



Mayor Ernie Penn

City Attorney Jay Moore

City Clerk Kelly Penn

City Council Member Sherry Mathews
Ward 1 Position 1

Council Member Keith Lipford
Ward 2 Position 1

Council Member Brenda Cunningham
Ward 3 Position 1

Council Member Diane Bryant
Ward 4 Position 1

Council Member Hunter Carnahan
Ward 1 Position 2

Council Member Linda Bell
Ward 2 Position 2

Council Member Bobby Morgan
Ward 3 Position 2

Council Member Kara Gardenhire
Ward 4 Position 2

A meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on December 9, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Farmington City Hall, located at 354 West Main Street, Farmington Arkansas. Mayor Ernie Penn called the meeting to order.

PRESENT: Council Members Diane Bryant, Keith Lipford, Brenda Cunningham, Sherry Mathews, Hunter Carnahan, Linda Bell, Bobby Morgan, Kara Gardenhire, City Attorney Jay Moore, City Clerk Kelly Penn, City Business Manager Melissa McCarville, Press and Audience Members.

Pledge of Allegiance

Comments from Citizens – All comments will be taken under advisement with no action taken.

Sherry Wallis, 181 Ruth Street –Sherry was representing the residents on Louise and Green Street. They are concerned with the exit of the new car wash, they are a dead-end street with cul de sacs, without proper signage they are concerned about traffic and safety of children playing. They spoke with the project engineer, and he said there would be signs posted regarding the dead-end left turn. The signage is not there.

Approval of November 12, 2024, City Council Meeting Minutes

On the motion of Council Member Bryant and a second by Council Member Carnahan and by the consent of all Council Members present after a roll call vote, the minutes were approved as presented by a vote of 8-0.

Financial Reports

Mayor Penn presented the financial reports to the City Council. The monthly city sales tax increased by 1.078 %. The monthly state/county sales tax increased by 1.055 %.

Entertain a motion to read all Ordinances and Resolutions by title only.

On the motion of Council Member Cunningham and a second by Council Member Carnahan, and by the consent of all Council Members present after a roll call vote, the motion to read all Ordinances and Resolutions by title only was approved 8-0.

Proclamations, Special Announcements, Committee/Commission Appointments – City Clerk Penn advised the Council members their statements of financial interest reports have been handed out and they are due no later than January 31, 2025

Committee Reports – None.

Unfinished Business

Ordinance No. 2024-14 An Ordinance rezoning property on Wesley Stevens Road, From A-1 Agriculture to RE-2, Residential Estate as requested by Steven Church.

Mayor Penn asked for public comments, we had the following speakers.

Carolyn Gardner from Crafton & Tull was there to answer any questions regarding the project.

Craig Hardin, 4790 Plymouth Rock Road – Mr. Hardin is a property owner, he had concerns regarding how the agenda item was titled as unfinished business. City Clerk Penn explained the item was tabled at the last meeting, there was no action taken, so it comes back before the council as unfinished business to be voted on. He had concerns with the drainage and requested city staff send him a copy of the drainage manual electronically. He also thought the zoning did not fit the area. He wants to make a formal request for the survey of the property to make sure it matches his survey. Who will be responsible for relocating water lines and utilities?

Council Member Bell asked Planning Commissioner Norm Topping if the zoning request met the criteria for the area and did it fit? He said yes it did.

A motion was made by Council Member Bell and seconded by Council Member Morgan to suspend the rules and place Ordinance No. 2024-14 City Attorney Moore reads Ordinance No. 2024-14 by title only. Mayor Penn asked, "Shall the Ordinance pass?" After a roll call vote the motion passed 6-2 with Council Members Lipford and Mathews voting no. A motion was made by Council Member Bell and seconded by Council Member Carnahan to approve the emergency clause for Ordinance no. 2024-14. After a roll call vote, the motion passed 8-0.

Request for Approval of Human Resources Manager Position

On the motion of Council Member Carnahan and a second by Council Member Morgan and by the consent of all Council Members present after a roll call vote, the request for approval of a Human Resources Manager Position was approved as presented by a vote of 8-0.

Resolution No. 2024-12 A Resolution providing for the adoption of a budget for the City of Farmington, Arkansas, for the twelve (12) months beginning January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2025, appropriating money for each item of expenditure therein provided for, and for other purposes.

On the motion of Council Member Bryant and a second by Council Member Carnahan and by the consent of all Council Members present after a roll call vote, the motion to approve Resolution No. 2024-12 was approved 8-0.

Request approval for destruction of records for the Police Department, 2008 through 2019.

On the motion of Council Member Carnahan and a second by Council Member Morgan and by the consent of all Council Members present after a roll call vote, the motion to approve the destruction of records, from 2008-2019 was approved 8-0.

Police Chief Hubbard praised Lieutenant Jimmy Brotherton for all his hard work. Lt. Brotherton applied for a grant and because of his initiative, the Police Department will receive a free police vehicle in 2025, with no budget impact.

Permission for the Mayor to approve negotiated amounts for easement/right of way for the Creekside Trail Project.

On the motion of Council Member Carnahan and a second by Council Member Mathews and by the consent of all Council Members present after a roll call vote, the motion to approve Mayor Penn negotiating for the easement/right of way for the Creekside Trail Project, not to exceed, \$108,020 was approved after a roll call vote of 8-0.

There being no further business to come before the council, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Council Member Carnahan and seconded by Council Member Mathews, it was approved 8-0, The meeting adjourned at 6:46 until the next regularly scheduled meeting to be held Monday, January 13, 2025, in the City Council Chambers at City Hall, located at 354 West Main Street, Farmington, Arkansas.

Mayor Ernie Penn



Kelly Penn, City Clerk

