

Town of Farmington
Regular Council Meeting
Onsite Town Hall
June 17th, 2024

ROLL CALL:

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

GUESTS: Eric and Lisa Hasenoehrl from Keltic Engineering, Joan Smith, Mike Erickson, Roger and Margie Broyer, Brett and Shyla Lisenbee, Elizabeth Hart, Mark Olmstead, and Kurt Bartelheimer

OPEN REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING:

Farmington's June 17th, 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 May 20th, 2024, Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes
- Approval of the May 21th through June 17th, 2024, Check Register.
- Approval of the May 2024 Treasurer's Report

Haleigh Varney **MOVED** to approve the consent agenda for June 17th, 2024. Jason Brausen **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.**

OLD BUSINESS:

Road Work Update:

Eric Hasenoehrl explained to council what their roll is as engineer for this road project. They are in play to work out details and answer questions when they come up.

Roger and Margie Broyer asked why Whitman St. was not getting done along with the rest of the gravel roads in town. Eric tried to explain how the process came about, starting with TIB (Transportation Improvement Board) making a visual inspection of the town's roads and grading them by level of condition. They came to the Town asking if Farmington would be interested in this new pilot program of using the OTTA Seal and they would fund it 100% but couldn't guarantee all of the roads would be done. Unfortunately, because Roger and Margie are not on city water or sewer, they did not receive notification that was sent out with the utility bill. There were notices posted on the community information board outside the Community Center and also on the town website, but they did not see them. Clerk Beth mentioned that she only has mailing addresses for the utility customers and Margie offered to provide their mailing address.

Brett and Shyla Lisenbee mentioned that if condition was a factor then Whitman St should have been included as it is down to bare dirt. Ben Smith explained that TIB chose the roads that would be included in the project.

Eric went on to say that taking care of streets in a small town is a struggle. He asked how Farmington's are funded. Council said by the levy tax, but it didn't pass for this year. He explained further that Washington state helps small towns by using the gas tax and putting it back into towns for projects like this.

Mayor Rhea asked if there was any way Whitman Street and any other remaining roads could eventually be taken care of. Eric said he will talk with TIB to see if more can be done at a later date. Lisa Hasenoehrl mentioned that the city of Creston got additional help a year after the majority of their roads were done.

Brett suggested maybe considering the volume of traffic a road actually gets before determining which ones should or should not be done. Unfortunately, TIB has no way of knowing that detail. Eric thanked everyone for their input and giving them a chance to learn more detail about the town's needs. Brett is disappointed that Whitman St wasn't included, but hopes for a time without so much dust flying about. Eric said he will also talk with the County to see if there are options there.

In further discussion of the process, Eric said they will go through the contractor's request for payment and then give us the Ok to pay the invoice. He asked for council to make a motion to allow Mayor Rhea to sign the Application for Payment when it comes in. LaVon Walser **MADE A MOTION to allow Mayor Rhea to sign the Application for Payment.** Haleigh Varney **seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.**

Dog and Cat Ordinance:

Mayor Rhea asked council if they wanted to amend or repeal the previous versions of the dog ordinance. After talking with the town attorney, he suggested an additional ordinance if council would like to repeal. Haleigh Varney said going forward, gathering up all the old iterations to create and update into a new document, she would like them to be repealed. The rest of council were all in agreement.

Josh Gamez did ask for one more change before finalizing the new dog and cat ordinance. In section H, under the Nuisance definition, part (e) to add "if not picked up immediately by its owner."

Critical Area Ordinance:

Mayor Rhea informed council that she and Beth have a meeting with Garret LaCivita from Washington Dept of Fish and Wildlife at 11am on Thursday, June 20th. We will learn what needs to be updated and give an update next month.

The next ordinance to be worked on will be the Livestock and Fowl. Mayor Rhea asked Haleigh for her notes on potential changes.

NEW BUSINESS:

Wildland Fire Prevention Measure:

Clerk Beth will put together a list of Tips to help keep your property safe in case of local fires. It will go out with the utility bill next month.

Jason Brausen mentioned the lots next to him are growing tall. The owner doesn't know yet if they will be cutting it for hay this year.

MAINTENANCE COMMENTS

LaVon Walser would like to remind everyone that the town organic dump is for Farmington residents only.

CLERK COMMENTS

Clerk Beth Anderson informed council that the Water Use Efficiency report was done and that Jacob Billington was finishing up the Consumer Confidence Report to be mailed out next month.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mark Olmstead and Elizabeth Hart asked about bringing in Elizabeth's mobile home to her property that includes the old potato barn before construction starts to pour the pad and dig the water and sewer lines. Council was fine with that. They asked if she had plans ready to show council and she did not have them ready just yet. She will not be available for next month's meeting, but is hoping she can get the go ahead as soon as possible. She was also not sure if she had time to get her pasturage mowed before leaving the area and Ben Smith offered John Ewing's number to call to swath it if she would like it.

Mike Erickson suggested to the mayor, the clerk and the council members that we should figure out how to communicate with the rest of the town.

Kurt Bartelheimer wanted to say that even though he does not live in Farmington, he takes the time to read the minutes and look at the community information board when he's here. He thinks the Town Council is doing a wonderful job.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Haleigh Varney wanted to thank LaVon for all the hard work she is putting in on keeping the grounds mowed and cleaned up. Everything looks great.

MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor Rhea is thankful for a full council. Everyone is doing a great job.

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 Varny **seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.** The regular town council meeting was adjourned at 7:09pm.



Mayor Blanche Rhea

Attest: 

Beth Anderson Clerk-Treasurer

Town of Farmington – Public Regular Town Council Meeting
Monday, June 17, 2024 - Farmington Community Center
6:00PM – 7:09PM