

Town of Farmington
Regular Council Meeting
Onsite Town Hall
November 20th, 2023

ROLL CALL:

Mayor Blanche Rhea, Council Members: Lavon Walser, Haleigh Varney, and Jason Brausen

GUESTS: Mark Hellinger, Liz Hellinger and Tanya Thygeson

PRELIMINARY BUDGET HEARING:

Mayor Rhea opened the public hearing portion of the meeting to discuss the 2024 preliminary budget. Council was given the rough numbers for the 2024 budget. Extra expenses that weren't incurred previously, like the annual tech support and software for the new water meters and potential pay for a code enforcement officer were discussed. Mayor Rhea is still waiting to find out the details of allowing her to fill the position. Haleigh suggested paying attention to anything that uses fuel and lots of regularly purchased supplies, as the cost of both have increased dramatically. If the street levy and/or current expense levies don't pass, cuts will be needed in the corresponding funds. The final budget hearing will be taking place at the December meeting. Currently the budget position looks good. Jason Brausen **MOVED** to approve the preliminary budget. Haleigh Varney **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.**

The Public Hearing was closed at 6:31pm.

OPEN REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING:

Farmington's November 20th, 2023, Regular Town Council Meeting was called to order at 6:32pm. This was an onsite meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA:

- Approval of the September 18th and October 16th, 2023, Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes
- Approval of the September 19th-November 20th, 2023, Check Register.
- Approval of the September and October 2023 Treasurer's Report

Haleigh Varney **MOVED** to approve the consent agenda for October 16th, 2023, council meeting. Jason Brausen **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.**

Jason Brausen **MOVED** to approve the consent agenda for November 20th, 2023, council meeting. Lavon Walser **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.**

OLD BUSINESS:

Welcome Jason Brausen to Town Council!

RCO Parks Grant: We received notification that we were entered as #143 on Tier 1 and listed as an alternate. Mayor Rhea learned that most of Eastern WA did not score high enough, and will only receive funding for the requested park projects of others selected don't use up their funds.

TIB: We received notification from Jonathan Heusman that we needed to get our design and budget in to be approved for funding in December, or it will have to wait until January. After contacting Lisa and Keltic, she explained that they were already aiming for January, and everything is good. The next step is to start looking for bids.

Code Enforcement: Mayor Rhea explained that payment for a code enforcement officer hinges on where we end with the budget for 2024. The other question that remains is to let the Mayor act as code enforcement officer or wait for a hired employee. Everyone agrees it does need to be a paid position. Mayor Rhea said a final decision won't be made until we know the outcome of the levies.

Beaver Dams: Mayor Rhea called Fish & Wildlife, the Conservation District and Bill Hansen to make sure everyone was all on the same page. There is a device called a Pond Leveler that can be installed to allow the water to pass through the dam. It is a culvert with fencing at one end to prevent the beavers from blocking it. A permit was given to Bill Hansen to notch the dam that is good until 2026 and Mayor Rhea is verbally approved in the case of an emergency.

Raccoons are still everywhere. Lavon has set traps right outside the community center and food has been taken, but nothing was caught. Then there was discussion about seeing an extremely huge raccoon in various locations throughout town. It could possibly be too big to be able to go into the traps we have.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dog Licensing: Mayor Rhea asked council's thoughts on re-establishing the dog license fee. It is still an active ordinance, but council and the audience all agreed that it failed trying to enforce it. Mark Hellinger mentioned that he thought it had been repealed, but would have to ask Dave Baker.

Filing Written Complaints: Mayor Rhea reminded everyone that if anyone has a complaint about anything that goes against a town ordinance, it must be put in writing. If there is not a written complaint, then nothing can be done. Documentation is needed. Haleigh Varney asked people that live outside city limits but have problem animals that cause problems within city limits. No conclusion was reached on what to do exactly. People have been handling things in their own way.

Camera for back of Community Center: There is some concern on how much kerosene the community building has gone through over the course of the year since it was last filled in February. It ran dry this month and had to be refilled. JMT thought that was unusual and suggested a possible theft, which prompted the idea of a security camera to keep the kerosene

tank under watch. Mayor Rhea asked for a motion to approve the purchase of a motion sensitive camera with spotlights. Jason Brausen **MOVED** to approve the purchase of a motion sensitive camera with spotlights. Haleigh Varney **seconded the motion and the camera was approved unanimously.**

Ordinance 258-23 Amending 2023 Budget: After Beth explained the reason for the transfer from the Sewer Fund to the Water Fund to move all of the SLFRF monies to the Water Fund to cover the purchase of the new water meters, Mayor Rhea asked for a motion to approve the amendment. Jason Brausen **MOVED** to approve ordinance 258-23 2023 Amending 2023 Budget. Lavon Walser **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.**

General Election Results: Mayor Rhea relayed the current status of the propositions on the ballot. Prop 1 for Current Expense was ahead with 51%, but has not reached the super majority of 60% yet. Prop 2 for Streets was ahead at 54%, but also has not reached the super majority to pass with 60%.

MAINTENANCE COMMENTS

Lavon Walser said the Railroad Street water leak is now fixed. Her next priority is to get things all cleaned up for winter and keep the storm drains clear. New gutters were installed after Jason Brausen helped with installing the back boards for the gutter to be attached to. Lavon also got the old porch lattice fixed and painted. The only thing left is to paint the porch. Haleigh asked about the broken window in the clerk's office. Mayor Rhea said we are still waiting to get an estimate from anyone willing to come out. She has called a few different places. Beth received a call back from Sparrow Glass in Colfax and found out the 1st crew they sent out to look at it, looked at the wrong window. We are still waiting for them to come back out here.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Haleigh Varney asked about the status of the property with goats. Mayor Rhea said she gave them a letter and a citation, but it is being ignored. Haleigh said they just scream out there. A lot of neighbors are complaining. Mayor Rhea suggested calling the Sheriff if they get loose.

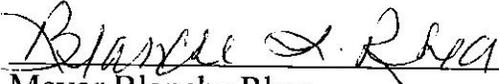
Lavon Walser announced the Santa and Tree Lighting event that is scheduled for December 15th at 7pm. She, Diana and Brian Oliver, Josie Booth and Ruth Lowley are organizing it. Donations of all kinds are welcome and they are also looking for volunteers.

MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor Rhea informed council of another fire in town at W. 207 Lincoln Street. It burned to the ground and is now smoldering off and on.

She also wants to encourage everyone to look out for their neighbors. Especially those that have health issues or physical limitations and may need help to get things done, like snow shoveling walks and driveways. Jason Brausen asked if there was a way to inform others when there is a need. There is no special arrangement currently, but something can be figured out.

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. Jason Brausen **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. Haleigh Varney **seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.** The regular town council meeting was adjourned at 7:39pm.



Mayor Blanche Rhea

Attest: 

Beth Anderson Clerk-Treasurer

Town of Farmington – Public Hearing & Regular Town Council Meeting
Monday, November 20, 2023 - Farmington Community Center
6:00PM – 7:39PM