

Town of Garfield
TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES Preliminary Draft
Town Hall – April 26, 2017

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

ROLL CALL: Mayor Ray McCown, Dave Ulrick, Neal Leon, Mark Young, David Jones and Daymon Marple. Clerk/Treasurer Cody Lord and Public Works Mark Phillips Absent:

GUESTS:

Mary Collins and Karen Kiessling from the League of Women Voters of Pullman, which is a nonpartisan organization for the democratic process is here to talk about the poverty level study they conducted in Whitman County. Some interesting facts were discovered when doing the research in the county and a report was furnished to the town explaining the level of poverty in Whitman County. They also talked about some of the services offered to low income families in the area as well as public transportation Garfield residents can request. A booklet on the study was left with Town Hall and available for review.

Penny Martinez and Sue Kriebel are here to represent the Garfield Community Association and talk about what is needed for the Garfield May Day celebration. Penny has already talked with Officer Merry about the parade route and road closures. The kiddie parade will start at 10:45 AM and the regular parade at 11:00 am. The park is still pretty saturated with water but hopefully by the time May Day rolls around it will be dried out and usable. If the park is not dry enough they have a backup plan to use Cher Curtis' yard for the kid's bouncy castles and games. Mayor McCown will take a look at her property and make sure there is enough power there to run the bouncy castles with no issues. They will have tables for the vendors dropped on Friday night and will collect them again after closing at 4 pm on Saturday. Right now they have about 15 to 17 vendors committed. Mayor McCown said the town will help out however they can. Sue said they are still looking for volunteers to help line up the parade and other various things. If anyone is interested they can talk with Penny or Connie. Also Jake and Brandi Cloninger donated a ¼ of a beef for the raffle and tickets are now available through the Community Association members. They are still looking for an MC of the parade and hopefully Greg Partch will consider doing it.

Debbie Brown is present to talk about the current state of the trailer park in Garfield and has some concerns. Bill Lawson, son of deceased owner Carol Lawson is also present for the meeting for other reasons. Debbie said there is a lot of increased traffic again at the park and said there is a lot of junk starting to acquire again. Mayor McCown said he can see it but with the current ordinance it is tough to enforce and tell people how to manage their personal property. Officer Merry said in November they canceled their efforts to enforce junk vehicles at the trailer park for the winter but now it is time to start enforcing again and citing the vehicles that are in violation. Debbie said now that Carol is deceased the park has really started to decline. David Jones stated he hasn't paid attention to it lately but will drive by and see what she is referring to. Debbie reminds the council they have May Day and 4th of July celebrations in the park coming and they should be concerned about the eye sore next door.

Officer Merry asked Bill Lawson if he was the executor of the estate and Bill said yes. Officer Merry informed the council he and Bill have worked together in the past to get things cleaned up at the park and Bill has been very cooperative. He asked the council give him a couple weeks to work with Bill to get things under control. Officer Merry will come back to the council with a plan of how they will be moving forward and with a death in the family they would like to give them a little lead way to deal with that matter. Debbie said she heard in the past the town had entertained purchasing the grounds and turning it into a short term stay RV Park. Mark Young confirmed they had talked about that but right now they need to work on cleaning it up and the council is not receiving much help from the current code language.

Mark said he is frustrated with the condition of the property but is happy to hear that Officer Merry will be working with Bill and if progress is made he will be delighted. Debbie said she has seen them out digging in the property and wonders if the public works knows what the purpose of the digging is for. Bill said they

had a sewer lines back up in the park so they were repairing that issue. Mayor McCown invited Debbie to come back in a couple weeks and see if the police department and Bill can make some progress. Mayor McCown said he has heard some disparaging comments about the condition of Garfield and hopes that these types of things can be improved to better the community. Mayor McCown would also like to see Roger Roper clean up around his property on California Street and Officer Merry said he hasn't been in town much because he has been taking care of some family matters. They will have a talk with him about leaving the vehicles permanently parked on the road. Mayor McCown also said he has seen a farmer dropping rotten wheat on Larry Hunt's property and worries about it beginning to smell. He feels it should not be allowed to be dropped off there. Officer Merry said he will talk with Larry about the situation.

Bill Lawson is here as a guest to talk about the trailer park and his mother's recent passing. He said since his mother's recent death he is still trying to work through the details of the estate and the water, sewer and garbage bills have fallen behind at the trailer park. He is visiting council to ask for an extension to be able to catch those utilities up. He is currently waiting on the death certificate to be presented so that the estate can be put into his name and he can legally take care of the bills. Bill said there are currently 6 units he believes are occupied at the trailer park. Mayor McCown said he has no objection to a one week extension and he will give him until the 7th of May to come current on the accounts. Mark Phillips informs Bill that all the garbage cans need to be setting on the west side of the street for future collection as there seem to be more vehicles in the trailer park making it harder to navigate and do garbage collection.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Daymon Marple **MOVED** to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting April 12, 2017. Mark Young seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Police Officer Joe Merry present for this meeting.

