

Town of Farmington
Regular Council Meeting
Onsite Town Hall
May 15th, 2023

ROLL CALL:

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

VISITORS: Joan Smith, TJ Schmidt, Kyle McKinney and Keinan Slate

OPEN REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING:

Farmington's May 15th, 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 April 17th, 2023, Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes
- Approval of the April 18th, thru May 15th, 2023, Check Register.
- Approval of the April 2023 Treasurer's Report

Haleigh Varney **MOVED** to approve the consent agenda for May 15, 2023, council meeting. Ben Smith **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.**

OLD BUSINESS:

METER Foundation Grant: Mayor Rhea relayed that the grant has been applied for through the library, with a request of \$10k. We should hear back sometime in June.

Water Meters: Mayor Rhea contacted 4 towns not too far from Farmington that all used their SLFRF funds to update their water meters to find out their experiences with Correct Equipment. They were Garfield, Fairfield, Rockford and Potlatch. They all had 40-60 or older pipes and each had a few breaks that needed repairing, which was done immediately by Correct Equipment. There were some that required additional equipment, such as being raised up to be easily read or having an antenna installed. They all said the tech support was awesome. All in all, a glowing report.

Mayor Rhea also asked Keltic Engineering for their opinion of the 3 companies that gave bids, and they sent a letter that Mayor Rhea read to council. The summary being: Correct Equipment is a solid choice because of the price, tech support and integrating with BIAS, the town's financial software.

Mayor Rhea went on to describe the process that she and Lavon went through in locating, cleaning out and/or removing various types of insulation and finally reading the meters for the first time this year. Lavon Walser mentioned that there are about 5 different styles of meters. Mayor Rhea said the current water mains were all replaced in the 1970's and any older pipes would be between the meter and the homeowner.

Mayor Rhea also did some research on fire hydrants. She contacted a previous Maintenance employee, Barney Buckley. She provided his email response for all to read. She also offered the possibility of replacing/repairing one hydrant per year. We will contact other fire districts to get an estimate of the costs involved.

She asked if there were any other questions. Haleigh Varney would like to move forward with Correct Equipment and the meters they offer. Haleigh Varney **MOVED** to approve the hiring of Correct Equipment to replace the water meters for the Town of Farmington. Ben Smith **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.**

SCADA: Bids have been received from Reiner Pump Systems and Correct Equipment for installing an alert system at the Lift Station. After some discussion and comparing costs, ease of use and integration with the town's software, Haleigh Varney **MOVED** to approve purchasing the Mission Communications system from Correct Equipment. Lavon Walser **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.**

Water Reservoir: Liquid Engineering is still not able to get a dive team out to clean out the water tower. They have pushed things back to September. Mayor Rhea asked Keltic for their suggestion on another company, and they referred Advanced Diving Services, Inc. Lisa said they would be a good alternative if needing to switch companies for cleaning the reservoir. Their estimate for the job would be around \$2988 compared to \$4115 with Liquid Engineering.

Roads: Palouse Hills Excavators/Jesse Perkins provided a quote of \$1402 for 60T of ¾ minus to grave. 2nd, 3rd, and 5th Streets, and \$1300-1500 to grade and crown. May need to acquire another 60T to get it all done to a 2" depth. Jesse will try to get out in the next week to evaluate and get the work done if approved. Jesse also offered to do routine maintenance for the town and is working on figuring out a flat rate. Mayor Rhea asked for a motion to approve hiring Palouse Hills Excavators. Ben Smith **MOVED** to hire Jesse Perkins/Palouse Hills Excavators to gravel, grade and crown the roads in Farmington. Haleigh Varney **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.**

Planning and Zoning: Mayor Rhea proposed meeting 30 minutes before the regular monthly meeting to conduct a planning and zoning meeting, since there does not seem to be any other interested parties to have a separate committee. She asked council members to review the P&Z book and think about updating 1-2 pages at a time. Beth will make sure everyone has a copy to review before next month's meeting.

