

Town of Garfield
TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES Preliminary Draft
Town Hall – April 23rd, 2014

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Ray McCown called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

ROLL CALL: Mayor Ray McCown, Mark Young, David Jones, Daymon Marple and Tim Southern. Staff – Clerk/Treasurer Cody Lord. Absent: Sharon Schnebly

GUESTS: Cher Curtis, Kevin and Catheanne Elliott, Zoie LaRosa, Julit Larosa, and Sonja Hall

Zoie LaRosa here with her parents who have given her permission to talk in front of the council. Zoie would like to put a water fountain back in the park. Currently the kids use Lee Taylor's faucet and from time to time leave the water accidentally running costing him money. Mayor McCown said there is a faucet on the new gazebo but it is down low and kind of hidden. Daymon Marple said there once was a lion head water fountain in the park. Mayor McCown explained it was taken out of the park because the faucet didn't work right.

Tim Southern thinks it is a good idea to have a fountain in the park for the kids, but on the bad side just like kids leave Lee's faucet on, the kids will leave this one on in the park as well while messing around with it and it becomes a problem. Tim thinks it could happen but it will take awhile to figure something out that won't be a burden to the town. Mayor McCown asks Cody to check into stainless drinking fountains that could mount on the outside of the restroom and have a turn off inside the bathroom so we could shut it down for the winter. It is gravelly over there and maybe it would be a better situation if there was overflowing water.

The piping is still there from the lions head just a little to the east. Tim explains we have tried in the past to accommodate water usage in the park and we have had issues with it. Zoie's dad Kevin Elliott suggested putting it in the open and where the cameras could be in sight of it. Mayor McCown explains we need to work on the cameras in the park. Mayor McCown again said Cody can look into the price and see what we can find. Mark Young also thinks this is a great offering in the summer months when kids and families are using the park. Zoie will leave her signatures that she collected from people in support of having a water fountain in the park facility.

Cher asked about the house on 3rd street with the animals. It smells bad now but the smell will worsen as the days get hotter. Mayor McCown said the lending institution on the home said the owners are still making payments on it. Daymon asked can it be condemned through some other method. Tim suggested having the building inspector come look at it again. Possibly we could have the Health Department out to make a judgment on the property. Cher mentioned maybe they could lime around the area in the meantime so the neighbors don't have to smell the mess left.

Mark questioned why is the lending institution not involved if they already sent people up there to clean up the property. Mayor McCown confirmed they hired guys to clean out a lot of garbage. Mark said typically the bank doesn't get involved unless there is some kind of plan to move forward with the property on the banks behalf. Mayor McCown said the lender was not pleasant to work with and was kind of upset with him for asking questions about the property. Currently the house is not livable. The town should put Officer Joe Merry in contact with the lending agency through the police department. Cher also asked about the house on Spokane Street. Mayor McCown offered that the pickup has been moved. As far as the house is concerned it looks like it is going through the foreclosure process.

Sonja Hall brought a list of things she would like to see done and improved upon in Garfield. She would like to see some caution signs and slow down markings painted on the roads by the park. There are a lot of kids playing there and frequently vehicles travel at high speeds in the area. The small slide is broken and could possibly cut the kids when using it. Sonja would also like to see the drainage improved on the block. Currently there is no storm drain or culvert to take away standing water. Mayor McCown said when we have the council bring in their ideas we will have a caulk board in town hall where we can write down all

the recommendations.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Daymon Marple **MOVED** to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of April 9th, 2014. Mark Young seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

Brian Dentler has resigned from the Palouse Police Department and will be beginning work at WSU within the next couple weeks. Reserve Officer Terry Snead has been tapped to step up. He is a very easy going and a great guy and will be a good fit for Palouse Garfield Police Department. He is looking for a house in Palouse but currently lives in Rosalia. Officer Dentler has been with the Garfield Palouse Police Department for 6 years.

Officer Dentler explains there is nothing new to report on in Garfield.

The nuisance complaint on the Brown's place is almost rectified; the only violation is the location of the boat. Mr. Brown is fixing the boat and it will be moved within a couple weeks time. Most of the belongings about the property have been cleaned up so it now looks much better.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: Robby Johnson and Brad Hasenoehrl have furnished a written report for the council meeting.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT 4/23/2014

Water

- All water systems operating normally. All daily checks are at appropriate levels.
- Chlorine pump at Well # 3 needs to be rebuilt and Robby called Spokane Pump and was told that the model is very outdated and parts are extremely hard to find. They would charge \$50.00 an hour for rebuild and the cost would exceed half the price of a new pump so they will not proceed with repairs since they won't work on pumps with more than 50% cost to repair. Estimated cost is \$750.00 to \$1200.00 for a new pump. We are in need of one for Well # 3 and at the sewer plant.
- Summer meter reads are starting today and will commence through October.
- Will try and chase down the water leak at Guiney's place in the coming week.

