

Fairfield Town Council Meeting Minutes
May 10, 2023

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

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

Also Present: Vonnie Jacobson, Choteau Acantha.

Councilor Hoyt made a motion and Councilor Staigmiller seconded the approval of the April 12, 2023, regular meeting minutes and the April 19, 2023, special meeting minutes. The motion carried by a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays. Councilor Staigmiller made a motion and Councilor Hoyt seconded the approval of the April 19, 2023, executive session minutes. The motion carried by a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Public Comment: None

Agenda Changes, Deletions, or Additions to Reports: None

Old Business: None

New Business:

- A) Councilor Hoyt made a motion and Councilor Staigmiller seconded the approval of the 2023 pool salary matrix. The motion carried by a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays. Mayor Tacke said the salaries were frozen from last year's salaries which were up \$2.00 per hour. Vonnie Jacobson asked if the town needed help with the salary increase again this year. Mayor Tacke said yes.
- B) Councilor Staigmiller made a motion and Councilor Hoyt seconded the approval of the 2023 pool lesson schedule. The motion carried by a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.
- C) Councilor Hoyt made a motion and Councilor Staigmiller seconded the approval of the 2023 pool schedule and fee schedule. The motion carried by a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays. Councilor Staigmiller asked if the pool has always been closed on Sundays. Mayor Tacke explained that Sunday used to be family day at the pool many years ago, but it had been hard to staff the pool, so it was decided to close the pool on Sundays.
- D) Councilor Staigmiller stated that she and Mayor Tacke had interviewed a few applicants for the pool manager position. Councilor Staigmiller made a motion and Councilor Hoyt seconded hiring Sarah Carpenter as the pool manager for the 2023 pool season. The motion carried by a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.
- E) Mrs. Comer explained that she had received the contractor's first draw application for payment. The project draw had been submitted and waiting for the ARPA grant funding payment. 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 payment was received. Councilor Hoyt made a motion and Councilor Dauwalder seconded the approval of the contractor's first draw application. The motion carried by a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Committee Reports:

- A) Fairfield Volunteer Fire Department: Fire fighter, Chuck 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, but the JP had five cases for the month of April.

Business Licenses and Zoning & Encroachment Permits:

1. 207 3rd Avenue South wants to install a 6' high wooden fence on east side of property and on lawn on north side of property.

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 attended the Municipal Institute in Bozeman and thought it was the best conference he had attended.

Department Reports:

- A) Public Works Department, Chuck Dale reported that the well levels were extremely low. He said that the water may look cloudy because the pumps are sucking up air in the lines which is air entrainment, air bubbles in the water. The water is perfectly safe to drink as they have extensive tests that are done with the water sampling. He added that they were unsure when the water was coming down from Gibson, so water restrictions would be in place at least two weeks after the water arrives in the canal outside of Fairfield.

Chuck stated that the water project was set to start May 15th, and would begin at well 3, move to 7th Street, then to 4th Avenue North. He said that he and Nick would watch closely to make sure the wells would not drop any lower. Chuck reported that they were still working on the telemetry. They had been having some issues but hoped to have it completed this week.

- B) Clerk/Treasurer, Tammy Comer thanked council for allowing her to attend Municipal Institute in Bozeman. There was a wealth of information at that conference that would be used in her job.

Mrs. Comer reported that the Capital Improvement Plan draft document was ready, but the engineers would like the CIP planning committee to review and then set up a work session to go over any changes, deletions, or additions before presenting the final draft to the Council at the June meeting. Mrs. Comer would coordinate the work session meeting.

Mrs. Comer received correspondence from a community member who asked if the town would look into getting a transfer station here in Fairfield since the spring dumpsters filled up so quickly this year. Chuck Dale explained his concerns of where to put the transfer station and the cost of having one. He added that it would need to be manned so only the Fairfield residents were allowed to dump their trash and so no restricted items were dumped. With the workload each summer, Chuck said he did not think they would be able to man the transfer station. Knowing the issues Power and Dutton face with illegal dumping and overfilling the dumpsters, he felt Fairfield would have similar issues. Council thanked the resident for the idea and would look into it further. Councilor Dauwalder mentioned that Choteau had a roll off station for those extra items. Also, a second duracan, for an addition fee, could be an option for those residents needing extra room for their trash.

Mrs. Comer explained that HB 76, signed by the Governor combines the three separate motor fuel taxes into one monthly allocation. This eliminates resolutions, local match, requesting funds, and annual reporting that BaRSAA currently requires.

Mrs. Comer told Council that the current assessment for the street maintenance district was \$40 per parcel. She asked council think about keeping it the same or raising it for the next budget year. She would check back with them at the June council meeting.

Town Council Reports: Councilor Dauwalder asked about street patching. Chuck stated they hoped to start patching streets next week, depending on how much time they needed to spend with the water project.

Approval of Monthly Claims: Councilor Hoyt made a motion and Councilor Staigmiller seconded the approval of claims 965597 through 965642 for \$30,507.47. The motion carried by a vote of 4 ayes, and 0 nays.

Public Comment: Vonnie Jacobson asked if the town would be asking for donations for pool passes or sponsor days. Mayor Tacke said it was not yet decided if there would be sponsored days at the pool. If so, it may be one day a month. Mrs. Comer added that she was working with Megan Caffyn to see how many punch passes were needed for those who couldn't afford to swim at the pool.

With no other comments, Mayor Tacke said the meeting would adjourn without objection. The meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

The next regular Town Council meeting will be Wednesday, June 14, 2023, at 6:30 pm in the Town Office.

Loren B. Tacke, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tammy L. Comer, Clerk/Treasurer