

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

MAY 2, 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 May 2, 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 Brady Collinson, David Rafferty and Emily Thomas.

Others present were Julie & Bruce Widman, Bandy York, Deputy Chris Gunter and Debbie Cato; Diane Kooyman, Anthony and Leah Schurr, Bill Enzler, Amanda Blood, Richard Ralidis, Devin Billington and Cheryl Loeffler.

Excuse any council absences

Emily Thomas moved and David Rafferty seconded to excuse Alisha Anderson from tonight's council meeting due to family commitments. The motion was approved 3-0.

Guests

Bruce and Julie Widman-Annexation on South Railroad Avenue

Bruce and Julie Widman have parcels #52193.0097 and #42244.9013, the latter of which lies outside town limits. They have submitted a request to annex the county property into the Town of Fairfield. They will be building a home on the properties and wish to eliminate problems with structures and septic overlapping parcel lines. The properties are within the growth management area. Cheryl will make some phone calls and determine the next steps to take. These properties are located at the south end of the town limits commonly known as the "McGregor property".

Bandy York-Potential Farmer's Market

Bandy York presented a plan for a farmer's market in Fairfield. It could be set up in the park for the best exposure, weather permitting. A preliminary Facebook post had 14 different vendors showing interest in participating. She has sample vendor participation documents and Cheryl had the RMSA requirements. The liability insurance is the biggest hurdle. Cheryl will reach out to RMSA with one of the sample documents to determine the liability insurance the vendors will need to have. Valerie will also check with Cami Smith, who is starting a farmer's market in Spangle how her market is insured. One way to generate interest could be to have the vendor fee be used for a specific youth-oriented activity. Bandy suggested Wednesday and to begin the first Wednesday of June, doing one a month the first month and then expanding to at least twice a month or weekly the further into summer.

A market Facebook page will be started with pertinent information for the vendors.

Spokane County Sheriff's Deputies

Deputy Chris Gunter and Deputy Ian Bailey were not on the agenda but came to tonight's meeting to discuss the ongoing situation at 306 E Norton. There have been sheriffs down to that address almost every night for about a week and have finally been able to connect with the property owner. She states that she is willing to evict the people that are in the house, which should alleviate many of the issues.

The deputies also discussed the town's nuisance ordinance and the way it is currently written, the town has the authority to enforce complaints and the sheriff's department could only step in if there were repetitive nuisance complaints without any corrective action, the complaints could then move into a more criminal status. Nothing can be done by either the town or the sheriff's department without the official complaint signed and submitted to the town. The complaint does not have to be made by a neighbor. Ordinance 334-A states that the Improvement Board can begin investigating after a written complaint from any neighbor, person, citizen, or other source, or becoming aware that a nuisance may exist.

If you would like a copy of the Nuisance Ordinance, please contact town hall. Nothing can get done without the signed official complaint.

Old Business

Street signs for Skyview

At the previous council meeting, the request for the two signs was misinterpreted. The mayor asked Cheryl to contact Kayla Logan to verify her request. The Dead-End sign would be placed at the intersection of Skyview and Wernz Avenue and the Children at Play could be placed anywhere in the Wernz addition. The population in that development has changed recently which prompted the request for the children at play sign. There was discussion about both signs.

ACTION

Emily moved to approve the placement of a Dead-End sign at the intersection of Wernz and Skyview Avenues; seconded by David Rafferty. The motion was approved 3-0.

Broadband Interlocal Agreement

ACTION

Emily moved to approve the Interlocal Agreement with THE SPOKANE REGIONAL BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY REGARDING necessary OPEN ACCESS broadband infrastructure, services delivery enhancements and digital equity solutions, seconded by David Rafferty. The motion was approved 3-0.

Town Clean up

The appearance of the town has been brought to the council's attention by some people driving through town but was not presented as a formal complaint. This sparked the conversation about providing a location where residents could dispose of the items in their yards or garbage at little or no fee. Valerie has contacted the Tekoa town staff on how they handled their clean-up day. Whitman County offers one week of disposal fees at half price. The dumpster was available for set hours and staffed with volunteers. A list of approved items was also given to each resident. The dumpster was pulled a day early because it filled too quickly. More research will be done. Both Brady and Cheryl have reached out to the county for information on any kind of assistance they could provide to get this program running. Cheryl will contact Empire Disposal to verify their fees for dumpsters and we will look into any type of funding available to help defray the cost of putting on this type of event. With all the unknowns, the event would happen after Flag Day but could promote this and get the residents excited beforehand to get their properties cleaned up.

