



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 February 10th, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Farmington City Hall, located at 354 West Main Street, Farmington Arkansas. Mayor Penn called the meeting to order.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Comments from Citizens - None.

Approval of the January 13th, 2025, City Council Meeting Minutes

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 minutes were approved as presented by a vote of 7-0.

Financial Reports

Mayor Penn presented the financial reports to the City Council. Monthly city sales tax decreased 18.13%, compared to last year. Monthly state/county sales tax increased 5.828%, compared to last year, year to date numbers increased 5.77%.

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

On the motion of Council Member Bell 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 was approved 7-0.

Proclamations, Special Announcements, Committee/Commission Appointments

Re-Appoint Planning Commissioners

Mayor Penn announced that the following Planning Commissioners were being reappointed to the following terms: Norm Toering – 3-year term, Judy Horne 3-year term, Chad Ball 2-year term, Robert Mann 2-year term.

Valley View Update

City Attorney Moore gave the council a status update on the Valley View issue. On October 2024 the council voted to move forward with razing the Valley View clubhouse. Later that month he received a notice from Joe Stewart's new attorney who threatened to sue the city of Farmington. City Attorney Moore consulted with the Arkansas Municipal League attorney's and in January of 2025 they advised that we should treat the project as an administrative search warrant, treat the way we gather information just like you would in a court case. Updating our information will put us about 2 months behind, but we want our case to be airtight. In 2023 and 2024 we dealt with Mr. Kenny Lipsmeyer, the municipal league suggested we deal with Mr. Joe Stewart since he is the registered agent of LLC. City Attorney Moore advised the council to participate when it comes back before the council.

Committee Reports – No committee reports were submitted.

Items to be removed from the city of Farmington Inventory

Street Department - Requesting the removal of Hustler Super Z Mower

Public Works Director Floyd Shelley informed the City Council that the mower had over eight hundred service hours and is 10 years old. The cost to maintain it is not feasible, but we were offered a trade in value of \$3500.00 on a new mower. The cost for a new mower with the trade in applied will be \$9,165.00. 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 remove the Hustler Super Z Mower, serial number 13032415 from the Street department inventory was approved 7-0.

Parks Department - Requesting the removal of Hustler Super Z Mower

Public Works Director Floyd Shelley informed the City Council that the mower had over eight hundred service hours and is 10 years old. The cost to maintain it is not feasible, but we were offered a trade in value of \$3500.00 on a new mower. The cost for a new mower with the trade in applied will be \$9,165.00. 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 remove the Hustler Super Z Mower, serial number 13032408 from the Parks department inventory, was approved 7-0.

Public Works - Requesting the removal of 2006 Chevy Silverado 4X4 Truck.

Public Works Director Floyd Shelley informed the City Council that the truck was 19 years old and will be put out for bids. On the motion of Council Member Morgan and a second by Council Member Mathews and by the consent of all Council Members present after a roll call vote, the motion to remove the 2006 Chevy Silverado 4X4 Truck, VIN number 3GCEK14X66G243656 from the Public Works inventory and place it out for bid was approved 7-0.

Fire Department – Request the removal of several items.

Fire Chief Bill Hellard informed the City Council he had several items that were no longer operational and needed to be removed from the Fire Department inventory. On the motion of Council Member Carnahan and a second by Council Member Lipford and by the consent of all Council Members present after a roll call vote, the motion to remove the following items; Cannon Imagerunner C256III, serial number 28X02764, tag 755, Kenwood Viking Radio serial number 643022730430157, tag 739, Mako Cascade Ac 105, serial number 540541896, tag 398, Honda Inverter EU3000IS, serial number 786102001472, tag 399, Liberty LED Bar and attachments, serial number C321052, tag 363, Haney Hose Reel (Rural), serial number 1635849, tag 203, Haney Hose Reel (Rural), serial number 1615380, tag 20 and 1995 Freightliner 18-Wheeler (Rural) VIN FUYDSEB4SP593829 was approved 7-0.

Old Business - None

New Business

Resolution 2025-05 A Resolution waiving requirement of competitive bidding for the purchase of four (4) Chevrolet Tahoe's and the equipment to outfit the vehicles for the Farmington Police Department pursuant to § 14-58-303 (b) (2) (b).

Police Chief Brian Hubbard advised the council the department has switched to the Chevy Tahoe for patrol purposes. The units will be ordered from Superior Chevrolet in Siloam Springs, who is approved for state bid. The purchase of the 4 Tahoe units will be outfitted to the specifications of the police department. The cost of each Tahoe will be \$55,167.00, equipment cost is \$11,563.3, Stripe package from Sign plane will be \$2,100, and radar units are \$14,680. The budget impact to the city is \$290,001.20 as one of the units will be purchased 100% with a grant from the state. Council Member Carnahan made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2025-05, it was seconded by Council Member Bryant, and after a roll call vote, it was approved 7-0. City attorney Moore read Resolution No. 2025-05 by title only.

