

**Fairfield Town Council Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2023**

Council President, Ron Dauwalder 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, Chuck Dale; and Clerk/Treasurer, Tammy Comer.

Also Present: None.

Councilor Staigmiller made a motion and Councilor Hoyt seconded the approval of the August 9, 2023 preliminary budget public hearing minutes, August 9, 2023 short-term rental Ordinance revision public hearing minutes, August 9, 2023 regular meeting minutes, August 23, 2023 final budget public hearing minutes, August 9, 2023 special closed litigation for settlement meeting minutes, and August 23, 2023 final budget and proposed settlement for lagoon litigation special 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) Council President Dauwalder said that the contractor discovered the 3 Rivers two story building had a 2" service line that was not accounted for in the construction plans. Change order number three for \$3,490.94 will cover the materials and installation of the 2" line. Councilor Hoyt made a motion seconded by Councilor Brown to approve change order number three of the water project for the materials and installation of 2" service lines to the two story 3 Rivers building. The motion carried by a vote of 4 ayes, and 0 nays.
- B) Mrs. Comer stated that she had received the contractor's fifth 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 Brown made a motion and Councilor Hoyt seconded the approval of the contractor's fifth draw application. The motion carried by a vote of 4 ayes, and 0 nays.
- C) Councilor Staigmiller made a motion and Councilor Hoyt seconded Resolution No. 448 to cancel the November election for municipal Mayor and Council members due to all candidates being uncontested as per HB447 passed by the 2017 Legislature. The motion carried by a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays.

Committee Reports:

- A) Fairfield Volunteer Fire Department: Fire fighter, Chuck Dale stated that all was good at 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 two cases for the month of August.

Business Licenses and Zoning & Encroachment Permits: There were three zoning permits submitted, including:
1. 9 Carmac Avenue wants to install a 17' x 48' concrete pad west of the house.

2. 625 3rd Avenue South wants to remove an existing patio, sidewalk and deck and install new 16' x 31' & 7' x 12' concrete patios, 17', 36', & 14' of sidewalk, a 9' x 14' upper deck and a 12' x 12' lower deck.
3. 14 3rd Street North wants to install a 12'6" chain link fence between the garage and corner of house, 6' fence from side storage room to property line, 35' along property line to tree line and install a 6' x 4' landing with stairs to the original front door of home.

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) Councilor President Dauwalder read a letter from two Fairfield residents complimenting Hard Rock Construction crew on their politeness, communication skills, efficient and excellent work on the water project. Chuck Dale stated they have been great to work with and they take pride in their work. Mrs. Comer added that the Mayor held an appreciation lunch for the construction crew last Friday.

Department Reports:

- A) Public Works Department, Chuck Dale reported that they have seen a 3 ½'-4' drop in the wells. The telemetry system is still having issues. NW Energy did not call the town when they shut the power down at the school. This also shut the power down to the east tower. The backup on the telemetry system did not work. M.E.T has been out and is looking at the telemetry system issues.

Chuck stated that there were large piles of road millings out at the ball field area for repairs, compaction, and chip sealing for the water project. He added that the water lines were all installed and the new valves work great.

- B) Clerk/Treasurer, Tammy Comer stated that the auditors would be here October 2-5 for the 22/23 fiscal year audit.

Mrs. Comer said that the Montana League conference was October 11-13 in Helena this year. She told the council to let her know if they would like to attend the conference and she would get them signed up.

Town Council Reports:

- A) Councilor Dauwalder stated his concerns for bears in Fairfield. Councilor Staigmiller encouraged the community to sign up for the emergency alerts. Mrs. Comer stated that the flyer was up on the Town's Facebook page.
- B) Councilor Staigmiller asked if there was any funding to fix the lagoon. Mrs. Comer stated that DNRC, MCEP, and Rural Development usually have grant and loan funding available for projects. She added that they could check with the engineers to see if the lagoon would qualify for emergency funding since the UV system has not worked properly from the beginning and there were many other issues that needed to be addressed.
- C) Councilor Brown said he was still hearing complaints about the potholes and weeds in the streets. He asked about the process for removing abandoned or junk vehicles. Chuck Dale stated that they would be filling potholes next week and they sprayed some of the weeds in streets. Chuck said that the county should be called for the abandoned and junk vehicles. The fire department has called several times to have the vehicles removed after fire training but no one ever showed up. It was a big problem to get someone to show up to remove the vehicles. Councilor Staigmiller suggested calling the county commissioners to see if they could help.

D) Councilor Dauwalder said he received huge praise for the way the pool was run this summer. This person had interaction at the pool several times and was so impressed, she submitted a letter to the editor to the Sun Times. The story should run in the paper within the next week or two.

Approval of Monthly Claims: Councilor Brown made a motion and Councilor Staigmiller seconded the approval of claims 965794-965795 (contractor pay app #3) for \$475,950.00; claims 965833-965834 (contractor pay app #4) for \$459,886.02; and claims 965796 through 965850 (not including 965833-964834) for \$76,358.51. 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 7:06 p.m.

The next regular Town Council meeting will be Wednesday, October 18, 2023, at 6:30 pm in the Town Office.

Ronald Dauwalder, Council President

ATTEST:

Tammy L. Comer, Clerk/Treasurer