There will be a tire collection day on May 20th paid for by the county and Dept of Ecology.

Vacant council position

Valerie suggests waiting to appoint someone to fill the seat vacated when Steven Walk resigned until she contacts Mary Sparks and Diane Kooyman. She would like to find out if they are planning to declare their candidacy to be on the November ballot. Both Mary and Diane had submitted their letters of intent for a previously open council seat.

Interest Survey

The Pathfinder Outreach Fair is coming to the campus of Upper Columbia Academy May 19 -21 and Richie Brower would like to have Pathfinders in Fairfield, going door to door that Saturday afternoon and conducting the interest survey. The council suggested asking people if they would need some assistance in order for them to participate in activities such as the clean-up day and to ask if they would be interested in volunteering and what types of activities they would like to see in town.

New Business

Retirement Audit

Due to time constraints, this was tabled until the May 16 meeting.

Hardship Grant

A utility hardship application was submitted by the owner of account #1830. They are asking for the full \$500.

ACTION

Emily moved to approve a \$500 utility hardship grant to account #1830; seconded by David. The motion was approved 3-0.

Cheryl was advised to include a reminder to the owner of this account that the only approved payment methods for their utility payments will be cashier checks, electronic payments, money orders or cash. Personal checks will be returned.

Flag Day

The discussion was brief about Flag Day tonight due to the length of the council meeting and some of the Service Club members leaving before we got to their agenda time. The updates will be moved to the next meeting.

Public Works

Sewer

- Wastewater samples will be coming this week.
- Brady Collinson toured our WWTF Thank you Brady for coming out and learning about what we do.

Streets

- We are sweeping the town's sidewalks, please sweep the sidewalks surrounding your property to keep our town looking nice.
- We are out grading roads. Gravel will be added to needed areas after we get the initial grading done.
- Street sweepers will be going through town soon.

Parks

- The baseball backstop has been moved to the new diamond; we will be putting in supports and fastening fence appropriately. Thank you to Jeff Sainsbury of Fly Fab for donating your time with the supports on the backstop.
- Park restrooms, RV dump, and water at baseball field has been turned on for the year.
- Mowing has started.

Water

- We are converting meters to new meters, be on the lookout for door hangers when your meter is swapped.
- New remote installed in Well #5 for SCADA system.

An Example of a Regular Task Mowing (45 HRS/Week.)

Although this is a simple task to mow the lawns, Fairfield has a lot of grassy areas causing it to be time consuming. We mowed the well houses, reservoirs, Theil Park, Hart Park, Hahner's Field, The Pit, museum, library, community center, WWTF cemetery and the roadsides. For the most part in spring all areas are mowed weekly but we may reduce the frequency of mowing based on need later in the year as not all areas are being watered or growing as fast. Last year Fairfield also picked up the contract to mow the cemetery. This has proven to be beneficial to both parties as Fairfield generates some revenue going into our equipment replacement fund, and the cemetery is mowed for a reasonable rate.

Department/Council Reports

Streets—David Rafferty

The street report will be moved to the next meeting due to the length of this meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the Minutes from April 18, 2023 regular council meeting

ACTION

Emily Thomas moved and Brady Collinson seconded to approve the April 18, 2023 regular council meeting minutes as read. The motion was approved 3-0.

Approval of Claims

ACTIONS

David Rafferty and Emily Thomas seconded to approve the May 2, 2023 claims with EFTs for \$5,721.63 and checks numbered 21259-21275 for \$12,529.03 The motion was approved 3-0.

	05-02-2023
Claims	\$8,008.73
Payroll	10,241.93
Total Paid	\$18,250.66

Signed by Brady Collinson and Emily Thomas

Dates to Remember

May 10

Cheryl has eye dr. appointment

Adjourn

Emily moved to adjourn at 8:57 pm.

Valerie Rogers, Mayor

Cheryl Loeffler, Clerk/Treasurer