

Fairfield Town Council
Public Hearing to Obtain Public Comments on Short-Term Rental, Sewer Service Laterals Ownership & Responsibility, Water & Sewer System, and Water Rules Ordinances
Wednesday, March 8, 2023

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

Others present: Jeremiah Theys, Great West Engineering; and Vonnie Jacobsen and Austin Shaw, Choteau Acantha.

Community Members present: Tasha Johnson, Jennifer Gruber, Opie Idland, Mike Johnson, Mitchell Peters, Cheryl Woods, April Palmer, Jen Barnett, Kyle Woods, and Bob Loss.

Public hearing opened at 6:33 pm by Mayor Tacke.

Mayor Tacke explained that the resolution of intent on the Short-Term Rental Ordinance had passed through council in the February council meeting. Addressing the public in attendance, Mayor Tacke said this hearing was to obtain public comment on said Ordinance. Several members of the public asked to see and wanted to get a better understanding of the proposed Ordinance. The proposed Ordinance was provided to all attending.

Cheryl Woods, short-term rental owner and resident of Fairfield spoke on behalf of her short-term rental at 415 Central Avenue. She said that seventy-five percent of the renters have family here, fifteen percent are here to hunt, five percent are from out of state going to Glacier and five percent is other. She said short-term rentals are beneficial in a community and she has not had any issues with her rental. Some of those staying visit people at Front Range Assisted Living. She requires a two night minimum stay and her short-term rental is booked nine months out with many return visitors. Mrs. Woods stated that as a resident living in the residential zone of Fairfield, she didn't know if she would want a short-term rental next to her personal residence. She felt there needed to be a good balance and wanted to make sure the short-term rentals were monitored.

Community member Jen Barnett said she had stayed at many short-term rentals and the owners of short-term rentals can rate their renters for all other short-term rental owners to see the ratings.

Mrs. Comer read the four letters opposing short-term rentals within town limits that were submitted by community members who were not in attendance

With no further discussion on the short-term rental Ordinance, Mayor Tacke moved on to the proposed revision to Ordinance No. 11.16.070 connection with town's water and sewer system, and adoption of Ordinance No, 4.04.050 (7& 28) water rules, and Ordinance No. 4.12.135 sewer service laterals ownership and responsibilities. He said that all of the proposed changes and additions to the water and sewer ordinance were cleanup items and items that needed a bit more clarification.

With no further discussion, Mayor Tacke closed the sidewalk improvements phase 2 public hearing at 6:50 pm.

Loren B. Tacke, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tammy L. Comer, Clerk/Treasurer