

**Fairfield Town Council Meeting Minutes**  
**June 14, 2023**

Mayor Loren Tacke called the regular meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

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

Also Present: Vonnie Jacobson, Choteau Acantha; Pool Concessionaire, Emilee Lear; and community members Kevin McWilliams, Kristen Becker, Chad Becker, and Doug Bouma.

Councilor Hoyt made a motion and Councilor Staigmiller seconded the approval of the May 12, 2023, regular meeting minutes. The motion carried by a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Public Comment: Chad Becker said there was a lot of traffic driving through town on highway 89. He felt the need for a flashing light, speed limit flashing light, or something else to slow the traffic down going through town. He would be willing to sponsor installing some sort of light to help slow the traffic down.

Councilor Brown stated that the citizens of Fairfield would need to complain to the sheriff's office and prove they are not issuing tickets to help control the speed issue through town.

Doug Bouma added that there are a number of semi-trucks parking along that section of highway 89 where they are not supposed to park. It causes a blind spot at Lion's Park for vehicles trying to pull onto or across highway 89.

Mayor Tacke said there is a need to look into this issue. Councilor Dauwalder explained that installing a sign of some sort would need to be permitted by MDT.

Agenda Changes, Deletions, or Additions to Reports: Delete 5B as the historical society was not ready to present yet.

Old Business: None

New Business:

- A) Emilee Lear stated that the pool concessions would open on June 20<sup>th</sup> and hours would be Tuesday-Saturday 1-5 pm. She would open during swim lessons and during night swim on Friday and Saturday on a trial basis to see how well sales go. Emilee stated that the sanitarian would be out next week for inspection. Cold drinks, snacks and ice cream would be on the menu as well as nachos, pretzels, and hot dogs. She will also have pool noodles for sale. Emilee plans to offer \$10 punch cards, at 50 cents per punch, so kids don't have to always carry cash with them. Mayor Tacke wished her a successful pool season and wanted her to report at the end of the pool season to see how things went. With no comments from Council, Ms. Lear left the meeting.
- B) Councilor Brown made a motion seconded by Councilor Dauwalder to approve the employee monthly health benefit increase of \$59 per month, from \$661.00 to \$720.00. The motion carried by a vote of 4 ayes, and 0 nays.
- C) Mayor Tacke explained that the CPI is 8% for 2023/2024 fiscal year. The town's employees are at about the middle of the road for wages across the state. While he knew an eight percent increase was substantial, so he proposed a five percent increase for the employees. Councilor Staigmiller made a motion seconded by Councilor Brown to approve the employee annual increase of five percent. The motion carried by a vote of 4 ayes, and 0 nays.

- D) Mrs. Comer explained that MMIA, the town's insurance company, occasionally reviews personnel policies to make sure they are up to date. They found a few items that were out of date. Housekeeping items were updated and ready for council approval. Councilor Hoyt made a motion seconded by Councilor Dauwalder to approve Resolution No. 438 updating the personnel policy. The motion carried by a vote of 4 ayes, and 0 nays.
- E) Councilor Brown stated that there should be consequences for those not following the Short-Term Rental Ordinance. Mayor Tacke said he would research what other cities and towns do and have that Resolution ready for the July Council meeting. Councilor Staigmiller made a motion seconded by Councilor Brown to amend the current motion of Resolution No. 430, Short-Term Rental Ordinance, to allow them in commercial and residential zones, making them exempt from the Zoning Ordinance, which does not allow businesses in the residential zone, and require them to have an annual business license with the Town of Fairfield. The motion carried by a vote of 4 ayes, and 0 nays. Councilor Staigmiller made a motion seconded by Councilor Brown to approve the Short-Term Rental Ordinance as amended. The motion carried by a vote of 4 ayes, and 0 nays.
- F) Councilor Hoyt made a motion seconded by Councilor Dauwalder to approve Resolution No. 439 requestion that municipal election be conducted by mail ballot election. The motion carried by a vote of 4 ayes, and 0 nays.
- G) Councilor Staigmiller made a motion seconded by Councilor Dauwalder to approve the joint city-county library agreement. The motion carried by a vote of 4 ayes, and 0 nays.
- H) Councilor Hoyt explained that the CIP Committee had met to create their top ten priority list. He said the committee felt the priority list should go in the following order: new well, continue with water line replacement, storm water project on 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 7<sup>th</sup> Street, rebuild/replace streets, ADA improvements to the town office, continue with sidewalk project, including curb and gutter, throughout the town, fire department needs, mini excavator, cold storage/shed for mowers in the park, and a new water tank. Nick Dale thanked the CIP Committee for putting the fire department up on the list, but felt their needs were being met with current budget amounts. After discussion, council decided to move the new well to number nine, fire department needs to number ten, and shift everything else up one spot, putting the replacement of water lines at the top of the list. Councilor Hoyt made a motion and Councilor Staigmiller seconded the top ten CIP priority list. The motion carried by a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays.
- I) Mrs. Comer explained that she had received the contractor's second draw application for payment. The project draw had been submitted and waiting for DNRC and ARPA grant funding payments. She asked council for approval of the draw so she could pay the contractor and the Department of Revenue (for gross receipts tax) as soon as the grant payments were received. Councilor Staigmiller made a motion and Councilor Hoyt seconded the approval of the contractor's second draw application. The motion carried by a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays.
- J) Councilor Hoyt made a motion and Councilor Dauwalder seconded the approval to close Central Avenue between 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Street for the Swim Day Street dance on July 14, 2023. The motion carried by a vote of 4 ayes, and 0 nays.
- K) Councilor Hoyt made a motion and Councilor Staigmiller seconded the approval to adjourn the open container ordinance during Swim Day weekend until 2:00 am on July 16, 2023. The motion carried by a vote of 4 ayes, and 0 nays.
- L) Councilor Staigmiller made a motion and Councilor Hoyt seconded the approval to close 6<sup>th</sup> Street between Central Avenue and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue North and ½ block of Central between 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Street on July 15, 2023 for Swim Day activities. The motion carried by a vote of 4 ayes, and 0 nays.

