

Town of Farmington

Regular Town Council Meeting
September 15th, 2014
Farmington Community Center
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Roll Call:

Mayor James Woomack, Council members: Joel Abbott, Noreen Ewing, Diana Lowley, David Baker and Billie Wolff.

Visitors:

Max Mohan, Brian Oliver, Ron Johnson, Kirby Kiehle, Steve Martin, Ron Dugan & Katherine Barnes Pawson.

Open Regular Council Meeting:

The Regular Town Council Meeting was opened at 6:00 PM

Approval of the August 18th, 2014 Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes:

Billie Wolff **moved** for approval of the August 18th, 2014 Regular Council Meeting minutes. Joel Abbott **seconded the motion, the motion passed.**

Unfinished Business:

• **Streets Status Report – Pot Hole Repair – Council Member Abbott:**

Councilmen Baker and Abbott plan to begin making further pothole repairs as soon as Farmington has some moisture. Whitman County public works superintendent advised the clerk-treasurer that Farmington will owe Whitman County approximately \$8,000 for the 440 yards of gravel that have been delivered to the town. At the August 18th meeting Joel Abbott made the **motion** to pay Whitman County for the gravel as soon as the billing statement arrives. Noreen Ewing **seconded the motion, the motion passed.** As of this evenings meeting, the bill for this gravel has not been received by the Town of Farmington for payment.

• **Park Status Report - Rose Garden Status Report – Council Member Ewing:**

Noreen Ewing reported that the chemical interlock system from the chemical pump to the well pump controller at Well 2 has been installed. This upgrade insures that the chemical pump only runs when Well #2's pump is running. The final phase of the Rose Garden project will be the automatic watering system which she hopes to purchase the components for later this week. Noreen plans to hold a "Fall Clean-Up Workday" at the park in October to rake leaves and add mulch to the rose garden beds.

• **Tree Committee Report – Council Member Ewing:**

Council member Ewing reported that an Oak tree located near the school bus shelter on Washington Street and a tree located on the corner of 2nd and Main Street in the Children's Playground Park were both severely damaged during the last wind storm and will need to be removed. Royce Johnson contacted Noreen and volunteered to do some of this tree removal.

• **Disaster Preparedness Report – Council Member Wolff:**

Council member Wolff reported that she talked with Robin Cocking from Whitman County Emergency Services at the Whitman County Fair and is investigating the possibility of teaching a Disaster Preparedness class here at City Hall before winter sets in.

Mayor Woomack's First Nine Months in Office:

Council reviewed Mayor Woomack's first nine months in office. Councilman Baker stated that in his opinion things are running smoothly.

Overview of Preliminary Budget:

Ron Dugan stated that he and Mayor Woomack will be working together during the first week of October to prepare Farmington's 2015 operating budget, which will be presented to the council at Farmington's preliminary budget hearing on October 20th. Ron stated that he found Farmington's accounting to be in order following an in-depth analysis of Farmington's 2014 receivables and payables January through August. Ron is concerned about the failure in the Primary Election of Farmington's operating levy and plans to write a personal letter (at his own expense) to each of Farmington's registered voters prior to the General election to explain the importance of the passage of both of Farmington's levy propositions. Ron stated that without the passage of these levies, a small town like Farmington would most probably be bankrupt in six years.

Approval of Claims & Payroll:

Dave Baker moved for approval of the August 19th, 2014 through September 15th, 2014 claims & payroll totaling **\$7,557.91**
Billie Wolff **seconded the motion, the motion passed.**

CHECK REGISTER

Town Of Farmington
MCAG #: 0806

08/19/2014 To: 09/15/2014

Time: 19:09:20 Date: 09/14/2014
Page: 1

Trans	Date	Type	Acct #	Chk #	Claimant	Amount	Memo
504	08/29/2014	Payroll	1	EFT	Internal Revenue Service	667.88	941 Deposit For 08/01/2014 - 08/31/2014
500	08/31/2014	Payroll	1	1570	Barbara Dial-Flomer	837.42	
501	08/31/2014	Payroll	1	1571	Todd Lobdell	431.09	
502	08/31/2014	Payroll	1	1572	George Martzall	791.18	
503	08/31/2014	Payroll	1	1573	DIVISION OF CHILD SUPPORT DSHS	100.00	08/01/2014 To 08/31/2014 - DSHS - Child Support
522	09/15/2014	Payroll	1	1574	Barbara Dial-Flomer	837.42	
527	09/15/2014	Claims	1	5564	Anatek Labs, Inc.	20.00	2014 AUGUST - Water Testing
528	09/15/2014	Claims	1	5565	Avista Utilities	1,705.24	2014 AUGUST - Avista Charges
529	09/15/2014	Claims	1	5566	Bank Of Fairfield	712.12	2014 AUGUST - VISA Charges
530	09/15/2014	Claims	1	5567	Bishop Law Office	200.00	2014 AUGUST - Legal Retainer
531	09/15/2014	Claims	1	5568	Department Of Ecology	903.14	ANNUAL BIOSOLIDS PERMIT FEE -FISCAL YEAR 2015 July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015
532	09/15/2014	Claims	1	5569	Empire Disposal	39.66	2014 AUGUST - Garbage Collection
533	09/15/2014	Claims	1	5570	H.D. Fowler Company	140.54	2014 AUGUST - Repair Parts For Well 2
534	09/15/2014	Claims	1	5571	Strom Electric	48.00	Hour Meter For Well #2
535	09/15/2014	Claims	1	5572	Frontier Communications NW, Inc.	124.22	2014 AUGUST - Phone - Fax - Internet
						2,477.80	001 Current Expense
						1,219.69	101 City Street
						2,102.06	401 Water Fund
						1,758.36	409 Sewer Fund
						7,557.91	Claims: 3,892.92
							Payroll: 3,664.99

Mayor's Financial Report:

A copy of the Mayor's year-to-date financial summary was given to the council. It was noted that Farmington has a negative **\$2,461** variance through August 2014 and a budget surplus of **\$5,790**.

