

**CITY OF FARMINGTON  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
AUGUST 14, 2023**

The Farmington City Council met for their regular monthly meeting on Monday August 14, 2023, at Farmington City Hall. Mayor Kevin Denly called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. Council members present for roll call were, Taylor Diephuis, Michael Browning, Stephen Gobush, Richard Burkett and Tim Halbrook. Also present during the meeting were Deputy City Clerk, Becky Fry; Maintenance Superintendent, Bryan Huff; Park Manager, April Smith; Fire Department personnel, Jacob Drummond, Ken Mercer and Kerby Fry, and guest Jenn Hoskin.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion was made by Halbrook to approve the Agenda, seconded by Diephuis and carried 5-0. Motion by Browning to approve minutes of regular meeting of July 10, 2023, and work session of July 25, 2023. Motion was seconded by Gobush and carried 5-0. Browning made a motion to approve the Financial Reports, seconded by Gobush and carried 5-0. Motion by Browning to approve the Claims. Motion was seconded by Gobush and carried 5-0.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

Gobush made a motion, seconded by Browning to open the scheduled Public Hearing for review of sealed bids received with regard to the proposed sale of property owned by the City of Farmington. Motion carried 5-0. Mayor Denly opened the Public Hearing at 6:05 P.M. There were two sealed bids for the real estate located at 202 South 5th Street which the Council reviewed. After discussion, Halbrook made a motion to close the Public Hearing and Diephuis seconded the motion. Roll call: Diephuis-AYE; Browning-AYE; Gobush- AYE; Burkett-AYE; Halbrook-AYE. Motion carried 5-0. Public Hearing was closed at 6:10 P.M.

RESOLUTION 2023-17- Resolution Approving the Sale of Real Estate. Motion was made by Browning seconded by Halbrook to approve Resolution 2023-17 to sell, transfer and convey by Quit Claim Deed the property located at 202 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street to Kenny Denly for the sum of \$3,500.00. Roll Call: Diephuis-AYE; Browning-AYE; Gobush- AYE; Burkett-AYE; Halbrook-AYE. Motion carried 5-0.

Council reviewed an Application for Building Permit submitted by Bill Tade for a wheel chair ramp. Gobush made a motion to approve the Application, seconded by Browning. Motion carried 5-0. Council also reviewed a request from Robert Luth with regard to removal of trash cans from an apartment complex and request was denied due to City Ordinance.

Library report was reviewed. It was brought to the Council's attention that the Library debit card is not working out well for bookkeeping purposes and it was suggested that the debit card be discontinued and the Council authorize a credit card for the library. After discussion, Halbrook made a motion to discontinue use of the library debit card and to approve obtaining a credit card for the library with a \$500.00 limit. Browning seconded the motion and motion carried 4-1 with Gobush opposing.

Jenn Hoskin from the Arts Council advised that the back door area of the building utilized by the Arts Council needs some work. Council asked that 319 Construction look into the matter.

Jacob Drummond from the Fire Department advised Mayor and Council that his term was up as Fire Chief and that the Fire Department members had elected Kerby Fry as the new chief, pending City Council approval. He advised that he had enjoyed his term as chief, that Fry had the qualifications needed and that he would remain with the department. Browning made a motion to appoint Kerby Fry as Fire Chief of the Farmington Fire Department and thanked Drummond for having served as Chief. Motion was seconded by Gobush and carried 5-0. Ken Mercer discussed information that had been received with regard to the emergency whistle. He was asked to look further into grants available. It was also noted that the equipment approved by the FEMA grant had been received and that a request for disbursement of funds had been made to FEMA. Gobush made a motion to authorize payment of the invoice for the equipment as soon as the FEMA funds were received. Browning seconded the motion and motion carried 5-0.

Park Manager April Smith advised Council that the park did not receive the grant they had applied for, informed them that a second quote had been submitted for the back electric and updated Council on fundraisers and upcoming events. She also updated on maintenance issues and informed them that 6 picnic tables had been ordered from the prison. April requested permission to purchase Bluegrass Festival/park t-shirts for resale during the Bluegrass Festival. Gobush made a motion to approve the purchase of festival t-shirts for resale during the festival, with purchase made from the park activity fund. Diephuis seconded the motion and motion carried 5-0. April also advised that multiple requests have been made for Indian Lake Park t-shirts and she currently has very few on hand. Halbrook made a motion to approve ordering Indian Lake Park t-shirts and koozies for resale, seconded by Diephuis. Motion carried 5-0. April updated Council on recent issues with the air conditioner in the manager's residence and repairs that needed to be completed as a result, a window that needed repair and the condition of the deck. April will contact the appropriate people for the repair caused by the air conditioner and the window. Council will review the deck situation at a later time. Council asked that inquiry be made through the insurance company as to whether any of the damage may be covered by insurance.