Sewer

- Strom Electric fixed the influent ultrasonic flow meter. Both influent and effluent flow meters have been calibrated.
- 2 Pumps arrived from Strom and are awaiting install.
- Ordered the sewer lift station degreaser, which will cut down on grease bubbles on the influent well minimizing the malfunction on the influent pumps.
- This is a list of priority jobs at the sewer plant to accomplish.
 - Clean out the contact chamber.
 - Install the pumps from Strom
 - Order and Install Chlorine pump
 - Purchase lab equipment consisting of a scale and chlorine tester
 - Adding a support to the Bio Cell
 - Getting a new water softener. This would be necessary to decrease the calcium inside boiler.
- Jetted a sewer line on Jefferson Street

Garbage

- New route is proving to be successful, cutting down the route time by almost 2 hours; this will probably change upon arrival of the new truck until Robby and Brad are comfortable operating the equipment.
- New truck is going back together and hoping to be operational within the week. It appears the Curratto can was plumbed backwards
- Clean up week went well. 3 full loads to the landfill.
- Drop off holes have been cut at the recycle center, and signage will be ordered tomorrow.

- New recycle drop off bin is under construction. This will be for mixed recyclables.
- Dumpster modifications continues when time permits
- Old garbage truck received two new wheels and tires due to un-safe conditions of the current tires.

Streets and Parks

- Mowed this week.
- Park restrooms will be open by Friday.
- Hoping to sweep again next week to get the glass and debris left from the old garbage truck cleaned up.
- Will try and fill in some of the potholes in the downtown area next week as well.
- Last Friday Whitman County Grader was in town to work on the worst gravel roads.

Busch filled in the potholes at the gas pumps

Questions from the council to the Public Works Department were as follows;

Daymon stated there is glass all over this town. He would like to see the sweeper out cleaning again especially on Fifth Street and South Hill. Mayor McCown offers that the truck has been welded and it shouldn't be dumping debris any longer.

Council questions when the new truck will be in operation. Tim said it will be interesting to see the bill from Western Systems. Tim said the truck went to Western with all the necessary equipment to get the retro fit done. It was suppose to be completed in January, but Robby and Brad finally went up and got it at the beginning of April. The price negotiated with Western Systems was \$5,000.00 no more. When Robby finally talked to them this last time they mentioned it may cost as much as \$11,000.00.

Mayor McCown said the new route is cutting down the route time by two hours; however the garbage route was started as a service to the community. Several older members of the community have to wheel their garbage quite some distance to have it dumped. Mayor McCown said we are also doing away with the current recycle program to which he explains more and more people are saying that they want this service. Cody is looking into a new recycling company out of Spokane that currently works with Rosalia to continue to provide recyclable services, and hopefully they will be coming soon to make a presentation to the Town of Garfield. Mayor McCown said he feels the new truck is not providing a service to the town and that we would be better off to turn it over to Empire. Tim and Daymon both disagree stating they are much more expensive then what we offer.

Mayor McCown repeats this new route is not providing a service that the people in Garfield deserve. Tim said the new route provides us a way to use the new truck we got. It was purchased to make it a one man duty on garbage day. This is to allow for the other person to fulfill other duties within town. The fact that we even provide garbage is nice. Everyone else besides Pullman goes with empire. We got this truck to cut it down to one guy and save money so we wouldn't have to raise rates for the residents of Garfield.

Mark is concerned that the service we are providing the community is getting short changed. If Larry has to take his can down to 3rd street then this isn't convenient for him. Mark asks is there a reason that the truck can't go down his street to retrieve his can. Mayor McCown is going to ride around and check every alley to see which ones the truck can travel up. Mayor McCown said there are also about 25 people leaving their garbage cans out on the highway all week instead of pulling off the road once emptied. His neighbors just park the can by the street and fill from there instead of taking back to their house once empty.

Mayor McCown' thought was if this is only a one man garbage route then maybe the Public Works Department is only a one man department. He explains that today Robby drove Brad around to read the meters. Tim and Daymon reminded Mayor McCown that Brad hasn't been through a meter read season yet so he was being trained on the route and then it would become a one person responsibility to get meter reads in the future. Mark also explained once they know where are all the meters are it will be a one man job. Give him some time to learn the route. Mark said everyone has concerns and opinions, and somehow we have to learn how to best serve the community. We are not at a point to say lets scrap the

truck or anything. Give them some time to figure out the route, who has physical ailments and who will need some additional attendance. Daymon asked is there any reason they can't get a few cans from the side streets for these needy citizens. Tim explains we have to look at it as a standard garbage service. Any other town will tell you simply this is where the can goes for collection. The route is designed to accommodate the new automatic truck. Tim says it is hard to understand wanting to make complete route changes because it offends a couple people or Mayor McCown doesn't like the way it looks. Mark said lets stick it out and see how it works out, there has to be a way we can make it work with the level of service this community expects from us. Give everyone time to see how things shake out.