M) Mrs. Comer explained that it was time to look at the street maintenance district levying assessments for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. She explained that \$40 per parcel was assessed per year for a total of \$15,240. They started collecting November 2020 and the Street Maintenance District fund had a balance of \$44,160.92. Mayor Tacke said they need to build the fund and work on fixing the streets. The streets are in very bad shape and will last much longer. Councilor Dauwalder wanted to keep the amount the same until a plan was in place to fix the streets.

#### Committee Reports:

- A) Fairfield Volunteer Fire Department: Fire chief, Nick Dale stated that all was going good with the fire department.
- B) Teton County Sheriff's Report: No one was present and no reports were submitted from the Sheriff's Office. No report from the Prosecuting Attorney, and the JP had zero cases for the month of May.

Business Licenses and Zoning & Encroachment Permits: There were eleven zoning permits submitted, including one demolition at the Mt. View Store, and one at 312 2<sup>nd</sup> St North, five fence installations, an addition to the bus barn at the school, a one story 16' x 32' modular home to be moved in at 221 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave North, and a 30' x 40' garage at 312 2<sup>nd</sup> Street North. 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 was still looking for a Teton County Planning Board Member.
- B) Mayor Tacke said that the pool opening went great and the guards are getting trained. He added that the manager, Sarah Carpenter was doing a great job with the pool and with posting on Facebook.
- C) Mayor Tacke said he will look into putting a stop light or flashing speed limit sign on highway 89 at/around Central Avenue. This was a suggestion made on the CIP survey.
- D) Mayor Tacke explained that blocking off the curve at True Value was on the second phase of the sidewalk project. Nick and Chuck both said the curve was in extremely bad shape and needed to be blocked off sooner than later. Council approved blocking off the curve.

#### Department Reports:

- A) Public Works Department, Nick Dale thanked Council for the raise and insurance increase coverage. He reported that they have been busy doing locates for the project and patching the streets. They have been putting street sweepings in some of the potholes that are part of the water project.

Nick stated they were discharging at the lagoon three times a week and monitoring the flows. He reported that the wells were back up to normal levels and they will have well 4 back up and running after mowing.

- B) Clerk/Treasurer, Tammy Comer thanked council for the raise and insurance increase coverage.

Town Council Reports: Councilor Brown mentioned that some properties had very high grass and trees encroaching in the alley and street.

Approval of Monthly Claims: Councilor Hoyt made a motion and Councilor Brown seconded the approval of claims 965643 through 965695 for \$87,222.26. The motion carried by a vote of 4 ayes, and 0 nays.

Public Comment: None

Councilor Hoyt made a motion and Councilor Staigmiller seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by a vote of 4 ayes, and 0 nays. The meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

The next regular Town Council meeting will be Wednesday, July 12, 2023, at 6:30 pm in the Town Office.

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Loren B. Tacke, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Tammy L. Comer, Clerk/Treasurer