

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

MARCH 7, 2023

6:00

NOTE TO PERSONS REVIEWING THIS DOCUMENT: THIS IS NOT A VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT. WHILE AN ATTEMPT HAS BEEN MADE TO DOCUMENT PERTINENT POINTS, THESE MINUTES CONTAIN ONLY A SUMMARY OF THE DISCUSSION AND VOTING

Mayor Valerie Rogers called the March 7 2023 regular council meeting to order at 6:00 at the Community Center.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Town Council members present were Alisha Anderson, Brady Collinson, Steven Walk, David Rafferty and Emily Thomas.

Others present were Richie Brower, Richard Ralidis, Diane and Brian Kooyman, Justin Gust and Cheryl Loeffler.

Richie Brower Fairfield Food-Co-Op & Garden Grant

Richie Brower came to council to present some ideas for the AARP Community Challenge Grant. This would be in addition to the Innovia Grant for the Co-op and Community Garden. These proposals could keep improving Fairfield's appearance and to help those struggling with food insecurities.

Community Mower Maintenance clinic – A one day clinic in the park where residents could bring their mowers for basic maintenance, - oil change, carburetor cleaning, spark plug and air filter replacement, blade sharpening. We would bring in at least one small engine professional and as many volunteers as possible. The grant money would go for parts, materials, and to give the professional something for their time. The pro would bring a truck or trailer with parts and supplies. The vision is a 4 to 6-hour clinic in a location where we have parking, and power. HopeBuilders from Upper Columbia Academy has some experience with this. We would have to do some research to locate the small engine mechanic.

Senior Yard Beautification Assistance – Seniors in Fairfield could apply to the town for an assistance grant to purchase perennial flowers and shrubs for their yards. The town would offer a selection of flowers, bulbs, and shrubs. Seniors could put in their order (up to a certain value). The town would make a bulk purchase and the plants would be installed by volunteers (HopeBuilders and others). Annuals would not be part of the grant... because perennials provide longer lasting value to the yards and town.

Senior Yard Maintenance Assistance – Seniors in Fairfield could apply to the town for an assistance grant. The town would then award grants for mowing services. The ideal plan would be for the town to partner with a local young person to do the work on a regular basis (win for young and old!) The proper channel for paying the mowing service would have to be figured out. Depending on yard size, a lawn could be mowed for \$20 each time. Eight mowings in a season would be \$320. That would allow the community to fund 15 yards! Another option would be to offer ten (10) yard grants for mowing and then use the extra funds to pay for pruning, chipping and yard clean up. This would provide a win for homeowners, young entrepreneurs, and the community as a whole.

Ariane Schmidt – Broadband

Ms. Schmidt had a family emergency and had to cancel tonight's presentation on the Broadband grant. She is tentatively rescheduled to April 4th.

Public Comments

- *no immediate action has to be taken on public comments. If action/follow-up is required, said action/follow-up can be placed on the next meeting's agenda.*

Mayor Rogers received a phone call from Don Harris, requesting that the flag that is in front of the community center be replaced. His grandson has brought in a new flag to town hall recently. Valerie will ask Devin if public works will be able to hang the flag in the near future.

Old Business

Revisit fire district invitation

No updates from the district.

New Business

Fairfield Improvement Board

Fusion Seed at 506 North 1st Street is located within the flood plain and in the critical area zone. In 2017, they were allowed to have a temporary building placed. They are now beginning to research replacing that building with a permanent two-story building in the same location. They met with the Improvement Board but no recommendations were made due to the questions regarding the location to Rattler's Run Creek and the setbacks. The Improvement Board is asking the council to research the option of a variance for setback from creek so a new building can be built in same location as current building. With the building in the flood plain, a flood plain permit would need to be issued. The Department of Natural Resources has designated Rattler's Run Creek as an "F" (fish) which brings on more regulations. We have reached out to Terry Ottosen who recommended bringing in DNR and Flood Plains to consult on this project. Cheryl will contact Spokane County to find out about allowing for a variance of the setbacks along a creek.

OPMA Training

The council completed the [Open Public Meetings Act training \(OPMA acities.org\)](https://www.opma.org/) at tonight's meeting. Cheryl will print each certificate of completion and report the training to RMSA.

Public Works

Sewer

- WW Samples going in this week.

Streets

Parks

- Looking into options for restrooms and pickleball court.

Water

- Bacteria sample going in this week.

General

An Example of a Regular Task: Safety Meetings (10 Min.)

Safety Meetings are how we begin each week, done typically in the morning and lasting no longer than 10 minutes. These meetings are done by staff or through another source such as a video or article. We do safety meetings to ensure our staff know how to properly and safely perform the duties that the public works department must accomplish. Safety is a priority for us to keep our employees at work and healthy. These safety meetings vary week to week with different topics designed to both educate employees of safety on specific items and in general. These meetings may also serve the purpose of providing employees topics for thought and discussion. At most of our meetings all participants have something to contribute to the topic, this is great to see people showing interest and participation in the safety of everyone, these topics are often even brought up later in the week through casual discussion. The last week of each month a monthly safety review is done as our safety meeting. At this review we go over everything we have discussed throughout the week as well as any safety issues, or hazards that anyone has seen. This is done as an open forum where all participants have an equal opportunity to participate and contribute to the discussion. This has proven to be a very useful tool for active participation in safety meetings, this is important because safety is everyone's responsibility.

Department/Council Report

Alisha Anderson gave her report for the parks of Fairfield. It is attached at the end of the minutes.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the Minutes from February 21, 2023 regular council meeting

ACTION

Steven Walk moved and Alisha Anderson seconded to approve the minutes of February 21, 2023 regular council meeting as read. The motion was approved 5-0.

Approval of Claims

ACTION

Emily Thomas moved and David Rafferty seconded to approve the March 7, 2023 claims with EFTs for \$13,980.70 and checks numbered 21200-21222 for \$221,413.55. The motion was approved 5-0. Check #21222 was voided due to printing error.

	03-07-2023
Claims	\$220,202.67
Payroll	15,191.58
Total Paid	\$235,394.25

Signed by Steven Walk, Alisha Anderson, David Rafferty and Emily Thomas

Other

Compliments/Complaints

- Thanks to the guys for filling potholes on Jackson Street.
- David Rafferty commented that when he leaves for work around 6:00 am, public works has already been out plowing and he really appreciates their efforts to keep the streets drivable.

Dates to Remember

March 9th

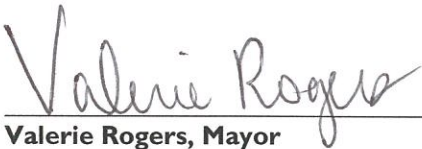
HCDAC Meeting afternoon

Executive session RCW 42.30.110

- (f) To receive and evaluate complaints or charges brought against a public officer or employee.

The mayor called for a 2-minute recess at 7:10 and will then go into executive session to receive and evaluate complaints or charges brought against a public officer or employee at 7:12 on. They will be in session approximately 15 minutes with no action taking place. At 7:27, Mayor Rogers came out to report that they will be continue with the executive session for approximately 20 more minutes.

The executive session ended at 7:45 and the regular meeting was immediately adjourned.


Valerie Rogers, Mayor


Cheryl Loeffler, Clerk/Treasurer