

Fairfield Town Council Meeting Minutes
November 8, 2023

Mayor Loren Tacke called the regular meeting to order at 6:26 p.m.

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

Also Present: Vonnie Jacobson, Choteau Acantha; Sue Kendall, Toni Underdahl, Pam Brown, Sylvia Waters, Gary Waters, Mary Coe, Bill Coe, Bob Loss and Justin Cleveland, Community Members.

Councilor Dauwalder made a motion and Councilor Hoyt seconded the approval of the October 18, 2023 regular meeting minutes. The motion carried by a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays.

Public Comment: Mayor Tacke stated that his comment on camper parking last council meeting was just a thought. The side streets are difficult to plow in the winter with the campers parked on the street so he was trying to come up with a way to use the town property and get the campers off the street. He said the town owns the property on the west side of 7th Street from 3rd Avenue South to Central. Mayor Tacke said he appreciates public comments and input and asked them to keep their comments brief. He added that the council would listen and take public comments in consideration when making decisions. Several letters were submitted disapproving the RV parking, stating that it should be the responsibility of the RV owner to find off street parking for their RV. Several community members stressed the same concerns as the letters. They also stated that it should not be the town's responsibility to find parking for people's RV's. Former clerk, Toni Underdahl, stated that there was an ordinance in place for campers and vehicles parking on the street that was not being enforced. Mayor Tacke said the ordinance was vague, stating RVs were to be sixteen feet off the curb. He said that they would have to work on the ordinance to make it clear for RV parking. With no other comments from the public, Mayor Tacke thanked them for coming to the meeting and their comments. He said it was nice to have public attend and get involved. All of the public except Bob Loss and Justin Cleveland left the meeting at 6:44 pm.

Agenda Changes, Deletions, or Additions to Reports: None

Old Business: None

New Business:

- A) Councilor Staigmiller made a motion and Councilor Brown seconded the approval of Resolution #449 adopting the Town of Fairfield's Capital Improvement Plan. The motion carried by a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays.
- B) Mrs. Comer stated she had purged files for fiscal years 13/14 and 14/15 and asked for council approval to dispose of the records listed on retention schedule form RM88. Councilor Brown made a motion and Councilor Dauwalder seconded the approval to dispose the records listed on retention schedule form RM88. The motion carried by a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays.
- C) Councilor Dauwalder made a motion and Councilor Hoyt seconded the approval to appoint Tony Clark as Fairfield's representative on the Teton Conservation District Board for a three-year term. The motion carried by a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays.
- D) Mrs. Comer stated that she had received the contractor's seventh draw application for payment. The project draw had been submitted and was waiting for MCEP and 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 Staigmiller seconded the approval of the contractor's seventh draw application. The motion carried by a vote of 4 ayes, and 0 nays.

- E) Mayor Tacke explained that trying to tie in an asphalt patch to the poor existing street was not feasible in the water project. It had been discussed adding change order number four to eliminate pavement and add the installation of geotextile fabric, furnishing and installing asphalt millings, prime coat, double shot of chip seal, brooming the streets and pavement markings in the school area. The double shot of chip seal would cover the entire street, not just the width of street disturbed in the water project. Councilor Staigmiller asked if the price would be honored next spring when they could apply the chip seal. Mayor Tacke said that the change order increase of \$115,173.09 would be honored. Councilor Dauwalder said it would be great to make progress on fixing the streets in town. Councilor Hoyt made a motion and Councilor Dauwalder seconded the approval of change order number four. The motion carried by a vote of 4 ayes, and 0 nays.

Committee Reports:

- A) Fairfield Volunteer Fire Department: Fire fighter, Chuck Dale stated everything was going good with the fire department.
- F) Teton County Sheriff's Report: No one was present but the October report was submitted from the Sheriff's Office. No report from the Prosecuting Attorney, and the JP had zero cases for the month of October.

Business Licenses and Zoning & Encroachment Permits: There was one zoning permit submitted for a fence and concrete sidewalk for the daycare at 419 Central Avenue. After Nick and Chuck made sure all setbacks were met as set on the permits, they approved the permit listed above.

Mayor's Report: None

Department Reports:

- A) Public Works Department, Chuck Dale reported that they had pumped 3,943,836 gallons of water during the month of October. He was concerned that well 2 had not come back to its normal level for the past two years so he had it offline. The nitrates and nitrites are high in well 1, 1A, and 2. The well levels are a little lower than this time last year. The telemetry still has issues but MET is working to get it fixed. One radio is bad on the north tower so they are working on that as well.

Chuck stated that the pool cover protectors were here, installed and work great.

- B) Clerk/Treasurer, Tammy Comer said a letter was sent out to all residents in Fairfield to identify water pipe and water softener/filters in the home. New Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations require all cities and towns to compile a water service line material type inventory for all service lines connected to the Town's water. She stated that this survey needed to be completed by October 2024. We want to get it done and out of the way early in case any unforeseen issues arise.

Mrs. Comer said she asked the public works department what projects they would like to see done HB 355 money. Knowing the money could only be used for repairs, the town needed to match at least 25% of the project cost, and that the contractor for the water project would be coming back in the spring of 2024 to complete the chip sealing of the streets, they suggested chip sealing more streets. Nick and Chuck both said all of the streets are in bad shape and in much need of repair so they had a list of streets that are not part of the water projects that could be done. Councilor Staigmiller wondered about using the money for the lagoon repairs. Mayor Tacke mentioned installing new sidewalk to finish around the park

but remembered that it needed to be used for repairs not new installation. Councilor Brown thought fixing the sidewalk across the street from the school at Forseth's place. Justin Cleveland, community member thought that chip sealing more streets was a great idea. Mrs. Comer stated that if they chose to do more street chip sealing, the contractor that was already here to finish the streets on phase one of the water project would probably submit a good bid to do the additional streets Nick and Chuck suggested because they would already be here and mobilized. Mayor Tacke said he would contact our engineer and see if that was a possibility. He will report back at the December meeting of what he found out.

Mrs. Comer mentioned that Jr. Women's Club would like to work on getting a second playground for the park. Vonnie Jacobson stated that someone had volunteered to do the installation of the playground which would amount to about \$10,000. She said that Jr. Women's put the other playground up about thirty years ago and it required no maintenance. Jr. Women's Club would look for grants, donations, and raise the money to add a second playground. The total cost of the playground would be between \$20,000 and \$30,000. We would also work with Nick and Chuck to make sure the sprinklers would not be disturbed. If council approved we would proceed with plans and present them to the council prior to proceeding. Council approved Jr. Women's Club moving forward with the additional playground.

Town Council Reports:

- A) Councilor Dauwalder said that Nick and Chuck do an awesome job keeping the park looking great and supports a second playground because the park is always busy with children and families.

Councilor Staigmiller asked if we would be working on the street ordinance for the RV parking. Mayor Tacke said it was on his list. Councilor Brown asked how the ordinance would be enforced. Mayor Tacke explained that he sends a letter with a copy of the ordinance giving them a certain amount of time to move the RV, if the RV is not moved, he sends a second letter with a citation. If the citation is not paid and/or the RV is not moved, he will send the information to our prosecuting attorney to handle.

Councilor Hoyt mentioned that he may not be able to attend the December meeting.

Approval of Monthly Claims: Councilor Brown made a motion and Councilor Hoyt seconded the approval of claims 965900-965945 for \$41,595.80. 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 7:28 p.m.

The next regular Town Council meeting will be Wednesday, December 13, 2023, at 6:30 pm in the Town Office.

Loren B. Tacke, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tammy L. Comer, Clerk/Treasurer