Resolution: Ben Smith **MOVED** to approve Resolution 415-23 Setting Employee Salaries for 2023, as it was updated. Haleigh Varney **seconded the motion and the resolution was approved unanimously.**

NEW BUSINESS:

Potato Barn: Not much change. The owner is still working on the logistics of the home she was looking at, as well as the installation and connection of water and sewer.

CCS: Keltic Engineering was asked for advice on the items needing to be addressed concerning the Sanitation Survey done last July. One of those things was that town W/S System Operators are now required to be Cross Connection Control Specialist certified. Jacob Billington said that he is willing to get that done and be certified.

Ordinances: Ordinance letters were sent out to those in violation of them. Mayor Rhea reminded the audience that Town Council approves them and the Mayor upholds them. One person so far is complying, another one is not, and the rest need to be checked on.

MAINTENANCE COMMENTS

Lavon Walser would like another council member to accompany her in some of the regular tasks and maintenance jobs so that she has a backup if there is ever the need. Haleigh Varney offered to go around with her on Monday, May 30th.

Lavon Walser said the new swing is up, the tether ball is installed and the basketballs for the court have all been marked with Town of Farmington.

Ben Smith asked about installing the flags for Memorial Day. Lavon said they will go up next week sometime.

CLERK COMMENTS

Beth said the budget is looking good. We are 1/3 of the way through the year and are right on track with spending. She got the report done for SLFRF and got other annual forms submitted to keep the town current on its requirements. She is now concentrating on the annual report with the State Auditor's Office.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Joan Smith gave an update on the town yard sale. She called around and selected June 16 and 17 because it was the same weekend as Slippery Gulch days in Tekoa and Father's Day. Ben Smith thought having 2 days available would allow for flexibility. They want to draw up a map and have people go to town hall and sign up to advertise their yard sale and mark it on the map. They are going to put up a notice on the community board outside Town Hall. Haleigh mentioned another good time would be when Palouse/Garfield/Oakesdale run their town yard sales if the June dates don't do so well. Maybe post on CraigsList, FaceBook Marketplace and other similar sites. There is also a Farmington Events Facebook page and a Tekoa page.

TJ Schmidt had some concerns about being able to call out in an emergency, since not many people rely on older landlines anymore and cell service can be hit and miss. He asked if there could be a siren like what Garfield has or a dedicated landline phone. Or leasing out space on the water tower to boost cell service.

Kienan Slate asked about the procedure to follow if one wishes to build on a property. Mayor Rhea said he could email the town clerk, Beth, and she can send him the planning and zoning ordinances, along with anything else that would apply. TJ Schmidt said the rules seemed to be different than they used to be. He received a copy of the RV Ordinance and said he doesn't live in his RV full time, that it is his business address. His drivers license and mailing address are Colfax. Kienan Slate asked about the RV Ordinance and mentioned the first page was rather confusing, talking about buses and tiny homes. Mayor Rhea and Haleigh Varney summarized the details of the ordinance explaining 6 months of living in an RV is allowed if building a new construction or remodeling an existing structure, and an extension can easily be asked for if required.

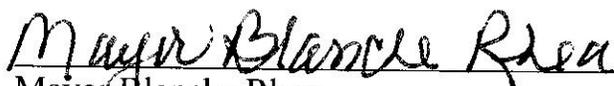
An in-depth discussion about hypothetical situations occurred concerning ordinances, tiny houses and an RV park.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

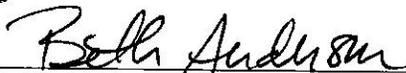
Mayor Rhea asked council members on their status of getting registered to be on the ballot this fall. Haleigh Varney, Lavon Walser and Mayor Rhea completed theirs and Ben plans on going to Colfax.

MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor Rhea reported that the Department of Health came by and took pictures of the utility trailer full of trash at 302 E. Washington. She 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. Haleigh Varney **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. Ben Smith **seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.** The regular town council meeting was closed at 8:09pm.



Mayor Blanche Rhea

Attest: 

Beth Anderson Clerk-Treasurer

Town of Farmington – Regular Town Council Meeting
Monday, May 15, 2023 - Farmington Community Center
6:00 PM – 8:09 PM