Maintenance Superintendent Bryan Huff advised Council that he had met with Brian Jenkins with regard to the Ash tree on 5<sup>th</sup> Street. He was quoted \$250 to clean the tree up or \$450 to remove the tree. Burkett made a motion to have the tree removed, seconded by Browning. Motion carried 5-0. He also advised that the lawn mower was in for repairs and he had not heard back from them. Mayor Denly advised that he would be in contact with Armstrong. Bryan was also asked to check the sign areas around 5<sup>th</sup> and Walnut and around 4<sup>th</sup> and Tremont. Council inquired as to the status of meters and Bryan advised that he had two yet to complete; however, one was going to need a pit. Halbrook made a motion to order the pit needed so that installation could be completed. Browning seconded the motion and motion carried 5-0. Halbrook also made a motion to get the post office building on a rotation schedule with Cullen Post for spraying. Burkett seconded the motion and motion carried 5-0.

RESOLUTION 2023-18 – Resolution Approving Annual Financial Report for FY 2023. Motion made by Halbrook, seconded by Gobush to approve Resolution 2023-18 – a resolution to approve and adopt the City of Farmington's Annual Financial Report from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. Roll Call: Diephuis-AYE; Browning-AYE; Gobush- AYE; Burkett-AYE; Halbrook-AYE. Motion carried 5-0.

RESOLUTION 2023-19- Resolution Authorizing Transfers. Motion was made by Halbrook seconded by Burkett to approve Resolution 2023-19 – a resolution transferring \$25,000 from

the water fund to the general fund and transferring Wildrose Park funds to the regular checking account. Roll Call: Diephuis-AYE; Browning-AYE; Gobush- AYE; Burkett-AYE; Halbrook-AYE. Motion carried 5-0.

Council reviewed the USDA Water and Waste System Grant Agreement. After discussion, Gobush made a motion to approve the Agreement and authorize Mayor Pro-Tem Browning and City Clerk Alisha Davidson to sign. Motion was seconded by Disphuis and carried 5-0.

Council reviewed utility rates of nearby towns and discussed plans of increase in water, sewer and trash rates. City Clerk was asked to prepare comparison information on various increases to present at next meeting, as well as proposed Ordinance amendments relating to the same.

Council discussed options presented by American Tower for a long-term easement. After discussion, Council asked that City Clerk present their concerns to the City Attorney and table the agreement until next meeting when more information was received.

Council was advised that Paystar Credit Card System is up and running and that customers would be advised of their options with the mailing of the next utility bills and on Facebook.

Halbrook inquired as to the length of time Front Street would be closed and was advised that it should be reopened within the week.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 P.M.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Mayor Date: \_\_\_ 08/16/23 \_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Deputy City Clerk Date: \_\_\_ 08/16/23 \_\_\_

## CLAIMS FOR APPROVAL AUGUST 14, 2023

ALLIANT ENERGY	\$ 31.49	ACCESS SYSTEMS	\$ 150.47
DNR	\$ 97.50	AFLAC	\$ 330.44
WELLMARK	\$ 1,220.24	ALISHA DAVIDSON	\$ 12.58
ACCESS ENERGY	\$ 44.32	ALLIANT ENERGY	\$ 2,956.58
DNR	\$ 43.00	AREA 15 REGIONAL PLANNING	\$ 301.08
VISA	\$ 192.14	B & B PROPANE	\$ 400.00
IOWA DEPT OF NAT RES	\$ 210.00	BECKY FRY	\$ 69.16
DNR	\$ 64.50	BRYAN HUFF	\$ 59.00
US POSTMASTER	\$ 127.50	CASEY'S GENERAL STORE	\$ 667.14
RATHBUN REGIONAL WATER	\$ 3,990.35	CESSFORD CONSTRUCTION	\$ 3,271.12
CAPITAL ONE	\$ 231.48	CULLEN PEST CONTROL	\$ 130.00
DNR	\$ 76.00	EFTPS	\$ 2,541.10
ADVANCED MERCHANT	\$ 204.67	FEHSEKE & GRAY LAW	\$ 157.50
VAN BUREN COUNTY REC	\$ 12.00	HUFFMAN'S FARM & HOME	\$ 117.98
DNR	\$ 43.00	IOWA DEPT OF REVENUE-SALES	\$ 502.82
JULY PAYROLL	\$ 8,769.41	IOWA DEPT OF REVENUE-WATER	\$ 73.64
<b>TOTAL PAID</b>	<b>\$ 15,357.60</b>	IOWA GEMT	\$ 306.93
		IOWA ONE CALL	\$ 1.80
		IOWA PRISON INDUSTRIES	\$ 182.60
		IPERS	\$ 1,860.13
		JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	\$ 565.59
		KEVIN DENLY	\$ 69.16
		LEAF	\$ 67.25
		LL PELLING CO	\$ 28,048.30
		MENARDS	\$ 667.82
		MICROBAC LABS	\$ 28.00
		MT HAMILL ELEVATOR & LUMB	\$ 204.00
		QUILL	\$ 479.77
		SHORTY'S PORTY'S	\$ 560.00
		STATE HYGIENIC LAB	\$ 195.50
		SOUTHERN IOWA ELECTRIC	\$ 2,140.78
		VAN BUREN COUNTY REGISTER	\$ 212.82
		WASKO HARDWARE	\$ 113.53
		WEMIGA	\$ 4,201.00
		WESTERCAMP LAWN CARE	\$ 650.00
		WILSON PAPER COMPANY	\$ 167.67
		WINDSTREAM	\$ 716.14
		<b>TOTAL TO BE PAID</b>	<b>\$ 53,179.40</b>