



Town of Fairfield

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
November 21, 2023
6:00 P.M.
COMMUNITY CENTER

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.

Opening:

Mayor Valerie Rogers called the regular council meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Town Council members present were Brady Collinson, Diane Kooyman, David Rafferty, and Emily Thomas.

Others present were Cynthia Davidson, Debbie Cato, Richard Ralidis, Amanda Blood, Christine Tindall, Derek Fitzpatrick, Devin Billington, and Jared Harward.

Excusals:

Alisha Anderson was absent due to a family event

-ACTION-

Emily Thomas moved to excuse Alisha, and Brady Collinson seconded. The motion passed 4-0.

Correspondence/Guests:

John Corey was very pleased with how the Veterans Day Program went. He's very enthusiastic about making it bigger and better in the future. Future events for Veterans and Memorial Days will be headed up by John with the support of the Fairfield Service Club.

For the 2024 Memorial Day celebration they are planning to have it in Thiel park (weather permitting) and will use the "mobile wall". Food will include: hotdogs, potato salad, and homemade rootbeer. The program they are working on will include a possible special guest speaker, more background information and stories about those being honored, the firetruck with the flag hanging from the ladder, and a coloring contest for the kids.

For the 2024 Veterans Day program the service club would like to take part in a program sponsored by the USO to have kids make thank you cards and crafts to send to soldiers and their families.

Engineer's Report:

A recommendation was made from Century West to accept the project, and approve the second progress payment.

-ACTION-

Emily Thomas made a motion to accept, and David Rafferty seconded. The motion passed 4-0.

Public Hearing - Resolution 2023-03 2024 PROPERTY TAX LEVY:

Public Hearing was opened at 6:30 pm by Mayor Valerie Rogers.

Citizen asked: "What will the 1% increase be used for?"

Mayor Rogers: "The money will go into our general fund to be utilized as needed by the Town of Fairfield."

Public Hearing was closed at 6:37 pm by Mayor Rogers.

-ACTION-

Emily Thomas motioned to pass Resolution 2023-03 2024 PROPERTY TAX LEVY, and was seconded by David Rafferty. Motion passed 4-0.

Public Hearing - 2024 PRELIMINARY BUDGET:

Mayor Valerie Rogers opened the public hearing at 6:43 pm.

Concern was expressed by council members regarding the budget shortfall, increases in liability insurance, and the increased cost for EMS services.

Potential solutions discussed were: taking on Empire Waste billing contract, and additional tax through cell phone services. Breaking down costs into specific budget categories, allocating time by town workers to specific budget categories, and increased utilization of the Community Center as a rental income stream.

There was also some discussion on making additional payments to the sewer loan.

Service Club member Amanda Blood requested additional funds for the Christmas tree lighting ceremony to be held December 3rd, for hot chocolate and refreshments.

Public Hearing was closed at 7:43 pm by Mayor Rogers.

-ACTION-

Emily Thomas made a motion to approve \$200 for this purpose to be pulled from the Summer/Fall activities fund. Brady Collinson seconded, and the motion passed 4-0.

Old Business:

Kayla Billington was able to get an additional email address for a better deal than originally anticipated. This email will be dedicated solely to public record requests. Once the email is set up and ready to go, notices will be sent out via the digital bulletin, newsletter, and Facebook advertising how that will work.

New Business:

None listed.

Public Works:

Sewer: Sewer samples this week.

Sewer plug Fairweather and Brewster - resolved.

Streets: Grading.

Parks:

Water: Water samples this week.

Public Works (continued):

General:

PSA: We are fortunate here in Fairfield where we have the luxury of dependable water and sewer services provided to us every day. Most of us probably give little to no thought about where our waste goes after we flush the toilet, take a shower, or use a sink. A large portion of why this is possible for us to not give second thought to this is due to our Public Works Crew providing constant routine maintenance and repair to our collection and treatment system and facilities. The collection system is the various diameter pipes that span the towns boundaries in a grid like pattern taking all the towns waste from each home and business and allowing it to flow to the North end of town to our treatment facility where everything may be processed and treated. The collection system, although a fairly simple system, can require a lot of work in order to properly maintain it. Routine maintenance such as inspections and flushing happen on a rotation and problematic areas of the system may be addressed more frequently than others. These inspections and maintenance help to prevent plugs and backups from occurring. The inspections also assist the Town in making educated decisions as to where the next sewer project should occur in order to best utilize funds for upgrades and large maintenance to the system. As the weather gets colder the collection system in any sewer system is prone to more problems and potential issues. This is due to many factors. One of the leading causes of these potential problems is grease build up in the lines. With the cold season holidays and people typically being inside more eating hardy type foods, a lot of excess grease may be flushed down the drains. When grease is warm it will easily flush down your drains as a liquid, however as the grease cools down it can solidify and stick to the pipes raising the potential significantly for a plug to occur in our collection system. It has the potential to increase the amounts of "sludge" that goes through our lines as well; this can cause issues with plugs as well as causing issues further down the line in our treatment facility. The Town Public Works Staff does our best to stay on top of this to prevent these issues from occurring. You can help by doing your best to dispose of grease through other means and not dumping down the drains. This will increase the efficiency of our collection system saving time and expense.

Department/Council Reports:

None to report this week.

Approval of Minutes:

-ACTION-

Emily Thomas moved to approve the November 7, 2023 council minutes as read; seconded by David Rafferty. Motion passed 4-0.

Claims:

Brady Collinson moved and David Rafferty seconded to approve the claims for November 21, 2023 with EFTs for \$2,788.44 and checks numbered 21453-21466. The motion was approved 4-0.

Date	11/21/2023
Claims	\$30,526.49
Payroll	\$7,603.92
Total Paid	\$38,130.41

Signed by Brad Collinson, David Rafferty, and Emily Thomas.

Compliments, Concerns and Complaints:

None to report this week.

Dates to Remember:

November 22-26, 2023: Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

December 2, 2023: Old Fashioned Christmas

December 3, 2023: Christmas tree lighting ceremony in Thiel park.

December 5, 2023: Public Hearing for final budget

December 9, 2023: Christmas movie in the Community Center

December 19, 2023: Public Hearing for 2024 budget amendments

December 25, 2023: Closed for Christmas Day

January 1, 2024: Closed for New Years Day

Closing:

Brady Collinson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 pm.

Valerie Rogers, Mayor



Cheryl Loeffler, Clerk/Treasurer