

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 4, 2025 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

Mayor David Rafferty called the regular council meeting to order at 6:00 pm and opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Council members present were Alisha Anderson, Brady Collinson, Bill Enzler, and Amanda Blood. Others present were Bryan Hicks, Terry Phillips, Jason Seehorn, Scott Hennessey, Donovan Chase, Chris & Rachel Davis, Devin Billington, and Jared Harward.

Excusal of Council Absences

Josh Boyd had to cover for his law-enforcement partner on the reservation and as such was not in attendance.

ACTION

Amanda Blood moved to excuse Josh from tonight's council meeting; this was seconded by Alisha Anderson. Motion passed 4 – 0.

Correspondence and/or Guest

Bryan Hicks presented a federal funding opportunity through the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG). Possible project ideas included sidewalk repair or extension of the sidewalk on Prairie View for 3 blocks (Devin's preference). Funds can only be used on appropriately classified streets (Main, Railroad, Ticknor, Hamilton, Prairie View, etc.). The completed application is due April 4th, with the initial review by March 7th. Bryan will begin the application process and coordinate with Jared on getting everything submitted.

Donovan Chase from WiFiber presented a proposal to put an 8' x 8' "hut" on town property immediately behind the maintenance shop next to the propane tank. They would have Avista put in a proprietary pole and meter for providing power to the structure and it would act as the Fairfield hub for WiFiber and other ISPs as the fiber infrastructure is established through the Broadline program. WiFiber would be in charge of keeping the structure and surrounding area clean and presentable. Jared will send the proposal to be looked over by the town lawyer and the council will review at a future meeting.

Public Comments

Jason Seehorn and Scott Hennessey spoke on the subject of recent flooding due to the recent change in the weather. They expressed concern over property loss and damage, safety issues for local residents and customers, and the erosion happening under SR27 in front of their businesses. Devin explained that historically it has been difficult to keep the ditches and canal through Thiel Park clear due to overbearing policies from the Department of Ecology and Spokane Riverkeepers. Jared and Devin will investigate potential solutions and workarounds.

Terry Phillips reported on tentative plans for Flag Day 2025, with the wrestling being moved into the park to allow for additional vendor space. The gap between the day's activities and dance will be removed to encourage people to stick around. Service Club is also considering moving the dance from the Shop to the Gazebo. Terry will share additional details at a future council meeting.

Old Business

JUB – Qualification Update

Layne Merritt and Alison Tompkins were both hit hard with the respiratory and flu bugs going around and it set their schedules back a week. They are continuing to work with other departments at JUB to get their qualifications updated on the MRSC Rosters. Jared will continue to consult with Melissa from Commerce to make sure the RFQ meets all necessary requirements.

Utility Billing

The last 2-month period bill officially went out on March 4th along with the 2025 utility schedule calendar. There has been a lot of positive response from residents about the new monthly billing schedule. The office will order additional envelopes for the increased supply need.

Payment Plan – Delinquent Accounts Review

The council reviewed those utility accounts that have more than 2 months owing. Town Hall will be enforcing late fees and the shutoff policy more strictly going forward if accounts are not kept current. Delinquent accounts still have until May 1st (per council decision) to come in and set up a payment plan.

New Business

Employee Handbook Updates

The council reviewed the suggested changes to policies concerning insurance, authorized credit card amounts, and response to EMS calls by town personnel.

ACTION

BillENZler moved to not adjust Alex Fuchs payrate following successful completion of his second probationary period; this was seconded by Amanda Blood. The motion passed 4 – 0.

ACTION

Alisha Anderson moved to approve the 2025 changes to the employee handbook; this was seconded by BillENZler. The motion passed 4 – 0.

1st Interstate – Account Permission Changes

ACTION

Brady Collinson moved to approve the following account changes for the Town of Fairfield's bank accounts held at First Interstate Bank, removing Cheryl Loeffler from any and all accounts and as an authorized signatory, and instate Rachel Davis, as Deputy Clerk, in her place; this was seconded by Alisha Anderson. The motion passed 4 – 0.

Deputy Clerk Hours

ACTION

BillENZler moved to increase the Deputy Clerk's hours from 16 to 20 hours per week for a 3-month period; this was seconded by Alisha Anderson. The motion passed 4 – 0.

Public Works

Sewer:

Flooding through town.

* Not unique to Fairfield/happened throughout the region.

* Business and Resident concerns can be mailed to: publicworks@fairfieldwa.com

* WWTF took on the excess flow and handled it well.

Streets:

Parks:

As the weather warms up the park bathrooms and RV dump site will be opened up soon.

Water:

Working with RMSA on SWAMP to update plan.

Updating inventory for the town's water system.

Applying for SRF to assist financially in solving the intermittent air issue in the wells.

General:

Community Center ARPA Repairs;

Women's restroom project has been completed, Jared will have updated cost figures for next council meeting.

An Example of a Regular Task:

Approval of Minutes

ACTION

Amanda Blood moved to approve the minutes from the council meeting on February 18, 2025; this was seconded by Alisha Anderson. The motion passed 4 – 0.

Approval of Claims

ACTION

Amanda Blood moved, and Alisha Anderson seconded to approve the (corrected) February 18, 2025 claims with EFTs in the total amount of \$4,538.46 and checks numbered 21904 – 21909 for \$64,951.28. This motion was approved 5 – 0.

Date	02-18-2025
Claims	\$62,905.09
Payroll	\$6,584.65
Total Paid	\$69,489.74

Check register signed by Alisha Anderson, BillENZler, and Amanda Blood.

ACTION

Alisha Anderson moved, and BillENZler seconded to approve the March 4, 2025 claims with EFTs in the total amount of \$4,445.44 and checks numbered 21910 – 21920 for \$14,525.95. This motion was approved 4 – 0.

Date	03-04-2025
Claims	\$12,633.03
Payroll	\$6,336.36
Total Paid	\$18,971.39

Check register signed by Amanda Blood, BillENZler, and Alisha Anderson.

Compliments, Concerns and Complaints

Mayor Rafferty complimented Town Hall on the progress they've made so far getting utilities switched over to monthly billing and getting the office more organized, and Public Works for their management of the flooding issues.

Dates to Remember

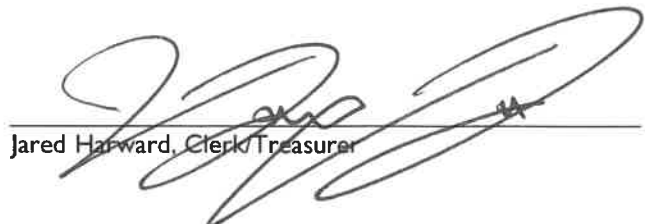
Family Bingo – Service Club	March 29
Pastor Debbie's Final Service	March 30
Declaration of candidacy	May 5

Adjourn

Brady Collinson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 pm.



David Rafferty, Mayor



Jared Harward, Clerk/Treasurer