Request approval for the destruction of 2011 through 2021 records for the Farmington Police Department

Police Lieutenant Jimmy Brotherton informed the council the police department would like approval to destroy the paper copies of Accident Reports from 2020-2021 and Misdemeanor NIBRS reports on warrants served on suspects from 2011-2021. The police department will have electronic copies of all the records. This request complies with the state statute Arkansas Code annotated § 14-2-2024. There is zero budget impact to the city. On the motion of Council Member Carnahan and a second by Council Member Lipford, the request was approved as presented by a vote of 7-0.

State of the City Address – Mayor Ernie Penn

Citizens of Farmington and City Council Members, it is my privilege to bring to you my 2025 State of the City Address. The state of the city of Farmington is strong. We are blessed beyond measure to live in this place, where more people think it feels like home, as our city motto states. I would like to say a special thank you to our city staff, Fire and Police Departments who make this city run on a daily basis. Your dedication and commitment to making Farmington a wonderful place to live is what makes our community great.

Our city continues to face the challenges caused by the rapid growth we have experienced. Our city is financially sound, and we are positioned well financially to be able to provide the necessary services our citizens are entitled to. We have always budgeted conservatively to have enough money in reserves to make sure our city is solvent and can keep up with unexpected emergencies or repair projects that are needed. Our Fire Department and Police Department actively seek out grants to help fund special items their departments need. This is one of the things we do to make sure we are a good steward of the taxpayer's money.

Based upon our 2024 budget numbers, city sales tax received was 12.82% higher than budgeted and our county/state sales tax was 7.02% higher than budgeted. This increase has allowed our city to have funds to support expansion of our city services and for Capital Improvement projects to begin and be completed without interruption and without having to come back to the citizens for bond issues.

Some of the projects that were completed in 2024 are:

- Fire Department Training Tower.
- 4 Pickleball Courts at Creekside Park.
- Farmington Heights Neighborhood Park.
- Jimmy Devault Road overlayed.
- Garland McKee Road was widened, and the drainage ditch was increased in size.

The following projects will be completed or started in 2025:

- Complete the \$15 million dollar Hwy 170 road project by June 2025. This project will increase the safety of the residents who travel this road every day, as well as the students and parents who travel to our schools.
- Creekside Park-Greenway Trail Connection and extra parking lot construction. Estimated cost of \$1.2 million dollars with grant funding of \$900,000 has been approved and our city will fund the remaining cost.
- Widen and overlay of Angus Street.
- Construction of eight new crosswalks to ADA standards on Broyles Street.
- Re-surface the Tennis Courts at Creekside Park.
- Paving of three streets with State Aid Funds

Our city continues to experience growth in the residential and commercial areas of our city. Growth can be challenging at times, but it can also bring new opportunities for our city and provide additional employment opportunities for our residents. In 2024, our city issued 122 new residential and four commercial building permits. The residential permits consisted of 122 Single family homes with a value of \$49,770,000. The four commercial permits had a value of \$14,321,000. There were no new multifamily permits in 2024. Our city population from the 2020 Census was 7584, in 2023 that increased to 9761. In 2025 our population will increase to over 10,000 residents. Farmington continues to be an extremely attractive place for families to locate and send their children to school. Our outstanding school district and its facilities continue to be one of the most attractive features of our community.

With the commitment from our City Council, it is imperative that we work together and develop a new strategic plan for the future growth of our city. In 2005 our city leaders, with input from the public, put together a 20-year strategic growth plan for the city of Farmington. I am proud to report that we completed that plan. This year we will set a new 30-year plan for our city with input from city leaders, Council Members, Planning Commissioners and most importantly, the citizens of Farmington. I look forward to everyone's input as we chart the growth for future generations that will call Farmington home. In closing, I would like to thank the council for serving the citizens of Farmington. It is not always an easy job and sometimes we do not agree with each other, but our job is to make the best decision for the city and the people we represent. Thank you to our Planning Commissioners, who have worked tirelessly in the last few years to update our zoning requirements to keep up with the growth demands our city has experienced. Finally, I am thankful to represent the citizens of Farmington, and it is a privilege to be your Mayor.

Thank you and God Bless Farmington

There being no further business to come before the council, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm until the next regularly scheduled meeting to be held Monday, March 10th, 2025, in the City Council Chambers at City Hall, located at 354 West Main Street, Farmington, Arkansas.

Ernie Penn, Mayor



Kelly Penn, City Clerk

