

Town of Garfield
TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES Preliminary Draft
Town Hall – April 8, 2015

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Ray McCown called the meeting to order at 6:59 PM

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

GUESTS: Connie Kriebel, Sonja Hall, Sue Love

Sonja Hall is here to talk about the park. 3 people so far have offered to put money towards the enhancement of the park. Sonja has an overall layout and pictures of equipment that she found and thinks would be suitable for the park. Originally the play equipment cost \$35,000 but the company is willing to sell it to them for \$8,000. The old play set would need to be removed. The new equipment would require pea gravel or bark to be in place. The new set is a trapezoidal shape which will not require any anchors.

Sharon Schnebly asks how long this piece of equipment has been outside. Sonja explains it has been pressure washed and treated with stain and has been under tarps for about a month. Tim Southern questions who will put it together. Sonja said the seller would and they would charge the town \$1,000 for shipping and installation. Tim asks who would tear down the old equipment. Sonja said she would get volunteers for that. Sonja suggests also putting a dog ear picket fence around one side to help keep small children in. Mayor McCown said doing something like that would make it more difficult to mow in the park.

Sue Love talks about the area where the merry-go round and play equipment currently sit and how when it rains it does get flooded. Sonja suggests putting railroad ties around the perimeter and putting down drain tile line to absorb the water. Sue also says there are a lot of dead limbs on the trees on the north side and she feels they need to take the dead limbs out. Mayor McCown said there are also dead trees that need to be pulled out and will be addressed later in spring once we can tell what is dead or alive. Sonja would like to leave the gravel there and put bark on top of it. Mayor McCown said when we are ready to move forward the town would have to check with the insurance to see what they recommend.

Sonja talks more about the drainage and said a tile line on the west side would be ideal to help the water run off that comes from the west. Tim explains the only way a tile line would work there is if it was above the grade of the drainage system. Mayor McCown said he is thinking about a storm sewer beside the park which would help except for when the water table is very high. He then says possibly they could add 3 little man holes where the swings are at and they would have to trench a 4 inch tile line but it would have to be deep enough so it wouldn't feel up with gravel. In the corner of the park it is always wet so they would need to put 3 different lines there to make it work. The town has a bunch of 10 inch pipe that could be used and this way the man holes would pick up the service water.

Tim said if the town were going to do this he would rather do it right the first time to make sure it would work and he thinks hiring an engineer would be a good idea. Sue wonders why the town couldn't move the equipment to a place that isn't wet. Mayor McCown explains when the swings were put there the ground level was just as high as the path but has deteriorated over the years. Tim told Sonja that he likes her ideas as long as money was being donated for the equipment. He said the town would need to have the Public Works guys come down and look at the drainage and see what could be done without costing the town a ton of money.

Sonja also pitches the idea of memorial benches throughout the park to sit on. She thinks \$100 is an acceptable amount people are willing to pay to have a memorial bench in the park. The cost of the bench is \$68.00 with a custom engraved plaque. The bench is made out of Tyvex which is compressed wood chips mixed with epoxy. Also the senior boy scouts are willing to paint the benches and tables before May Day and think it will take about 25 gallons of paint to get the job done. The two all wood tables are in decent shape, however the metal benches with wood top need attention. Sonja also wants to talk about the separation of public land and private land in the park. Many kids use Mr. Taylors hose for drinking and

cut across his lawn to access the park. She thinks installing a box hedge will help determine the private land of the Taylor property and the Lawson property from the public park access. Mayor McCown said these are all great ideas but Sonja must furnish a list of 6 people that will serve on a committee, the town needs more opinions than just one. Sonja adamantly states she will not be a part of a committee in the Town of Garfield. Sonja wished the town luck with their project and exited the meeting.

Sharon says the town needs to look at the liability for used playground equipment. She says there are a lot of things the town has to think about before dedicating to a project, this project would be a considerable amount of work for a lot of people and would be overwhelming for just one person. Tim says he agrees and that just digging the lines properly needs to be done exactly so it doesn't have to be done again.

Sue is here to address a few other concerns that she sees in town. She is starting to notice more issues with cars around town and parking on the town right of way. She explains coming down California around 7th Street there are 2 broken down pickup trucks and two snow mobiles. She is wondering if there is some regulation about multiple cars parked next to the street. She feels there are usually more cars than the current population in town. There are a lot of tires and parts sitting around, up on 8th there is a camper and a red car that is taped together and an old snow mobile just sitting there. There are all kinds of things that can be fixed up, sold or taken to the junk yard. She doesn't think that people need to look at this every time they pass by.

