

Town of Farmington
Regular Council Meeting
Onsite Town Hall
February 21st, 2024

ROLL CALL:

Mayor Blanche Rhea, Council Members: LaVon Walser, Haleigh Varney, Ben Smith, and Jason Brausen

GUESTS: Joan Smith, Brian and Diana Oliver, Max Mohan, Brian Westgate, Wes and Frances Wagner, Josh Gamez, Calvin Johanson and Chris St. Germain

OPEN REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING:

Farmington's February 21st, 2024, Regular Town Council Meeting was called to order at 6:00pm. This was an onsite meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA:

- Approval of the January 15th, 2024, Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes
- Approval of the January 16th to February 21st, 2024, Check Register.
- Approval of the January 2024 Treasurer's Report

Jason Brausen **MOVED** to approve the consent agenda for February 21st, 2024. Haleigh Varney **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.**

NEW BUSINESS:

Garden Event:

Wes and Frances Wagner talked about the free gardening show that was happening Sunday March 10th from 1-5pm at the SDA school gymnasium. There are to be 3 speakers: Tom Hansen, Linda Eastman and Phil Anderson, discussing ways to improve your soil, extend the growing season, and other things. There will be demonstrations, a raffle and a few vendors. Erlene Williams will be there with tomato starts. NW Seed and Pet will be there celebrating their 80th anniversary by donating gift cards and giving away seeds. Wes mentioned the possibility of a Farmington community garden by partnering with the town.

Keltic Authorization for Ad to Bid:

Lisa and Eric Hasenoehrl were not able to make it due to being ill but provided a packet of information to be read to council to approve the authorization for advertising to bid in the Gazette to run Feb 29th, March 7th, 14th and 21st. Mayor Rhea read the information and asked council to approve the authorization.

Ben Smith **MOVED** to approve the authorization for advertising to bid in the Gazette for Feb 29th, March 7th, 14th and 21st, and Jason Brausen **seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.**

Port of Whitman and Ziplly Re: Broadband:

Kalvin Johanson from the Port of Whitman and Chris St. Germain from Ziplly came to discuss the plans to bring fiber optic internet access to Farmington. Calvin said that Ziplly has rural funding available. Chris said she has been working with Ziplly for 25 years to bring internet access to rural areas. Ziplly acquired the assets from Frontier in 2020 and has \$1.23 billion to help underserved locations from the FCC-RDOF. The award needs to meet 40% by the end of 2024, but Ziplly is already on schedule to meet 63%. Chris said the design is already in the works to bring fiber optic to Farmington, but she did not have the details with her this evening. As soon as she does, she will send the details to Mayor Rhea and Town Hall. Construction will take approximately 3-4 months starting sometime this summer. They have already applied for permits with Avista for the poles, expecting to run the line from pole to pole. Mayor Rhea will speak with Lisa at Keltic to let them know this will be going on while the roads are being done and to find out if there is anything Ziplly should be aware of. Brian Oliver mentioned that should any lines need to be trenched, there should be plenty of room to spare on either side of the newly finished roads.

Chris said if there are any concerns or problems that arise, please bring them to Ziplly's attention asap. The Town will be provided with construction graphics to include on the town's website and facebook page before and when installation begins. There will also be an email address provided. Chris showed a map providing the coverage of where the fiber optic lines will go. Brian Oliver asked about the south end of town, on Railroad and Whitman Streets. There are 5 homes that need to be considered as well. Chris asked Calvin about looking into how to include them, too.

Chris went on to relay the different download/upload speeds available: 100mb/100mb for \$45/mo; 300mb/300mb for \$65/mo; 1G/1G for \$85/mo; and 2G/2G for \$20/mo. This package also includes VOIP phone service. There will be no installation costs if service is started during the initial introduction period and the first year of service will be at a reduced cost of the numbers already given. The one thing she wanted to make sure people understand is that when the power goes out, you will not only lose internet but also phone service. An alternate source of electricity will be required to use the phone if you have this included along with fiber optic internet.

Questions were asked about when this can get started and Calvin said things can't move until they have the permit from Avista for the power poles.

Review of Building Permit Process:

Mayor Rhea asked council to review the process of when building permits are required and to double check if there were any questions.

Complaint Form:

A hard copy of a Citizen Complaint Form was located at Town Hall and will now be utilized if residents need to submit a complaint. There will also be a digital copy made available and posted on the town's website for download. Mayor Rhea reiterated that neither the Town nor the Sheriff's Office can help with a complaint or city code violation without detailed documentation and proof of a violation or reason for complaint.

OLD BUSINESS:

Community Center Usage Insurance Coverage:

Clerk Beth contacted AWC to ask about the cancellation policy timeline when liability coverage was acquired for using the community center. She relayed to council that the requirement is at least 24 hours' notice. All were satisfied with that, and Jason Brausen made a **MOTION** to approve the use of GatherGuard for providing liability coverage when the Community Center is rented. LaVon Walser **seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.**

Dog Ordinance:

Mayor Rhea gave everyone a copy of Garfield's Dog Ordinance to look over. She would like to update Farmington's to be similar to it. She asked everyone to take it home and be ready discuss the details and make a decision on whether or not to adopt a version of it as Farmington's next month.

MAINTENANCE COMMENTS

Lavon Walser has been working on the public bathrooms and brought them up to date with working toilets and sinks. She also put a utility sink in the shop as the piping was already there and ready to go. This will make cleaning paint brushes and other things much easier than running back and forth to the public bathroom.

PNW Elevator water meter had to be replaced, due to a seal break. A new meter is on the way at no charge.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Brian Oliver said when the weather gets nicer, and things dry out he will get the truck out and burn ditches.

Diana Oliver asked if the town could assist with purchasing drinks again for the Community Game Night coming up again March 9th at 6pm. Mayor Rhea and council were more than happy to help.

Max Mohan offered his assistance to Brian concerning the brush burning.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

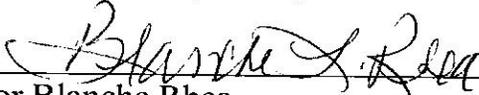
Jason Brausen noticed that he's seen fewer people speeding through town as a potential result of the more frequent visits of the Whitman County Sheriff's deputies in town.

MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor Rhea said there is a Port of Whitman training about public records scheduled on March 20th from 1:30-5pm. She and Beth are planning to attend. She also wanted everyone to know that the BAT Zoom calls are the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month and anyone interested can attend.

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. Jason Brausen **seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.** The regular town council meeting was adjourned at 7:27pm.



Mayor Blanche Rhea

Attest: 

Beth Anderson Clerk-Treasurer

Town of Farmington – Public Regular Town Council Meeting
Monday, February 21, 2024 - Farmington Community Center
6:00PM – 7:27PM