

Town of Farmington  
Regular Council Meeting  
Onsite Town Hall  
August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**VISITORS:** Joan Smith and Brian Oliver

**OPEN REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING:**

Farmington's August 21<sup>st</sup>, 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 July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes
- Approval of the July 18<sup>th</sup>, thru August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023, Check Register.
- Approval of the July 2023 Treasurer's Report

Diana Oliver **MOVED** to approve the consent agenda for July 17th, 2023, council meeting. Ben Smith **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Water Tower:** Mayor Rhea reported that Advanced Diving were able to remove 1.5" of sediment from the water reservoir and everything looks good. There was some trouble with the ladder and the hatch door is a little small, so it took some time. A final report is forthcoming.

**Banner Bank:** To confirm the transfer of Town of Farmington's public funds, Ben Smith **made a motion to switch from Farmington State Bank to Banner Bank in Tekoa, WA. To Authorize deposits and the writing of checks. To transfer the Money Market Account, with a balance of \$91,088.09, via a cashier's check and \$200,000 from the Business Checking, via cashier's check, effective immediately, and transferring the remaining balance of the checking, via cashier's check, on August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023.** Lavon Walser **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.**

**METER Grant:** Mayor Rhea had a meeting with Cody Allen from Whitman County Library. We have been approved. Once we have a list of needed supplies, we can get started on the front porch of the Community Center. The plan is to replace anything that is rotted, replace the gutter, and paint. From there, we'll work our way inside. The bathrooms need some finishing work, but also need to look into ADA requirements and see if that is possible. Other items are the front entry floor and the existing vinyl flooring in the hallway and bathrooms, and also the front doors and back kitchen door.

Ben Smith asked about the park restrooms and Lavon Walser said Yes, they meet ADA requirements. We are also looking into another grant with the assistance of the Port of Whitman to update some things at the park.

Hopefully, we can get a few of these things taken care of before the snow flies.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Council Seat #5:** Is vacant. If anyone knows of interested parties, please have them contact Town Hall.

**Resolution 416-23:** Interfund Transfer from the Sewer Fund to the Water Fund. Monies received from SLFRF were originally put into the Sewer Fund and needed to be transferred to the Water Fund to cover the costs of the new meters installed the first week of August.

### **MAINTENANCE COMMENTS**

Lavon Walser reported that she has been painting parking lines on Main Street. She will work on crosswalks next. Meter installation is completed. 6 or 7 did not get changed out because they were down too deep or are hard-piped in. All the meter boxes will be insulated with packing peanuts in heavy duty garbage bags. 101 W. Washington will be back after harvest to repair the cement at the edge of the road.

### **CLERK COMMENTS**

Beth said the budget still looks good. She asked council members to review the budget position and think about what changes they may want to make for next year. Some things will need to be changed due to increasing costs, like electricity usage, fuel and annual fees. The proposed 2024 budget and Public Hearing will happen in October, with a final budget public hearing happening in December.

### **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Joan Smith asked if anyone had heard anything about the possibility of cell tower going in. Mayor Rhea said she would talk to Jody and Kara from the Port of Whitman on what is available and how to go about that.

### **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Questions were asked about the dog bite incident. Mayor Rhea explained what was said to her from the Whitman County Sheriff's Office. Because there is not an RCW in Washington State for law enforcement to adhere to, there is nothing that can be done because the incident

happened on private property. Mayor Rhea asked about the police report, but it was not ready yet. It was suggested to call the Sheriff's Office and file a report every time the dogs get out so there is a history of that. Ben Smith mentioned that he see's the younger dog come crawling out from under the house.

Mayor Rhea said the owner reached out to her asking if our cameras caught any footage. He was also told that kids may have been throwing rocks at them, but it was later confirmed that that was incorrect.

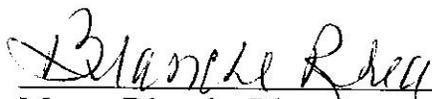
Haleigh Varney asked about animal traps. She said that a neighbor's cat got attacked pretty bad by a racoon. She has seen quite a few around 3<sup>rd</sup> St. Lavon Walser mentioned that we can get more traps if needed. She will start a log of where the traps go out to, to keep track of them in the future. Beth was asked to put a note in the next water bill asking people to not leave any pet food out where it can be smelled or gotten to.

Ben Smith said that he saw a go-cart tearing up the road after fresh gravel was put down on the corner of Pine and 1<sup>st</sup> St. Lavon Walser said there were 3 donuts and trash blowing across the street in the last week. It was suggested to contact the property owner. Beth said she could do that.

### MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor Rhea wants it to be noted that there has been some unacceptable treatment of community members in the last month. She requests that if anyone has issues with anyone else, please talk to her directly. There is no need to make threats.

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. Haleigh Varney **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. Lavon Walser **seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.** The regular town council meeting was adjourned at 6:45pm.



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Mayor Blanche Rhea

Attest:   
Beth Anderson Clerk-Treasurer

Town of Farmington – Regular Town Council Meeting  
Monday, August 21, 2023 - Farmington Community Center  
6:00PM – 6:46PM