Mark Young asks if the city has a number of allowed vehicles per residence. Sharon explains that vehicle count is not regulated. Mayor McCown said he talked with Stephen today and some language could be added to strengthen the junk vehicle ordinance. Stephen said he can write something limiting the amount of vehicles parked on the side of the street and that most other towns have that limitation. If a car is not licensed or insured then it can't be parked on the town right of way. Tim explains the junk ordinance says if you are in violation of 3 of the 5 listed items then a vehicle can be ticketed or removed, however the biggest obstacle is being consistent with this ordinance. It must be determined what the town's actual right of way is and then telling the department how hard the town wishes to enforce it.

Sharon says she drives by that white Ford every day and doesn't believe it runs and it encroaches on the sidewalk. Officer Snead said the department is aware of the parking issues and runs into these situations in downtown and other areas of town as well. Mark said over the years the department started to enforce and the department needs to proceed with it. Sharon agrees saying if the town gets a couple cars that are expired then more and more start to come. Sharon adds that a person can't park on a city street with expired licenses. Officer Snead said if he sees an expired license, he has been sticking an orange flyer in the window. He questions where is the clarity of the line with the Town of Garfield, where are the streets right of way and private land, in Palouse it is telephone pole to telephone pole so it makes it easier to enforce.

Mayor McCown said he thinks Stephen should add some language to the ordinance so it has some more enforcement. Sharon tells Officer Snead that she wants the department to go out there and use enforcement but use your best judgment when dealing with these types of issues. Officer Snead said most residents are pretty good about responding but it would make it easier if they had clarification on the issue. Mayor McCown said if it is on city right of way then you have leniency to take care of the issue. Mark states that in order to remedy this then the council needs to look at the ordinance give it some teeth and then have our police department start enforcing it. Officer Snead said while addressing the ordinance it may be worth looking into the alleys as there has been some confusion there in the past.

Sue tells the council she just talked to a young lady (teenager) that was hired by Ms. Berg who had her come to her house to clean. The girl was there about 15 minutes cleaning out the cat excrement in the house. She said after being there only 15 minutes she went home and became ill. She didn't see any cats while she was there but there was lots of cat litter and excrement lying around. Connie Kriebel said she shouldn't have been up there without a mask on; no one should be entering that home without a mask. Mayor McCown went up by the property about 2 weeks ago. Officer Snead said he could shed some light

on this matter that he had talked with the finance company for the house and they confirmed that the home belongs to the resident. Officer Snead said now that we have determined the house is in her possession there are a lot of nuisance issues that could be attended to.

Sue asked will the County Health Department not come, who does a person call to report a major issue like this. Sharon wonders what about our building inspector, do we know if Dan Gladwill has been there for an inspection. Daymon Marple said they have tried also to bring up the issue of rodents that would obviously be nesting on the property and how that is burdensome to neighbors. Daymon said it is also a fire hazard with all those dried weeds around the property. Sue said she passed by when her garage door was up and it was just jammed packed with junk. Daymon thinks the town should see if they can get a building inspection that determines it inhabitable. Officer Snead said he is also working on the details of the double wide property next door. The interior of the property is destroyed; he will follow up with his findings next time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Daymon Marple **MOVED** to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting March 25th, 2015. David Jones seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Officer Terry Snead present.

Things have been relatively quiet around town. He and Officer Merry have had to do a couple distress and welfare checks in the last couple weeks. He is researching a new low level sex offender in town. He is a level one. Sharon thinks they won't put a level one on the county website. Officer Snead says they have a business in town that doesn't like law enforcement driving through their property. Sharon asks is it private property? Mark says there is a street that runs down the middle of the trailer court which guests also would have to use to have access to the trailer court. In the past one of the residents has asked for extra patrols due to issues there. Daymon suggest the police talking with Stephen about this matter and clarifying the rules of the property with him. Officer Snead also said the Garfield/Palouse department is looking for a new law enforcement officer and they have several candidates that have applied and look promising.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: Robby Johnson present for the Public Works Department.

- Leak on top of 3rd done
- There are currently two 2" meters in need of replacement. One is almost completed and the Love property is the second one.

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Sewer

- There was a sewer main issue on Wesley Street. Robby feels confident the situation has been fixed.
- Jetter is broken down and they are currently working on it.
- Sludge pump is broken at the plant and being fixed.
- Sewer plant is doing fine. There was a big shot of rain that came causing more run off than usual.

Garbage

- All town clean up is next week.

Sharon asks about the giant pot hole in front of the post office and when it will be filled. Robby explains that some other things have taken precedence. Hopefully the street will be repaired in the beginning of May. Sharon explains the hole is growing fast. Daymon also asks about the hole on 3rd Street. Robby says yes that hole will be also filled and done soon.