Mark questions the cost of purchasing a new pump versus rebuilding the old chlorine pumps. Tim states it looks pretty apparent that re-building the pump is not economical and may not ever work or make sense for us since they are so old. Tim Southern **MOVED that** he would be in favor of getting the best pump for the estimated \$1200.00 presented to the council by the Public Works Department. Mark Young seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor McCown said that these pumps have been out for a few months and we are relying on the pump next to town hall. Tim said it sounds like Robby needs more time to do modifications to dumpsters. Mayor McCown offers more money was spent on the old garbage truck replacing old tires and rims that were outdated. Daymon says 3 full loads went to the landfill on all town cleanup day. It will be nice in the new truck since it will take all the garbage in one load. Mayor McCown believes we should still keep the old truck for all town clean up week since there are several items disposed of each year that will not work dumping into the new truck such as sofas. The front load is not equipped to smash the item and lift overhead to dump into the back of the truck so therefore the old truck will be needed for items like this. Daymon states he thinks the recycle collection at the recycle shed is a great idea and he hopes lots of residents continue to use the recycling service.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Planning and Zoning Committee Appointment.

Mayor McCown checked with Stephen Bishop about this matter and found out the Mayor makes the recommendation to the council concerning the person wishing to join the Zoning and Planning Commission. At this time Mayor McCown doesn't wish to make a recommendation. Tim questions this as he thought the board wanted another male to join the committee and the committee suggested Jarrod Pfaff. Mayor McCown said he is not going to appoint Jarrod Pfaff to the committee, primarily because of the shape that the new garbage truck has left us in. Mayor McCown adds if you would have spent \$12,000 on the old garbage truck it would have run another 10 years. Tim thinks Mayor McCown's outlook on the situation is rather unfortunate. Mayor McCown asks Tim if he is proud of the equipment that was sold. Now the bobcat is broke down all the time and I continue to use my own personal backhoe since the town no longer has one.

2. WWTP Notes to Council for Dept. of Ecology meeting.

The council reads over and discusses the notes that transpired from the WWTP Dept. of Ecology meeting. Mark was at this meeting so he is going to run through the items. Mark talks about the DMR reports which are the reports we have been behind on for quite some time. There are groups who monitor these reports and they look for possible errors or delinquent submissions to fault towns. Since this meeting the Public Works Department has come current on the reports and Ellie at the Dept. of Ecology was assured that we would come back into compliance. We need to get these reports there in a timely manner and it is important that the numbers are reflected correctly.

One town who was aggressively trying to meet the standards ended up being sued and had to settle out of court to avoid a lengthy lawsuit. Usually these groups don't do it to generate funds but rather they do it to generate news. Daymon asked don't we have someone who is licensed to take care of these things. Mark said yes but one of the things we talked about was possibly having someone as a backup just in case of emergency or in case our oversight guy retires. Robby is a year and a half into his permitting process which takes 3 years. Mayor McCown thinks both Brad

and Robby should both get certified.

Mayor McCown talks about the incident where the power went off in town and the generator didn't carry the electrical system at the plant. The generator is working now and should not be a problem in the future. Mark points out the issue of the lab accreditation for water. The town will eventually need to get accredited. As it stands now the closest lab to test water is 30 minutes away and won't work for the testing that is needed since the stable life is only 15 minutes. It is important to get the Public Works Department the tools they need to get the job done correctly. Tim thinks the scale that is needed is about \$2,200.00. It is determined the water accreditation is different than the WWTP accreditation. Daymon asks where they can go to get accredited. Robby and Brad will have to follow up on class schedules and locations.

Mayor McCown said the biggest thing is the wetlands which need to be dredged this year. It is thought a machine that would have to go right down the center of the wetlands would be needed for the dredging. Hopefully it could be spread on our land instead of taking it off site. Tim believes we would probably have to haul it off to bar-tech. Mark said a discussion with the enforcement guy representing Dept. of Ecology thought if we owned the property then we could spread it onsite. Mayor McCown said other than this last time's bypass, no future solids should be going out to that pond.

