

Town of Farmington
Regular Council Meeting
Onsite Town Hall
May 20th, 2024

ROLL CALL:

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

GUESTS: Lisa Hasenoehrl from Keltic Engineering, Josh and Carina Gamez, Joan Smith, Mike Erickson, and Kurt Bartelheimer

OPEN REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING:

Farmington's May 20th, 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 April 15th, 2024, Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes
- Approval of the April 16th through May 20th, 2024, Check Register.
- Approval of the April 2024 Treasurer's Report

Jason Brausen **MOVED** to approve the consent agenda for May 20th, 2024. Haleigh Varney **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.**

OLD BUSINESS:

TIB/Keltic with Sierra Santa Fe Contract:

Lisa Hasenoehrl provided an update to town council saying the contract was ready for the Mayor to sign with Sierra Santa Fe, and then it will be sent to TIB. Next comes a contractor meeting to walk the streets of town and get a good feel for how things will go. Lisa did not know if there was a schedule already planned but is guessing July to August. Mayor Rhea asked about trimming bushes and tree limbs back out of the way and Lisa will ask Eric and get back to us. Lisa asked LaVon how many manholes there were, and she said there are 17 but have found only located 5 so far. Lisa suggested an informal community meeting before the next council meeting on June 17th to answer questions that the residents may have. She will also put together a flyer that can go out in the next water bill.

Dog and Cat Ordinance:

The updated dog ordinance came back from the town attorney for town council to review. Haleigh Varney made some notes concerning limits on the number of dogs someone can have before being considered a kennel. Also, about having adequate space in correlation to the size of the dog. She suggested adding a section from Ordinance 167-97, p. 6, paragraph C. There were also questions regarding the licensing of each dog in a kennel. Mayor Rhea said she would get these updates to the town attorney to have ready for the next meeting.

AWC Loss Prevention Grant for Light Poles for Playground and Baseball Diamond:

Mayor Rhea asked council if anyone knew where to acquire a utility pole to replace the old ones at the playground. Jason Brausen mentioned contacting the school district. LaVon Walser said we might be able to get away with just one new one to replace the 2 old ones, if we got good lighting going in all directions. Haleigh Varney mentioned talking to Donovan from Tekoa. Mayor Rhea said she will contact Ms. St. Germaine with Ziplly to see what they can do, if anything.

NEW BUSINESS:

2" Fire Hydrant Usage and Policy – Needing to Install a Meter on the Bridge St. Hydrant:

Clerk Beth explained the need to have a meter on the fire hydrant on Bridge Street. There is an annual Water Use Efficiency Report that is done for the Department of Health. Currently, there is no way to track how many gallons come from that hydrant every year and it is creating a rather large discrepancy between what the known metered usage is and what the well outputs are. It is known that the only individual with permission to use water out of that hydrant is Doug Bruce in exchange for spraying the lagoons. There has been seen, on a few occasions, others also getting water out of that hydrant. Beth did some research and found a style of hydrant meter that can be locked for about \$800. Ones without a lock were around \$580 and up. Lisa from Keltic Engineering said they could also do some research and send some information.

After some discussion, Mayor Rhea asked for a motion to approve the purchase of a meter for the hydrant and Ben Smith **MADE A MOTION to look for a new meter.** Jason Brausen **seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.**

Tree Removal on 1st Street:

Mayor Rhea relayed to council that there are 2 trees on 1st Street that were damaged in the windstorm. Three tree services were contacted and two came to offer a quote. It was determined that both trees were dying, and they did indeed need to come down. Strong Roots Tree Services had the best quote of \$2438 over Lovell's Tree Service with a quote of \$6000. Nathan Jesske was contacted as well, but never returned calls.

Mayor Rhea asked for a motion to approve hiring Strong Roots Tree Service for removing the two dying and storm damaged trees. Jason Brausen **MOVED to approve hiring Strong Roots Tree Service to take down the two trees.** LaVon Walser **seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

Town Yard Sale:

Mayor Rhea said she will be having a yard sale but did not have a date selected. Ben Smith said he will also have one whenever. The SDA Church plans on having a sale as well around August 16th-18th, so possibly plan the town yard sale to coincide with them. Mayor Rhea said she can talk with Frances Wagner to find out for sure and Haleigh Varney suggested looking into when other local towns will be having theirs.

Town Council Seat #3:

Josh Gamez submitted his letter of interest to fill Town Council Seat #3. He was asked 5 questions by the Mayor and the current council members. After his answers were heard, Mayor Rhea asked if council was ready to vote and they all said yes. So by a secret vote, it was unanimous to accept Josh Gamez to fill Seat #3.

MAINTENANCE COMMENTS

Mayor Rhea asked LaVon Walser if she could use some assistance in locating the rest of the manholes. Kurt Bartelheimer mentioned that he has a industrial metal detector that he would be happy to use. Mayor Rhea also asked about trimming trees and bushes along the roadways that need to be cleared. LaVon did not think she would need help to get things done, especially if it is still going to be another month or so before the work starts.

CLERK COMMENTS

Clerk Beth informed council that there will be an amendment to the budget for this year to now include the TIB grant funding. She also said that the annual report is coming along nicely and is almost done. Regarding repairing the two out of service fire hydrants, she did get ahold of a Ben at Palouse River Rock that does indeed do work on fire hydrants. He said he can also replace them. He could not give a time frame yet on when he can come out to look at them.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Haleigh Varney asked if there was a Ziplify update. Everyone has noticed that they have been in town marking lines, but otherwise there is no new information.

MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor Rhea mentioned that someone was burning when it was more windy than normal. She wanted to remind everyone to be cautious and only burn in favorable conditions. She also wanted everyone to remember to keep grass and weed trimmings off the sidewalk and out of the street, to clean up after yourself.

Mayor Rhea recently learned that there are several town residents that do not have garbage service with Empire Disposal, per the town ordinance #85. She asked council what they thought on sending letters out and they all agreed it is warranted.

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. LaVon Walser **seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.** The regular town council meeting was adjourned at 7:04pm.

Blanche S. Rhea

Mayor Blanche Rhea

Attest:

Beth Anderson

Beth Anderson Clerk-Treasurer

Town of Farmington – Public Regular Town Council Meeting
Monday, ~~April 15~~, 2024 - Farmington Community Center
6:00PM – 7:04PM *May 20th*