Robby would also like to recommend getting a roller of their own and knock down some of the roots and bumps in the park. Robby still hasn't found a suitable sprayer yet, but he will continue to do research on it. Tim wonders if Robby and Brad are done with their private application and certified to spray. Larry Hunt sent an email to the council asking about the spring spraying. Tim questions, is the town interested in

Larry doing it, or will you guys be testing soon. Robby is unsure when he can get in to get it done. Tim explains the services he is offering will be the same as last year. Daymon clarifies it is the weeds, insects and the trees. Sharon said she is fine with Larry doing it again this year. Sharon Schnebly **MOVED** to hire Larry Hunt to do the spring portion of spraying for the same amount we paid him in the previous year. Mark Young seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. Mayor McCown wasn't sure of what was completed last year. David Jones thinks Larry should contact the town and Public Works department when he is going to do it.

Robby hands out flyers with different mowers all about the same specs and price quotes. Tim said he is sold on the Cub Cadet based on the price. Daymon asked if he was able to get a quote from the previous mower manufacturer. Robby said yes they range from \$9,999 to \$10,200 with equivalent equipment. Tim asked if Robby could demo both the Cub Cadet and John Deere. Mayor McCown said to just let a couple council members know when they are coming. Mayor McCown suggested talking to the school to see if we can borrow their roller to see if it is really something we need.

Mark said at the fire meeting it was determined to be time to test the flow on the hydrants. Tim asked Robby if they have a flow test meter. Robby hasn't seen one but he will talk with Dave and Perry to see if they had one in the past. Tim asks Robby to see how much a flow meter would cost the city and he thinks the fire department will be willing to help with the cost as well. Daymon said the gravel on the roads is helping out. Mayor McCown thinks the Public Works guys should get in touch with Chocran and see what arrangements can be made concerning rock chips and hauling. Mayor McCown said they have a loader and scale towards Wilbur Ellis. Tim would also like Robby to see what it would cost to have them run out loads.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Restaurant Update

Cody talked briefly about the meeting Peggy Ray and him attended in Colfax concerning the restaurant and potential grants for the space. They are waiting on some more information before they decide how to move forward.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. May Day Details

May Day will be Saturday May 16th. They will have singers for the National Anthem. May Day festivities will be held mostly in the park with the exception of the parade. So far there are 11 vendors, a couple bouncy castles, Awana games and food vendors. The Palouse Lions will be there with food and will commit to it in the future since they will be raising money for scholarship funds. The parade will start at 10:45. There will be a marching band from Oakesdale and Garfield with the cheerleaders attending. Also they will be focusing on Armed Forces Day and not being doing a Grand Marshall for the parade.

The Community Association would like to repair and refurbish the swing on the north side of the park. They would like to purchase replacement wood, replace the chains, paint the frame and spruce it up some. The swing will be taken to Don Kriebel's house and volunteers will work on it there. Daymon suggests filling in the groves under the swing with dirt and put some pea gravel on it. The Community Association has also talked about providing some more benches on the corner or a covered house to provide kids with protection from the weather while they are waiting for the bus in the winter. Council thinks the Community Association moving forward with refurbishing the bench is a great idea.

Connie said the other project down the road is landscaping at the entrance signs into town. They are thinking about laying down plastic and putting rock or gravel on it for now which will stop the weeds from growing. Mayor McCown thinks maybe put a couple low shrubs in the area for decoration. Connie says the association was almost closed when she joined so working on

rebuilding it. Also the Lions have given permission to do the local phone book and it will be redone in the near future. They will be setting up an email account so that people can send their information. Connie also says the Community Association provided \$781.00 for the lights at the restaurant which are in the process of being installed. Mayor McCown thanks Connie for her time.

Mark said the fire district talked about painting the doors and they would like Mayor McCown to pick the paint color and tell the Fire Chief when a color is selected. Mark said he hasn't had a chance to get to the fowl ordinance yet. Tim said he reviewed Palouse's ordinance and it is much more in depth but Palouse allows more animals than we do. Tim would also like ours to read no roosters in the town. Tim said one thing he likes about the Palouse ordinance is they give themselves the ability to check on the bird's habitat.

Daymon asked if anything can be done about the pond leaking water and running down across the sidewalk up by the school. The water may cause slippery conditions and could also be carrying animal fecal matter. He adds that there are at least ten birds there. Mark also brings up the burning permission in the Town of Garfield; as far as the ordinance says there is no burning in town. The police department or fire department has the authority to tell them to put it out. Mark says if our ordinance says no and we have people call and complain then we should probably have the police respond first. Sharon explains it is going to depend on how the call gets placed. If it goes to Whitcom which fields the majority of those types of calls then they are going to send the fire department. Council confirms to Cody if anyone is looking for a burning license, the town is not allowing burning at this time. Only recreational fire pits are allowed.

FINANCIAL:

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

Check Register # 11798-11801 Plus EFT DOR	Payroll: \$8,206.30
Check Register # 11802-11824	Claims: \$19,267.76 Total: \$27,474.06

ADJOURNMENT: Daymon Marple **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 PM. Sharon Schnebly seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Ray McCown, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Cody Lord, Clerk/Treasurer