round onto 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. He mentioned possibly placing a speed bump at various locations to force people to slow down. Mayor Rhea said that might fall into the county's jurisdiction. She suggested contacting the county.

He also had a concern with Ziply's cables being caught up in the Willow trees at the bridge by his home. The trees have grown and are now putting pressure on the cables. He contacted Ziply and was told they would come out if something breaks, but not before. Mayor Rhea said she would meet him out there in the next couple of days to take a look at the situation.

## **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Diana Oliver asked for an update on 302 E. Washington. Mayor Rhea explained the current status of their building permit, but that there isn't much she can do right now until we receive the new infraction book.

Questions were also asked of 303 E. Chestnut. The homeowners appear to have moved back in, but don't have power or water and the RV is still in the city easement. Mayor Rhea did confirm with the town attorney about the RV Ordinance and said that there are no loop holes.

Status Update on 304 E. Chestnut: Environmental Services is now involved. They restarted the fire to dispose of the debris; then dumped debris on private property; and then brought it back after being told they had to remove it and pressed it down flat and poured gravel over the top. The situation is no longer in the Town of Farmington's hands.

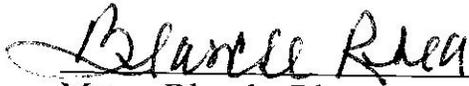
Other ordinance violators have complied and are progressing nicely with their clean up.

Diana Oliver asked about putting liens on properties out of compliance. Mayor Rhea said yes, that can be done, but have to wait for the infraction book.

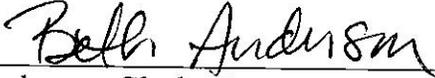
## **MAYOR COMMENTS**

Mayor Rhea talked with Cheryl of Fairfield about their Nuisance Ordinance and asked if we could use it as a template for updating our own. Cheryl gave permission to use it. Will have to add junk cars. Diana Oliver asked if there are more violations and Mayor Rhea said Yes.

Mayor Rhea asked if there were any other concerns needing to be discussed, and as there were none, she asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Diana Oliver **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. Lavon Walser **seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.** The regular town council meeting was adjourned at 7:01pm.



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Mayor Blanche Rhea

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Beth Anderson Clerk-Treasurer

Town of Farmington – Regular Town Council Meeting  
Monday, June 26, 2023 - Farmington Community Center  
6:00 PM – 7:01 PM