Approval of Treasurer's Report:

Billie Wolff **moved** for approval of the July financial report showing Farmington with a **\$168,080.54** cash balance. \$78,719.10 in checking and \$89,361.44 in the MMDA account. Diana Lowley **seconded the motion, the motion passed.**

Citizens Comments:

Max Mohan advised the council that the planning commission is still in the process of fact finding regarding the Wolff – Kiehle variance and will need to consult with the Town's attorney before making a recommendation to the Town Council at the October 20th meeting.

Mr. Mohan suggested that the town's maintenance employee attend council meeting to be able to address any questions or concerns the citizens may have.

He also stated that the current administration may want to be more proactive in advising the citizens of town happenings and to concentrate on being more communicative, to talk with the people, to share ideas and to consider taking the advice offered by citizens. He asked that the current administration be mindful of the importance of communication and transparency.

Ron Dugan stated that in his opinion, Mayor Woomack has done a wonderful job during his first nine months in office, in that he has hired a maintenance employee who he is helping to be a productive employee, he purchased and installed a new computer system in the Clerk's office along with a sewer meter monitor that will save the town 90 man hours per year. The Mayor has overseen the development of the farmingtonwa.com web site and also a ton of tree work in the park. The mayor is delegates work projects to his council members and so far this year has only used 400 maintenance hours at a tremendous savings to the town compared to the 891 maintenance hours used by this time last year. Ron stated that the few complaints he has heard have all been petty and cynical.

Ron Johnson requested for the second time this year that the town's fire hydrants be flushed as he is experiencing major issues with the quality of the water once it reaches the end of the line at his residence on the West end of town.

Council Comments:

Councilman Baker asked if any fire hydrants have been bled yet in 2014. Mayor Woomack stated that to the best of his knowledge, this project has not been started. Joel Abbott volunteered to assist the Mayor in getting this done. The Mayor stated that he will contact Todd Lobdell, Farmington's Water Operator to see if he would also be available to assist with this endeavor.

Joel Abbott asked that the Mayor have the Water Operator check the "Out of Service" fire hydrant located on Lincoln Street near the Grenz residence. It was suggested that Royce Johnson also be contacted due to his familiarity with this particular issue.

On behalf of a citizen, Diana Lowley asked why Duane Groom from the City of Tekoa is no longer handling Farmington's waste water issues. Mayor Woomack advised Diana that Duane had only agreed to assist Farmington until other arrangements could be made and that Duane helped the Mayor to obtain his certification so that Farmington's waste water testing can be handled by the Mayor, thus eliminating the salary of a Waste Water employee.

Diana Lowley also asked about the status of the wood from the trees that were cut down at the park earlier this year. Noreen Ewing stated that the wood was milled by Rudy Goossen and is now drying under a blue tarp off to the right side of her driveway should anyone want to inspect it.

Clerk-Treasurer Comments:

The Clerk-Treasurer reminded the council that she is without cell phone service due to mechanical difficulty until at least Thursday of this week and cannot be reached by text message. She also stated that Layne Merritt from J-U-B Engineers asked that she advise the council that he is willing to attend their meetings should any engineering questions or concerns arise.

Mayor's Comments:

Mayor Woomack encouraged the citizens to check the farmingtonwa.com website for updates and information, he reiterated that he cannot personally call each citizen to bring them up to date on town happenings.

The mayor advised the council and citizens that he will be doing no further work on the town owned church building. And, that an inventory of the items in the church was done by him (and can be inspected in the clerk's office) prior to any work having been done on the building.

He also stated that in the future, if anyone has a complaint regarding the perceived misconduct of a town employee, he or a council member needs to be advised immediately so that the issue can be addressed at that time. Mayor Woomack stressed that the Town of Farmington has a ZERO tolerance policy regarding drugs and/or alcohol in the work place and that any employee caught under the influence or using drugs and/or alcohol on company time will face immediate termination.

Mayor Woomack made it clear that he is not happy with the wage of \$11.67 per hour being paid to Farmington's Water Operator (which is .83 cents per hour lower than that of Farmington's Maintenance employee). The Water Operator is in charge of Farmington's water quality, all complaints, and water line issues and must be licensed to do his job.

Nor is the Mayor happy with the fact that Farmington's Council and citizens alike conduct themselves as if the Clerk-Treasurer is on call to them as a personal secretary 24 hours per day 7 days a week. He stated that if in the future she is going to be contacted in regard to town business on her off time, she will be monetarily compensated for it.

Mayor Woomack explained to the council his decision for having Whitman County Road Department deliver gravel in the middle of the 200 block of East Pine Street. He stated that the occupants of his personal residence are the only people that are inconvenienced by the gravel being piled there and this is a central location which provides for easier access to the gravel as the pot holes are being filled in the Northern section of town.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

James A. Woomack, Mayor

Attest: _____
Barbara Dial-Flomer, Clerk-Treasurer
Town of Farmington
Regular Town Council Meeting
Monday, September 15th, 2014 - Farmington Community Center
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM