

**Town of Farmington
Regular Town Council Meeting
February 24th, 2025 – 6:00 PM**

Open Regular Council Meeting:

Farmington's February 24th, 2025, Regular Town Council Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

Roll Call:

Mayor Blanche Rhea, Councilmembers: Lavon Walser, Josh Gamez, Mike Erickson, and Mark Hellinger.

Visitors:

Rudy Goossen, Max Mohan, Liz Hellinger, Joan Smith, Eli Walser, Brian and Diana Oliver, Tonya Thygeson, and Brian Westgate

Citizen Comments:

Max Mohan expressed his interest in Council Position #2. Max also asked questions pertaining to the 2024 operating budget.

Approval of the Consent Agenda:

- Check Register from January 28th through February 24th, 2025, including claims of \$23,437.97 and payroll of \$6,071.25.
- Minutes from January 27th, 2025, Regular Town Council Meeting.
- January 2025 Treasurer's Report.

Lavon Walser **MOVED** to approve the February 24th, 2025, regular town council meeting consent agenda. Josh Gamez **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.**

Old Business:

Council Policy & Procedure ~ Resolution #426-25

Josh Gamez has not had enough time to fully review and has asked the policy to be tabled until the next meeting on March 17th, 2025. Josh Gamez **MOVED** to table the review of Resolution # 426-25 until the next regular town council meeting on March 17th, 2025. Mark Hellinger **seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.**

Surplus Town Property ~ Resolution #427-25

Two town vehicles will be considered surplus and up for sealed bid in separate auctions. The vehicles are the town snowplow and the F-150 pickup. Discussion was taken about the replacement of the property to be declared surplus.

Josh Gamez **MOVED** to approve Resolution #427-25 to surplus town property. Lavon Walser **seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.**

New Business:

Clerk/Treasurer Lynn Yarnall has resigned, her resignation was effective 2/13/25.

Cody Lord will be stepping in until a replacement can be found. The job posting will be placed in the Gazette, on the website, town utility billing, and possibly indeed. The office hours will be Monday through Thursday 10-1 and 3-5, and closed Friday through Sunday.

Employee Pay ~ Resolution #428-25

Cody's hourly rate of \$35.00/hour is the only change to the employee pay resolution.

Lavon Walser **MOVED** to approve the Employee Pay Rate Resolution #428-25 to reflect the new clerk/treasurer pay rate. Josh Gamez **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.**

Banking permissions need to be updated to reflect the staffing changes. Lynn will need to be removed as a signatory and the updated signatories will be Mayor Rhea, maintenance and Mayor Pro Tem Lavon Walser, and Clerk/Treasurer Cody Lord.

Josh Gamez **MOVED** to update the banking signatories as specified. Lavon Walser **seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.**

Maintenance Comments:

There was a flooding event in town and the lift stations were high requiring frequent observation. Electricity was also lost during this time for a short period of time. Mayor Rhea thanked Lavon & Eli and Brian Oliver for helping with the snow removal. The road to the lagoons was washed out, but it is fixable. A remediation plan should probably include digging out the creek bed.

Council Comments:

- Mark Hellinger supplied a handout with a summary of Robert’s Rules of Order, the handout was from MRSC and is everything the town would utilize to conduct a meeting with decorum.

Clerk/Treasurer Comments:

- The current budget position is a little high but due to the insurance payments that were just made. The revenues are a little low until the property taxes start coming in.
- Everything was balanced and Lynn Yarnell did a great job.
- The Whitman County Gazette and citizens were made aware that town hall is always open and transparent.

Vacant Council Position #2:

Rudy Goossen has sent a letter of intent for Council Position Seat #2. Each council member asked questions to learn more about Mr. Goossen’s interest in council.

Josh Gamez pointed out there was a second interested applicant, Max Mohan. Mayor Rhea explained that the deadline for the letter of interest for Council Seat #2 was February 19th and unfortunately that deadline wasn’t met, so therefore it wouldn’t be fair to Rudy if selected, since he did meet this deadline.

The council was unanimous in their yay votes for Rudy Goossen to take occupancy of Council Seat #2. Rudy will take the seat at the next council meeting.

Mayor’s Comments:

Mayor Rhea asked for discussion about moving the town funds to another bank so a better interest rate can be attained and better customer service with the town’s credit cards. State Bank Northwest would offer similar services to what is offered at Banner Bank. Mark Hellinger **Moved** to approve moving the town funds from Banner Bank to State Bank Northwest. Mike Erickson **seconded the motion**. Cody said there is a LGIP (Local Government Investment Pool) which would be the highest interest bearing for the current MMDA funds. Some research will be done to see about moving funds to the LGIP and the process for possibly doing that. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Rhea thanked all the volunteers that helped during the snow and thaw.

Josh Gamez **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. Lavon Walser **seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously**. The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 pm.

A full video recording of the meeting can be viewed at town hall.



Mayor Blanche Rhea

Attest: 

Cody Lord, Clerk-Treasurer
Town of Farmington - Regular Town Council Meeting
February 19th, 2025 - Farmington Community Center
6:00 PM – 7:01 PM