

## Minutes of the Regular Farmington City Council Meeting March 11th, 2019

The regular meeting of the Farmington City Council scheduled for Monday, March 11th, 2019 was called to order at 6:00 pm by Mayor Ernie Penn. City Clerk Kelly Penn called the roll and the following Council Members answered to their names: Sherry Mathews, Abigail Spinks, Linda Bell, Brenda Cunningham, Bobby Morgan, Diane Bryant and Shelly Parsley. Also present were City Business Manager Melissa McCarville and City Attorney Tennant. Council Member Lipford was absent. Mayor Penn led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Comments from Citizens –

Billy Carter, 13086 Bethel Blacktop – Mr. Carter stated he lived ½ mile from the city limits and he is speaking in opposition to the Elite Training Center that is going before the Washington County Quorum court. He asked that the Mayor and City Council Members attend the Quorum Court meeting March 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00pm to help the citizens oppose this change in zoning request. He said he is ready to be annexed into the city to be protected from things like this. He has been speaking with all the Quorum Court Members and they all said if the Mayor attends and speaks against it, that would go a long way to help them make a decision. Mr. Carter stated the points that he had regarding the opposition of this: It is in the City of Farmington growth area, its 2500 feet from the city limits. The conditional use is not in the best interest of the citizens, the property owners want to be annexed, this area is not supposed to be a commercial corridor, there is no infrastructure in place for that. He is asking the Mayor to vigorously oppose this at the meeting as well as the City Council members.

Martha DeVault – Bethel Blacktop - The density on her old homeplace has grown from 1 to 17 since she has lived there. This will adversely affect the quality of life to residents if commercial development is allowed. She read the council the letter she sent to the Quorum Court. She is opposed to this project and wants Mayor Penn to defend the citizens at the meeting. The residents have had many meetings informally but they do not want the Elite Training Academy there, it does not conform to county standards, nor would it comply with the city of Farmington. We need Mayor Penn and the City Council to come to the meeting and plead our case. Thank you all.

Billy Carter invited the Mayor and the City Council to attend the meeting Wednesday at 5:10 at the Patterson House with JP Eva Madison and the meeting Thursday at 9:30 with JP Washington at the Paterson House. The Patterson House address is 13042 Bethel Blacktop.

Mayor Penn said the city of Farmington was notified after the fact about the request for the project and rezoning. The area is residential/agricultural, not commercial. He has already sent a letter to the Quorum Court before the last meeting but they pretty much ignored it. We do not want spot zoning in our city or things that do not comply to our requirements in our growth area.

Clarence Robertson- 11758 East Creek Lane – Spoke regarding the potential flooding of his home. He stated he did not live in a flood plain; did not know he was in danger or that there had been 3 flood events in the last few years. Had he known he would not have bought this home. The 100- and 500-year flood happen more often. He would like the county and the city to look at this and come back with a plan and come back to the residents with answers.

Rachel Catlett - 11663 East Creek Lane – She experienced the 2017 flood and it was very scary. She gave the council members some pictures to look at. She never thought it would happen. She has several new neighbors because people have sold their homes and moved due to flooding. The new residents don't seem to be aware of the issues when they purchase their homes. Her damage was not approved by FEMA to get any assistance. What is the action plan? We feel unsafe, we have lots of ideas on why and what could be done.

Mayor Penn asked what do the residents that spoke tonight feel is the cause? Mr. Roberts said there needs to be more gutters, the creek overflows due to no maintenance. There is debris clogging the water flow and the field behind them contributes to the flooding also. Mayor Penn stated that the area is in its 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of 3 from the FEMA Flood survey. Once that is completed the residents may have some other avenues to get aid. Mayor Penn said the city is actively pursuing options to relieve the issues and diver the waterflow. Mayor Penn asked if there was a drainage ditch between the field and the resident's property. The residents were unsure.

Preston Oswald – 11651 East Creek Lane – The drain in front of his home was installed by Bates and Associates, but there needs to be more drains in the area. Maybe the ditches can be dug deeper to carry a heavier flow of water and that water is coming across the field to their property. He showed the Council a drawing he had made of the drains and where they are located in that area and said he remove the drain covers to see the flow direction. It looked like they flowed pipe to pipe to the creek.

Mayor Penn said he knew there was drainage collapse on the upper end of the subdivision and there was a lot of weakness. The subdivision was built and approved while in Washington County. Since it was annexed in the city, we have worked on many problems in that area.

Jim Duffy – 11324 Frisco Drive – East Creek, Bear Drive and the Meadowsweet are having issues that are causing their property values to decrease. The creek bridge area on Richmond Road is not being maintained properly.

Mayor Penn acknowledged the flooding in those areas as well as the failure to maintain the creek bridge area. The city has been in negotiations with the property owner of the creek area for over a year. The property owner stated in a public meeting that he was willing to do whatever needed to be done to help the flooding issues and wanted to be a good neighbor. We finally came to an agreement and the property owner refused to sign. City Attorney Tennant said the property owner was offered top dollar, far over market value for an easement and he refused and stated it was the people who lived there's problem not his. The area around the golf course is private property and the owner has forbidden the city to come on to the property to do any type of maintenance. Mayor Penn said they would have an engineer come out and look at possible solutions.

**Approval of the minutes for the February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Regular City Council Meeting.** On the motion of Council Member Bryant and a second by Council Member Morgan and by the consent of all Council Members present after a roll call vote, the minutes were approved as presented 7-0.

**Financial Reports** – Mayor Penn presented the financial reports.

**Entertain a motion to read all Ordinances and Resolutions by title only.** – There were no agenda items, so there was no need for passage.

**Proclamations, Special Announcements, Committee/Commission Appointments. Committee Reports** - Mayor Penn informed the City Council that the following people were being appointed to the Farmington Library Board; Betty Hummel, Linda Morrow, LaDenna Mullinix, Anita Sampley, Phyllis Shaw, Regina Sherwood and Jill Simpson. A motion was made by Council Member Bryant and seconded by Council Member Cunningham to approve the appointments to the Farmington Library Board. After a roll call vote, it was approved 7-0. The Fire Department Pancake Breakfast is March 23.

**Committee Reports** – All committee reports were included in the council packets.

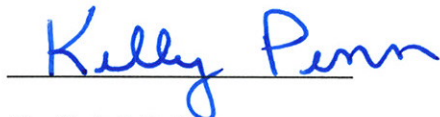
Old Business – None

New Business – None


Police Chief Hubbard introduced new officer Howard Bates. Public works Supervisor Shelley introduced new employee Tanner Denahm. Sports Complex Director Laurie Adkins informed the council we had 500 players enroll in the summer ball program and they would have approximately 42 teams. They are limiting tournaments this year, no back to back tournaments and Farmington groups are given preference first. After May there will be no tournaments in order for intensive field rejuvenation during the summer and fall to have the fields ready for next year. The fields are the best fields in the area, but given the heavy use in the past few years we need to do some things to keep it up to the standards we set when they were built.

There being no further business to come before the council and on the motion of Council Member Bryant and seconded by Council Member Cunningham and by the consent of all members present, the meeting adjourned at 7:03pm until the next regularly scheduled meeting to be held Monday, April 13th, 2019 at in the City Council Chambers in City Hall, located at 354 West Main Street, Farmington, Arkansas.

Approved;



City Clerk Kelly Penn



Mayor Ernie Penn