Mark talked about how the Dept. of Ecology would like us to burn the cat tails. Mayor McCown said the wind has to be blowing from the N.E. We have been watching everyday and it hasn't blown out of the east yet. We will just have to wait until then. Mark said they are full of ideas but sometimes they are not so practical. By the end of summer the Dept. of Ecology would like to see the wetlands dredged. Mayor McCown thought maybe rent a track hoe and reach out into the middle of the pond to scoop out the material. Tim believes that it will actually have to be a dredging machine. They won't want you reaching out there with the track hoe. Mark offered that they weren't exactly certain on how to take care of the situation. Mark just wants to point out that we need to be thinking about how we will resolve this.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Resolution 2014-2 Street Levy for Collection in 2015 for the August 5th, 2014 ballot.
Tim asks the council if they think the town should take a look at raising this levy. The cost of the town expenses is beginning to rise, so we think raising it to \$59,000 or \$60,000 would be in line with expenses. If the town raises it \$3,000 then we will be at \$60,000.00. Mayor McCown said the town hasn't patched any streets with these funds in 4-5 years. Daymon and Tim disagree and point out that several streets have been maintained with these funds over the years. Mayor McCown said he is opposed to raising it at this time. Tim said everything gets divided between the street levy and costs keep going up. We have tried to cut things, but we haven't come up with anything else for any significant cost saving measures. We could do a fuel tax levy and it would bring about \$5,000 more dollars in but you are essentially still raising taxes just through a different method of collection.

Mayor McCown thinks the budget itself is too high, there is too much money sitting in reserves. Tim explains this is how we pay for emergency situations such as the WWTP. Mayor McCown said you will drive people out of Garfield if we continue to raise taxes; we are currently the highest taxed town in Whitman County. Mark confirmed we are one of the highest ones when you include all the different taxes. Tim explains if you take into consideration the water, sewer and garbage monthly rate, excluding the taxes, we are right at the middle of the road.

David Jones **MOVED** to adopt Resolution 2014-2 setting the one year excess property tax levy at \$57,000.00 which will be used to finance street maintenance and repair and street improvements. Mark Young seconded the motion. Tim Southern abstained from voting since he will be moving out

of town soon and will not be subjected to the tax. Daymon Marple opposed the motion saying that we need to look at other surrounding communities to see what their levies are and how we rate. The motion passed. Mark said he would like to take a serious look at other surrounding communities and what they collect for taxes and the services they offer their town. Tim said we are going to want to look at it really hard again so that we don't end up running this account dry. Mark said we may have to make alterations to the numbers to really see how we are doing compared with surrounding communities while making sure we are taking care of the infrastructure of the town.

2. Potential Loss Prevention Grants through AWC.

Cody explains to the council that the Association of Washington Cities has numerous \$1,000.00 grants available and wonders if the council may have some input on ideas that would make the Town of Garfield safer in the future. The deadline for these mini-grants is April 30th, 2014.

FINANCIAL:

1. Approval of Checks: Daymon Marple **MOVED** to approve the following bills presented to council for payment. David Jones seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Check Register # 11369-11370 L&I and E.S.D	Payroll: \$2,038.33
Check Register # 11371-11374 Plus EFTPS	Payroll: \$6,530.01
Check Register #11375-11384 Plus EFT	Claims: \$15,771.37 Total: \$24,339.71

Mayor McCown added that he talked with David nails and Cannon Hill out of Spokane. They had to go back and work up a price for us. They should be able to get to our pile of debris in the coming weeks. Mayor McCown went and visited the neighbor closest to the yard debris collection site and he said we could spread all the leaves and yard clippings on his field located right next door. Mayor McCown checked with Marni at Dept. of Ecology and she thought this was a great idea to get rid of it. Mayor McCown then called the head of the County Health Department. The Dept. of Health said go ahead and spread it there. Next week Mayor McCown is going to take the guys, the dump truck, the back hoe and the bob cat and put the material on the field next door to the collection site. Hopefully with any luck by the end of the week the chipper will be here to take care of the rest of the debris.

David Jones suggested bringing back the "Yard of the Month" in Garfield. Mayor McCown explains that this program used to be a project put on by the Chamber of Commerce. Mayor McCown said he would contribute personally and maybe we could raise enough to have a \$100 prize. Daymon said possibly we can run it through the Community Association and they could provide the judges.

Daymon said before they closed the meeting he would like to remind the council of the reason for the new garbage truck. The last three guys have had knee and back injuries so we chose to go with an automated system. 90% of the time the Public Works guys will not be throwing the heavy cans in the back of the truck. The concept was to haul twice as much garbage while automating the lifting to minimize the injuries that cause costly and timely injuries for the town. This was unanimously accepted by the council at the time.

Mayor McCown said he disagreed with the purchase of the new truck at the time and we will see how it works. He thinks we should be keeping the old truck in reserve just in case. He thinks we need to definitely keep it for clean up day since the items will not fit into the box of the new truck. Mayor McCown said that the placement of the dumpsters will require both guys to go out first thing in the morning together to dump them and then one guy can go about the regular route. He doesn't think that we need to speed the route up. Mark hopes there will be a compromise and hopefully all the kinks will work themselves out soon.

ADJOURNMENT: Daymon Marple **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 PM. David Jones seconded

the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Ray McCown, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Cody Lord, Clerk/Treasurer