There was a little excitement last week with a high speed car chase after some guys burglarized a shop and hit the primitive roads to get away. They wrecked their car and then came to Garfield and stole another vehicle that was left unlocked with the keys inside. They drove back through Palouse while Officer Handley and Neumann chased them. They ended up wrecking on a back road and 250 yards into the field. The police department was able to get full confessions out of them once they separated the suspects. The Idaho police department was also involved in the action. Officer Merry said they will be starting up with their junk vehicle violations again. He confirmed that ever since Carol Lawson passed away things have been getting worse at the trailer park. Officer Merry said he and Bill had talked about selling the park and there are some possibilities there if the town decides to follow through. Mark Young asked if they had another registered sex offender in Palouse, stating that some of the kids had been talking about it and it raises some concern, Officer Merry said he would look into it and he does know of a new one at the trailer park.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: Mark Phillips present for the Public Works Department

Water

- The Water Sanitary Survey is completed and went pretty well, they just found some minor things after they looked at the tank and two wells.

Sewer

- South 4th street Sewer repair is being completed. They have 70 feet of pipe in the ground and one service hooked up.

Garbage

- The all town cleanup was about 8 tons with multiple mattresses and couches. Mark said it used to be that they took everything but now there are really bad mattresses and probably could be considered a health concern. David Jones said if there is a health concern over anything they should have the right to refuse to take it.

Streets

- Mark said concerning the TIB on 2nd Street, Gloria is not a fan of the way the county does their patches and said she would prefer to have it dug up and base replaced before chip sealing. Mark thinks the county could do just a skim coat of asphalt over the alligator spots and then roll over it

and possibly it would alleviate having to dig it all up. They are talking about the 8 foot wide section that runs from Union Street all the way to the tracks. Cody said he remembers Gloria explicitly wanting the base removed and replaced before chip seal so he thinks the town should be involving her in the decision since they will be paying for the project. Cody will try to get with Gloria before the next meeting and see what he can find out. The county will be starting their own projects in June and then rolling onto the other town projects.

- The county grader will be here on Friday and Mark will show him what they need to do. The only thing they didn't do last year was 10th and 8th Streets and the two blocks around Joan Hendrickson's house. Mayor McCown said to have him go up the alley at Hathaway's driveway two lengths of the grader and the same thing up by Mark's mother in laws house and the road leading to Dixie Roach's house. Neal Leon said if the town is going to do that then they should be doing all the streets. Mayor McCown said the last time they did it the cost was about \$500 dollars and they should get all the roads done that really need it.

Parks

- Water at the restrooms is up and running and mowing has been started.

Mark Young asked for an update on the river keepers and Cody explained that Stephen Bishop's office is working to schedule something with the attorneys from Spokane, all we can do is wait for them at this point and be thinking about what the plan going forward will be for the I&I issues in town. Mayor McCown said the thing the river watchers want is a game plan of how the I&I issues will be managed and fixed. The engineers will be present at the meeting to help guide with this plan. Neal is concerned about how quickly the public works guys are working on the I&I issues and said at present the town has only dug two ditches and really the guys need to be working more on these issues. He saw a week ago the guys were out sweeping the streets and he feels they really should be spending their time wisely on the I&I issues. Mayor McCown said he believes a lot of the issues are coming from the west side of the town and in June or July when things dry out the guys will be raising manholes and sealing them down in the flats. The engineers gave them a name of the product they can use themselves to make the repairs.

Dave Ulrick asked if they were going to use the riser rings he purchased to make the repairs to the manholes below grade. Mark said yes they identified the low manhole and will raise it with the risers and then they will seal the ones on Front Street and over by the plant. Mark Young said this should be the town's highest priority at the moment and Neal said he thinks they should be coming up with a plan now of how they will be addressing this with the river keepers. Mayor McCown said DOE is requiring the plant operator to basically be there all day until the plant is in compliance and even wants Mark at the plant a couple hours a day learning so he can step into the Level II Operator role. They are also required to fill out much more paperwork now then they have in the past.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Resolution 2017-4 Street Levy

Mayor McCown said this resolution is to address the street levy amount they discussed at the last meeting. Mark Young **MOVED** to approve Resolution 2017-4 setting the street levy amount for collection in 2018. Dave Ulrick seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Fire Hydrant on 8th Street

Beth Anderson asked that the hydrant on 8th Street get fixed, the hydrant currently is leaking approximately a gallon an hour. Mark said they are searching for parts to fix it and Dave asked if they looked through the parts on the shelf to see if there was anything up there and Mark confirmed they had but found nothing. Mark said they will have to shut off 3rd street clear to 10th on Main Street to fix this hydrant. There are currently 3 hydrants that need fixed.

3. Water Pump Rebuild Strom, \$2,750

Mayor McCown explains that the motor went out on the big well last year and they had a spare here in the shop to put in its place. They sent the pump to Strom to see what was wrong. Strom is now calling saying they still have the pump and they need to know if the town would like it rebuilt or sent back. Mayor

McCown said it really is a must that the town has a backup pump on hand. Daymon Marple **MOVED** to rebuild the pump currently at Strom. David Jones seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Minimum Bid Amounts for Gator, Orange Dump Truck and Cop Car Surplus

Mark explained he found very few comparable examples of equipment to determine a minimum bid but this is what he would suggest;

- Gator \$1000
- Dump Truck \$1500
- Cop Car \$400

David Jones **MOVED** to accept these as the minimum bid amounts for the equipment the town wishes to surplus. Dave Ulrick seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

FINANCIAL:

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

Check Register #12705-12707 Plus EFTPS	Payroll: \$7,766.07
Check Register #EFT Dept. of Revenue	Claims: \$1,503.02
Check Register #12708-12716	Claims: \$2,840.57
	Total: \$12,109.66

ADJOURNMENT: Daymon Marple **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 PM. Dave Ulrick seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Ray McCown, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Cody Lord, Clerk/Treasurer