

**Town of Farmington**  
**Regular Town Council Meeting**  
**March 17th, 2025 – 6:00 PM**

**Open Regular Council Meeting:**

Farmington's March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Regular Town Council Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

**Roll Call:**

Mayor Blanche Rhea, Councilmembers: Lavon Walser, Rudy Goossen, and Mark Hellinger. Josh Gamez was absent.

**Visitors:**

Nick Klug, Brian Westgate, Max Mohan, Eli Walser, Mike Erickson and Pine Creek Conservation Reps: Josilyn Watson and Mehgan Doneen.

**Citizen Comments:**

Max Mohan inquired about the use of Springbrook account system, the cost and if other services were readily available. He also questioned some voided checks in the 2024 financials.

**Approval of the Consent Agenda:**

- Check Register from February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025, through March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025, including claims of \$4,845.88 and payroll of \$4,858.37.
- Minutes from February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Regular Town Council Meeting.
- February 2025 Treasurer's Report.

Mark Hellinger **MOVED** to approve the March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025, regular town council meeting consent agenda. Lavon Walser **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.**

**Old Business:**

Council Policy & Procedure ~ Resolution #426-25

Rudy Goossen needed a bit more time to have a better understanding of the policy. Mark Hellinger provided a handout (attached with the minutes at town hall) explaining his questioning based on his demonstration of the Farmington policy and the Bonney Lake policy being nearly similar but with some items omitted from the Bonney Lake policy. Mark also questioned if the policy should be adopted in Ordinance format to amend Town of Farmington Ordinance #1 or if it should move to Resolution format as suggested by the town's attorney. Mark suggested waiting to adopt until Josh Gamez's return so he can weigh in as well. Mark Hellinger **MOVED** to table the discussion and adoption of Resolution #426-25 until the next council meeting. Rudy Goossen **seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.**

Critical Area Ordinance 262-25 was introduced and Lavon explained that this version of the ordinance allows the Town of Farmington to have more flexibility over its jurisdiction than the county version, which is much larger in scope and gives the town more control over its watersheds and banks. If the town does not move forward with the version that is revised specifically for the Town of Farmington, then they will be forced to adopt the county's version. The ordinance has been under review for a long period of time and Garrett LaCivita, along with her colleagues, have helped to identify what they think is most beneficial for the town. The ordinance will need to be formally adopted at a public meeting and then sent to the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Lavon Walser **MOVED** to adopt the Critical Area Ordinance as written. Mark Hellinger **seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.**

Guests from the Pine Creek Conservation District were in attendance. Josilyn Watson gave a brief background on the organization and what their responsibilities are. They have been monitoring the beaver dam in the creek and will be doing Chipper Days soon in another community and possibly something they could offer in Farmington. They would like to attend the Fireman's picnic to speak with the community and let them know more about their organization. Mehgan Doneen is also here to talk about how to prepare a community for fire readiness and how to keep a community safer. More information and a sign-up for a newsletter can be found at [www.pinecreekcd.org](http://www.pinecreekcd.org).

The current building permit policy was on the council table. In the past projects over \$500 have required a building permit, but this moved up again at the county level to \$800 and town hall will check to see if that rate is still applicable. The county did say there is no acknowledgment of a project being less than 50% not requiring a permit, that any work at any percentage within the scope of the building permitted requirements, is eligible for a resident to pull a permit. In 2021 councilmember Lobdell put together a checklist, detailing steps for getting a permit and information the customer would find useful. A question about new construction was

presented and it was determined the council has to view plans and approve all new construction. Lavon Walser **MOVED** to alter the current building permit policies to bring them up to date. Rudy Goossen **seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.**

**New Business:**

There is not much to report on the banking account details as the minutes from the last meeting needed to be adopted so the first changes to the signatories at Banner Bank could take place. Mayor Rhea was not enthusiastic about the LGIP and suggested moving the town funds to State Bank Northwest and utilizing their MMDA 15-month account for now until it is determined if there is a more suitable option. Rudy suggested looking at P1FCU and seeing what their interest rates would be. Some research will be needed to see if a credit union would be supported as an appropriate bank based on the State Auditor requirements. More information will be provided at the next meeting.

Guest Nickolas Klug is present to talk about the new house he will be having built at the empty lot on Washington and 4<sup>th</sup> streets. The plans for the new home were on the table and the address is determined to be 101 N 4<sup>th</sup> Street since the driveway will enter on 4<sup>th</sup> Street. Lavon has reviewed the location of nearest mains for water and sewer service. There is one tree that will need to be removed to make way for the driveway. Lavon Walser **MOVED** to approve the new construction plans for a single-family home at 4<sup>th</sup> and Washington streets. Rudy Goossen **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.** Nick will be in contact with town hall to file a building permit. Whitcom Emergency and Avista will be made aware of the address selected.

There will be a Primary Election resolution to cover the street and current expense levy amounts at the next meeting. In years when levies have failed the fund runs with limited services and costs about \$16,000 to maintain and starts losing money year over year and will soon be insolvent due to failing levies. On years when levies pass, the services are increased, and the fund breaks even between \$30,000 and \$35,000 in expenditures. The council will need to get out and express to residents the importance of passing these levies, especially in the street fund since taxation is the only revenue for this fund.

**Maintenance Comments:**

- Lavon said gravel was delivered from Palouse Rock.

**Clerk/Treasurer Comments:**

- Cody invited Max Mohan to come to town hall to learn more about governmental accounting.

**Vacant Council Position #4:**

Mayor Rhea said that council position #4 is now vacant. Interested citizens were encouraged to submit their letter of interest to town hall. Town hall will post the vacant position in all the usual places. Max Mohan said he was interested in the position and submitted his letter of interest. Mayor Rhea said they would open and post the position and let him know when the interviews for the vacant position would be happening.

**Mayor's Comments:**

Mayor Rhea asked that all emails pertaining to the town's business, that she be cc'd on and thanked the council for a productive council meeting.

Lavon Walser **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. Rudy Goossen **seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.** The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 pm.

  
Mayor Blanche Rhea

Attest:   
Cody Lord, Clerk-Treasurer  
Town of Farmington - Regular Town Council Meeting  
March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025 - Farmington Community Center  
6:00 PM – 7:26 PM