

Fairfield Town Council Meeting Minutes
April 12, 2023

Mayor Loren Tacke called the regular meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Those Present: Mayor Loren Tacke; Council Members: Ron Dauwalder, Carmen Staigmiller, Scott Hoyt, and Chuck Brown; Public Works Department, Nick Dale; and Clerk/Treasurer, Tammy Comer.

Also Present: Vonnie Jacobson, Choteau Acantha; and Doug Bouma, community member arrived at 7:10 pm.

Councilor Brown made a motion and Councilor Dauwalder seconded the approval of the March 8, 2023, public hearing to obtain public comments on TAP grant applications for phase two sidewalk project. The motion carried by a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays. Councilor Dauwalder made a motion and Councilor Hoyt seconded the approval of the March 8, 2023, public hearing to obtain public comments on short-term rental, sewer service laterals ownership, & responsibility, water & sewer system, and water rules ordinances. The motion carried by a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays. Councilor Hoyt made note to amend the March 8, 2023 regular meeting minutes to state the next regular council meeting would be Wednesday, April 12th not March 8th. Councilor Staigmiller made a motion and Councilor Brown seconded the approval of the amended March 8, 2023, regular meeting minutes. The motion carried by a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays. Councilor Dauwalder made a motion and Councilor Hoyt seconded the approval of the March 8, 2023, executive session meeting minutes. The motion carried by a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays.

Public Comment: None

Agenda Changes, Deletions, or Additions to Reports: None

Old Business: None

New Business:

- A) Mayor Tacke said he had been working on a data breach policy and sent it to MMIA and the town's attorney for review. They sent it back with their approval. Councilor Brown made a motion and Councilor Hoyt seconded the approval of Resolution No. 437 adopting the data breach incident response policy. The motion carried by a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays.

Committee Reports:

- A) Fairfield Volunteer Fire Department: Fire Chief, Nick Dale stated that the commissioners approved the fire fee service increase from \$55 to \$105. The money will be used to purchase additional SCBA's and bunkers.

Nick stated that they plan to burn the ballfields this weekend, depending on the weather.

- B) Teton County Sheriff's Report: No one was present from the Sheriff's Office. Reports were submitted for December (2 cases), January (5 cases) and February (7 cases) from the Sheriff's Office. No report from the Prosecuting Attorney, but the JP had 2 cases for the month of February.

Business Licenses and Zoning & Encroachment Permits:

1. 402 Central Avenue wants to install a 10' x10' Concrete pad w/a U shaped block wall around a 6' x 4' brick pizza oven.

After Nick and Chuck made sure all setbacks were met as set on the permits, they approved the permit listed above.

Mayor's Report

- A) Mayor Tacke said he is still searching for a planning board member for the Town as Mr. Brown was unable to attend the meetings.
- B) Mayor Tacke stated that there were two manager applications and ten lifeguard applications turned in for the 2023 pool season. Mayor Tacke, Diane Bremer, Trina Wilson, Megan Caffyn and Carmen Staigmiller are serving on the pool committee.
- C) Mayor Tacke said there had been several dog complaints recently.

Department Reports:

- A) Public Works Department, Nick Dale reported that the well levels were extremely low and lower than this time last year. Well 2 was down two feet, well 3 was down 2/10 of a foot, well 4 down 9 3/10 feet, and wells 5,6,7 were not running. Overall, the wells are 2/10 of a foot lower than this time last year. Nick added that some people have started outside watering as the run time on the wells has increased two hours per day. Nick stated that water restrictions may need to be implemented if the wells continue to drop. The contractor is still working on the telemetry, so they won't have a water report until after they are finished with the telemetry.

Nick mentioned that he and Chuck were putting gravel around the wells and towers because there was a lot of mud around them.

- B) Clerk/Treasurer, Tammy Comer stated that budget to actuals were in line for the third quarter of the year. Council had no questions about budget to actuals.

Mrs. Comer stated that the audit was complete for fiscal year 21/22. There were no findings issued.

Mrs. Comer explained that DNRC/RRGL received forty-nine planning applications and awarded seven projects with grants for a total of \$100,000. Fairfield ranked fifteenth and was not awarded grant funding for the Water Project Phase Two Per update. Collette Anderson of Great West Engineering told Mrs. Comer that there would be other opportunities to apply for grant funding this summer.

Town Council Reports: Councilor Dauwalder asked about street sweeping. Nick stated that they planned to sweep the streets tomorrow possibly.

Councilor Hoyt said the Capital Improvement committee meeting on March 28th went well. The committee felt the highest priorities were water, sewer and streets. The short-term priorities would be sprinklers in the north park and snow removal improvements.

Councilor Brown asked if Mt. View had turned in a zoning permit yet. Mrs. Comer said they had emailed one permit for demolition and construction. Mrs. Comer emailed back stating that the permit that was turned in was not complete. She also told them that one permit needed to be submitted for demolition and one for construction. She is waiting for new permits to be submitted. Councilor Brown stated he had received a few complaints about potholes. He told the complainants that it was too cold and wet to fill potholes and that Nick and Chuck would bet on them as soon as weather permitted.

Councilor Brown asked how the short-term rental survey was going. Mayor Tacke stated that the survey is open until April 28th. Mrs. Comer stated that of the paper surveys turned in to her, the majority were not in favor of short-term rentals but if they were allowed, they would rather them be in commercial zoning only.

Approval of Monthly Claims: Councilor Brown made a motion and Councilor Hoyt seconded the approval of claim 965552 for \$10,827.00 and claims 965553 through 965596 for \$117,526.75. The motion carried by a vote of 4 ayes, and 0 nays.

Public Comment:

Doug Bouma asked what the status of the short-term rental survey was. He explained that he purchased a home in the residential zone and thought about having it as a short-term rental and wanted to get some more information before he did anything. He asked if it was allowed to have short-term rentals in the residential zone, how could he get on the list if they were to limit the number of short-term rentals? Mr. Bouma stated that no matter where short-term rentals were allowed, they would have the same risks and issues. Council thanked Mr. Bouma for his questions and comments concerning short-term rentals and said they would consider his comments in forming their decision. Council agreed that their decision may have to be postponed for another month in order to review the surveys and decide how to proceed.

Councilor Hoyt made a motion and Councilor Dauwalder seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by a vote of 4 ayes, and 0 nays. The meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

The next regular Town Council meeting will be Wednesday, May 10, 2023, at 6:30 pm in the Town Office.

Loren B. Tacke, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tammy L. Comer, Clerk/Treasurer