

**Town of Farmington
Regular Town Council Meeting
December 15th, 2025 – 6:00 PM**

Open Regular Town Council Meeting:

Farmington's December 15th, 2025, Regular Town Council Meeting was called to order at 6:00pm

Roll Call:

Mayor Blanche Rhea, Councilmembers: Lavon Walser, Rudy Goossen, and Josh Gamez.

Visitors:

Mark Hellinger and Brian Westgate.

Citizen Comments:

There were no citizen comments to report.

Approval of the Consent Agenda:

- Check Register from November 18th through December 15th, 2025, \$78,648.67 including claims of \$73,308.45 and payroll \$5,340.22.
- Minutes from November 17th, 2025, Regular Town Council Meeting.
- November 2025 Treasurer's Report.

Lavon Walser **MOVED** to approve November 17th, 2025, Regular Town Council meeting consent agenda. Josh Gamez **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.**

Old Business:

Mayor Rhea stated that the county came to put stakes in the ground for the no parking signs that the town is going to put up. There will be 4 signs total. One at the top of 5th street, one by the park, one in front of Green's property, and one by the fire station. The county was going to get the location services done and then the signs could go up. Councilmember Josh asked what the town will do if someone parks in the no parking zones. Mayor Rhea said a ordinance for the no parking area will need to be created and to notify a county officer to handle it.

Mayor Rhea stated that she has been reached out to many times about loose dogs in town close to the park. The owner states that the dogs do not get out but the dogs seem to be getting out when the owners are not home. The owner is aware of the town's loose dog ordinance. Community members have mentioned that the dogs have shown signs of aggression when they are loose. A county office has stated if dogs are threatening property, person, or livestock the person/property owner has the right to defend themselves and their property if necessary. The other dogs that were loose in town have seem to be taken care of and have not been seen running loose lately. Josh stated that those dogs had killed his chickens and other chickens in town in the past months.

The TIB grant process has been completed with the money being deposited into our bank account to pay the asphalt company and all work on Whitman ST completed. The full amount due to the asphalt company has been paid besides the retainer amount which will be paid pending approval.

New Business:

Kurt Bartelheimer has split his property into 2 different lots. The new second lot has been assigned an address with the intent of selling.

AWC online classes will be coming up soon in the new year. There are classes for all councilmembers, the mayor, and town clerk. Mayor Rhea will update everyone as to when these classes come up available so that everyone can get them completed in a timely manner.

Mayor Rhea stated that due to the town levy failure, the community can expect some town services to be cut back. As stated in last month's meeting – there will be no snow plowing on town roads unless there is at least 4 inches of snow on the ground. The main road through town will still be plowed when the county comes through to plow. Town stock (such as meters) will be cut back to only 1 in stock instead of 2.

Maintenance Comments:

- Councilmember Lavon stated that PNW hauled out grain on Railroad ST because they said that they couldn't make the corner onto 1st ST and ended up tearing up the road. Lavon asked them to stop going out that way with their trucks to prevent more damage and they did not listen. Lavon even went as far as to block the ST off with cones and the truck drivers just threw the cones in the ditch and kept going out that way. Mayor Rhea has been in contact with PNW and was supposed to meet with one of their managers, but he did not show up. The truck drivers stated that the county told them that they could drive that way which was inaccurate as that road is not a county road, it is a town road. Mayor Rhea is waiting for a call back from PNW to get their insurance information. After some back and forth the truck drivers are now going the correct way and turning to go out on 1st ST. It is estimated that it cost close to 40 thousand dollars to complete the overlay for that portion of road. It is now full of potholes where the loaded trucks broke up the road and will need to be repaired.

Council Comments:

- Josh did not have an update for the planning and zoning project.
- Councilmember Rudy and Mayor Rhea are working on an updated zoning map. Mark Hellinger stated that back when he believed the zoning map went missing, he helped to locate it. Mark checked with the county and couldn't find it and also checked the state archives. Mark believes he has a pdf copy of the one that was created by JUB Engineering somewhere. Mark believes that copy was created off the 1980's copy that was posted into the Gazette back when the zoning book was adopted. There was a new map adopted 6 or 7 years ago. Mark believes it would be quite a process to create a new zoning map if the old one is truly lost. The most recent map that was adopted Mark takes exception to because it is not in color and does not believe it is accurate and believes that the town needs to get a more proper replacement of the map. Mayor Rhea stated that the town will investigate where the old maps have ended up, and Councilmember Rudy agreed that the town needs to have them. Mayor Rhea suggested that maybe the Whitman County Historical Society would have something to look at and that Mark and Rudy can take the lead into looking into this matter. Mark stated that Thygeson's might be a good resource as they have old town archives in their possession. Councilmember Lavon will look in the office for copies of the zoning map as well.

Clerk/Treasurer Comments:

- Clerk/Treasurer Jamie asked if Mayor Rhea and the council would like her to find someone to take minutes for the meetings while she is out on maternity leave. Jamie stated that she will certainly not be in attendance for the March meeting and possibly the February meeting depending on when her baby is born. Mayor Rhea and council said that they will figure it out for those meetings, and she does not need to find someone to take down minutes in her absence.

Mayor's Comments:

- January and February meeting dates would fall on a holiday if the town were to do them on their normal 3rd Monday's. Rudy asked if the meetings must be on a Monday and Mayor Rhea stated that they do not have to be on Monday. It was decided that January's meeting will be moved from January 19th to January 12th to avoid the holiday. For February's meeting it was decided that the February meeting will be moved from February 16th to February 23rd to avoid the holiday.
- The water sewer rates are usually raised in January. Lavon went back to 2021 records and council said a 6% raise of both the water and the sewer rates. The last 2 years there has only been a 6% raise on the sewer rates. Mayor Rhea wondered if the town should raise the late fee from \$20 to \$25. Mayor Rhea asked council to think about these changes and decide in January what the town would like to do for rate raises.
- The street levy will go back on the ballot in August.
- FEMA reached out to update contact information so Mayor Rhea stated to be aware of this and any other possible changes they may be trying to make.
- Whitman County Library reached out to let Mayor Rhea know that the grant for the new heater/ac unit has been approved. Ackerman will be doing the work, and it will be a heat pump on the outside of the building.
- Thank you to all that have helped throughout the year for the town and to all the volunteers that have helped with all the Christmas activities. The tree lighting was a success and good time for all that attended. Merry Christmas everyone!!

Josh Gamez **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. Lavon Walser **seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.** The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 pm.

Mayor Blanche Rhea

Attest: _____

Jamie Erickson, Clerk-Treasurer

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