



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 Bobby Morgan
Ward 2 Position 2

Council Member Linda Bell
Ward 3 Position 2

Council Member Kara Gardenhire
Ward 4 Position 2

A meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on July 13, 2026, 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, Linda Bell, Bobby Morgan, Kara Gardenhire, Mayor Ernie Penn, City Attorney Jay Moore, Clerk Kelly Penn, City Business Manager Melissa McCarville, Press and Audience Members. Council Member Hunter Carnahan was absent.

Pledge of Allegiance

Comments from Citizens –

Wendy Howerton, Washington County Circuit Judge Candidate introduced herself to the city council.

Planning Commissioner Norm Toering – informed the council of a dangerous 9-foot concrete slope next to his property.

Approval of the June 8, 2026, City Council Meeting Minutes

On the motion of Council Member Cunningham 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 increased 10.95 % compared to 2025. Monthly state/county sales tax increased .005% compared to 2025.

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 Mathews 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 7-0.

Proclamations, Special Announcements, Committee/Commission Appointments

City Clerk Penn – Election packets - Mayor, City Clerk, City Attorney, and all Council Members that are position two are up for reelection. Packets are available for pickup at City Hall or the Washington County Courthouse. First day to file is July 29th at noon at the Washington County Clerk's office, and the last day to file is August 5th at noon.

Committee Reports – No committee reports were submitted.

Items to be removed from the City of Farmington – None

Old Business – None

New Business

City Classification & Compensation Analysis Discussion – Ashley Duncan, Human Resources

A project update was provided to the council; they advertised bids and received sixteen proposals. Paypoint was the winning bid, they had multiple public sector experience references. The city is doing data submission currently and the deadline for the project is September, so it can be discussed for the upcoming budget cycle.

Request to Reinstate Fee in Lieu of Park Land Dedication for the South Hunter Estates Large Scale Development

On the motion of Council Member Bell and a second by Council Member Mathews and after a roll call vote, the motion was approved by a vote of 4-3. Council Members Bryant, Morgan, and Gardenhire voted no. Council Members Lipford, Cunningham, Mathews and Bell voted yes.

Ordinance No. 2026-12 An Ordinance rezoning property at South Hunter Street from MF-2 to MF-1, multifamily, as requested by Jake Chavis.

A motion was made by Council Member Bell and seconded by Council Member Bryant to suspend the rules requiring the motion to be read in full on three separate dates to be suspended and that Ordinance 2026-12 be read one time by title only. After a roll call vote, the motion was approved 7-0. City Attorney Moore read the ordinance by title only. Mayor Penn asked Shall the Ordinance pass? After a roll call vote, Ordinance 2026-12 was approved by a vote of 7-0. A motion was made to pass Ordinance 2026-12 with an emergency clause by Council Member Bell and seconded by Council Member Bryant, after a roll call vote, the motion was approved 7-0.

Ordinance No. 2026-13 An Ordinance creating requirements for massage businesses; declaring an emergency; and for other purposes.

A motion was made by Council Member Bell and seconded by Council Member Bryant to suspend the rules requiring the motion to be read in full on three separate dates to be suspended and that Ordinance 2026-13 be read one time by title only. After a roll call vote, the motion was approved 8-0. City Attorney Moore read the ordinance by title only. Mayor Penn asked Shall the Ordinance pass? After a roll call vote, Ordinance 2026-13 was approved by a vote of 7-0. A motion was made to pass Ordinance 2026-13 with an emergency clause by Council Member Morgan and seconded by Council Member Mathews, after a roll call vote, the motion was approved 7-0.

Resolution No. 2026-10 A resolution in support of an application for the Technology and Equipment Grant

On the motion of Council Member Bell and a second by Council Member Morgan and by the consent of all Council Members present after a roll call vote, the motion to read approve Resolution No. 2026-10 was approved 7-0. City Attorney Moore read Resolution 2026-10 by title only.

Resolution No. 2026-11 A resolution in support of an application for the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Grant.

On the motion of Council Member Bell and a second by Council Member Morgan and by the consent of all Council Members present after a roll call vote, the motion to read approve Resolution No. 2026-11 was approved 7-0. City Attorney Moore read Resolution 2026-11 by title only.

Discussion Ladder Truck for the Fire Department – Fire Chief Bill Hellard

Fire Chief Hellard spoke to the council about the need for the purchase of a Ladder Truck, 100-110 quint. The specs are labor intensive to prepare, and he requested feedback about going forward with the process. The city does not own a ladder truck; we are supported by Fayetteville Engine 6 if we have a need. Price estimates were 1.7 million to 1.9 million. The trucks have a service life of 20 to 25 years, it provides safety to our firemen, supports are future growth and helps ISO rating. Funding can be a Capital Purchase, Lease or Loan. Mayor Penn said writing a check would make the most sense due to the higher interest rates and we have the funds in reserves. The council members were all in favor of Fire Chief Hellard gathering more information and coming back to the council as an agenda item.

Motion to Adjourn

There being no further business coming before the council, the meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm by a motion from Council Member Lipford and a second by Council Member Morgan until the next regularly scheduled meeting to be held Monday, August 10, 2026, in the City Council Chambers at City Hall, located at 354 West Main Street, Farmington, Arkansas.

Approved: Ernie Penn, Mayor



Attest: Kelly Penn, City Clerk

