

Fairfield Town Council Meeting Minutes
October 18, 2023

Mayor Loren Tacke called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

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

Also Present: Vonnie Jacobson, Choteau Acantha.

Councilor Hoyt made a motion and Councilor Dauwalder seconded the approval of the September 13, 2023 regular 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) Mrs. Comer stated that she had received the contractor's sixth draw application for payment. The project draw had been submitted and waiting for DNRC 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 Staigmiller made a motion and Councilor Dauwalder seconded the approval of the contractor's sixth draw application. The motion carried by a vote of 4 ayes, and 0 nays.

Committee Reports:

- A) Fairfield Volunteer Fire Department: Fire Chief, Nick Dale stated they had two gas leak calls and one fire call recently.
- B) Teton County Sheriff's Report: No one was present but the August and September reports were submitted from the Sheriff's Office. No report from the Prosecuting Attorney, and the JP had six cases for the month of September.

Business Licenses and Zoning & Encroachment Permits: None

Mayor's Report:

- A) Mayor Tacke gave Council a letter from WET Engineering stating their interest in being the Town's engineer.
- B) Mayor Tacke made mention of possibly allowing campers to winter park on town property on 7th Street from 3rd Avenue South to Central Avenue. Signage and gravel would have to be installed, but the town wouldn't charge a fee. Charging a fee would make the town responsible for anything that happened on the property. Councilor Staigmiller asked the Mayor if anyone spoke with the property owners that adjoined the town property. Mayor Tacke said no one had spoken to the adjoining property owners, this was in the beginning stages, but he would speak with them if council wanted to move forward.
- C) Mayor Tacke said he was working on the pool policy and would send it to MMIA for review.
- D) Mayor Tacke stated he was in progress of the dog ordinance.

- E) Mayor Tacke explained there were many feral cats in town which was causing big problems. He asked the council if they wanted him to look into a cat ordinance. Council agreed to have the Mayor look into what other cities and towns do about feral cats and a possible ordinance.
- F) Mayor Tacke thanked council for allowing him to go to the Montana League conference in Helena. It was a good conference and he learned a lot about the importance of risk management. He talked about having MMIA come out to do a risk management analysis.
- G) Mayor Tacked told the council that Mrs. Comer was elected to the MMIA Board of Directors for a two year term. He added it would be good to have a voice for the small towns in Montana. Council congratulated Mrs. Comer.

Department Reports:

- A) Public Works Department, Nick Dale reported that they had pumped 6,938,900 gallons of water during the month of September. Much of the water was supplying temporary water to residents in the water project. The wells were going down and the well run time was down to about four and a half hours a day. Nick added that the telemetry went down again. They have notified MET and they are addressing the issue.

Nick stated that they were working on patching streets this week before the weather turns cold. He mentioned that someone had taken, without permission, some of the millings that were piled out at the ballfields. He stated that those millings were for completing the street repairs in the water project and for the town to use to fill potholes.

- B) Clerk/Treasurer, Tammy Comer thanked council for allowing her to go to the Montana League conference in Helena this year. She stated there was good information at the conference that she would use in her job.

Mrs. Comer mentioned that the fall dumpsters were delivered last week, were almost full, and would be taken away on Friday.

Mrs. Comer said the field portion of the audit was complete. She stated that the auditor issued one Finding. The accounts payable and construction in progress was understated by \$475,950. This was caused by the work being done in June of fiscal year 2022/2023 and the claim being paid after receiving grant funding in fiscal year 2023/2024. She fixed the finding by accounting for the construction work being done in June 2023.

Town Council Reports:

- A) Councilor Staigmiller asked if anyone found out if there was any emergency funding to fix the lagoon. Mayor stated he spoke to Rural Development about emergency funding. They replied that emergency funding was available for natural disasters only. She asked if settlement payment had been received and if the town was moving forward to fix the lagoon. Mayor Tacke said payment had been received and they were moving forward. Mrs. Comer added that applications had been submitted for planning grants and we should hear something before too long.

Approval of Monthly Claims: Councilor Brown made a motion and Councilor Hoyt seconded the approval of claims 965851-965899 for \$490,745.16. The motion carried by a vote of 4 ayes, and 0 nays.

Public Comment: Mayor Tacke asked for the council's permission to close the street for trunk or treat on Halloween evening for about an hour and a half. Street closure would be from Central Avenue to approximately 1st Avenue North on 6th Street, between the Community Hall and the park. Council agreed to allow street closure for trunk or treat on Halloween evening.

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 7:04 p.m.

The next regular Town Council meeting will be Wednesday, November 8, 2023, at 6:30 pm in the Town Office.

Loren B. Tacke, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tammy L. Comer, Clerk/Treasurer