

Town of Garfield
TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES Preliminary Draft
Town Hall – August 27th, 2014

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

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

GUESTS:

Cathie May states there is a mountain of garbage in the front yard of the vacated house on Main Street. The tenants had a large fire on Saturday afternoon burning some of their possessions. Because there is a burn ban county wide, all of the stuff will have to be loaded into the garbage truck. Also the property has been left unsecured and it is uncertain who owns the property. Possibly the previous owner can be contacted and made aware the house is vacant. Cody informs the council the most recent tenants have stated they have been in contact with the landowner. Robby will shut the meter off and check around the property.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mark Young **MOVED** to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting August 13th, 2014. David Jones seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Officer Terry Snead present.

Officer Snead was on duty the afternoon of the fire in the front yard of the house on Main Street. The tenants were preparing to move and burning what was not needed. Officer Snead had to explain to them there is a burn ban state wide and that they would need to extinguish their fire. There was another issue of trespassing on the Spokane Street residence. The company in charge of managing the distressed property said that the owner is no longer allowed on the property. The house has not been repossessed because of the landowner's mental status so it is now with an asset protection management company. Officer Snead said the next time she is found at the property she will be arrested. Unfortunately the company overseeing the property is very uncooperative. Sharon Schnebly suggested possibly the Whitman County Assessor office might be of help. Officer Snead said they also responded to a burglary in progress, and they were able to get some good support from Whitman County on this situation. It turned out a local business owner was intoxicated and stuck his hand threw the window of a neighboring business. Officer Snead is continuing to issue several warnings for traffic issues. Sharon asked if there have been any reports of car prowls in the area recently. Officer Snead said nothing had been reported to their office.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: Robby Johnson

Water

- Well # 3 is working with no glitches since the electrical repair was completed by Strom.

Sewer

- New bags will be ordered for the sewer plant and will take 6 weeks to arrive. Robby explains there is a surplus now so we are good for a bit. The bags will need to be ordered in a custom size for our plant but will also work for the screens and on the digester. A few more bags of sludge have been removed from the digester. There was some kind of blockage in the digester but it has loosened and everything seems to be operating better. David Tysz is coming down multiple times a week and teaching Robby and Brad more about the plant. Robby says all and all everything seems to be going alright at the plant. A few more supplies are needed to meet the Dept of Ecology requirements. Possibly Robby or Brad can find a microscope at the WSU surplus facility.

Garbage

- There is one dumpster left to retro-fit, which will only leave the town with one extra. Some of the dumpsters have been used well beyond their lifespan. Robby is proposing we purchase some metal material to weld on the bottoms of the old dumpsters that may still be usable but have rusted out bottoms at this time. The estimate to purchase enough metal to fix 5 dumpster bottoms is \$826.83. It would require that they just tack weld the bottoms onto the existing dumpsters. Mark Young questions will that bring us up to what we need? Robby confirms that will only leave us with 1 spare. There are two dumpsters out right now that are not in great shape. If we were looking at replacing the dumpsters they would be \$400 to \$600 each depending on the manufacture. There are multiple suppliers the town can purchase them through.
- No official date has been set by the county yet for all town clean-up however it will likely happen around the first week in October.

Parks and Streets

- Motley and Motley seems to be the only company batching asphalt at this time. Robby and Brad are currently cutting the streets. Once the asphalt patch is available then they can patch and finish repairs to the most damaged sections of road downtown. Robby is hoping that tomorrow he will get a call from Motley and Motley to grab some patch.

AWC toured the town assets for insurance purposes and determined that Well # 2 and the Johnson Seed water towers are still on the active town inventory sheet. Mayor McCown said the Johnson water tower is still the property of the town. Well # 2 has been decommissioned and the electricity has been cut to the well. It is only valued at \$5,000.00 and insured for liability purposes. If you take the well off line then it is very expensive to fill the well with concrete and cap it. It would cost more to plug then to just pay the insurance on it. 20 years ago the town turned it on a couple times and it wouldn't produce enough water to supply all the necessary houses, this is why the town has two others in operation. Mark asks is the building covered and locked. Robby and Mayor McCown both confirm the building is secure. Daymon Marple asks is there any money allocated to purchase more dumpsters or to replace the bottoms on the current ones we have.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Restaurant PDA, Insurance Update

Mayor McCown explains at the last meeting the council talked about suspending the PDA. The restaurant deed could be moved to the town's possession and the town can add it under our insurance policy with no additional costs to insure. The PDA will need to have a meeting and declare they surrender the deed to the town. Mayor McCown recommends that the PDA transfer the deed to the town. Daymon will contact everyone with the PDA and try to have a meeting on or before the 9th of Sept. so they can have some details by the next council meeting on Sept. 10th.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Distribution of the 2014 Capital Facilities Plan. Most of the items on the report are a carry over from the previous report with a couple exceptions. Mayor McCown explains the town basically has to have this so that we can seek out future grants. Daymon Marple **MOVED** to adopt the Capital Facilities Plan for 2014-2015. Sharon Schnebly seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.
- Purchase Materials for Dumpster Retro-fit. Mayor McCown said the Public Works Department had received a bid to purchase materials to replace the bottoms of the old dumpsters that are rusted out and he thought he should wait to the council meeting to make a decision on how to move forward. Sharon said we don't have much leftover money in the water, sewer and garbage budget but we can do some transferring. Sharon said she would rather go through the rest of the year with the retrofitted dumpsters and then possibly next year take another look at the budget and see if the town would like to purchase new dumpsters at that time. Mark Young **MOVED** to purchase the materials needed to retro-fit the bottoms on the rusted dumpsters. David Jones seconded the

motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor McCown says that Robby and Brad hauled a bunch of recycle items to Colfax. It was thought that dropping the recycle materials off to them would be free but the town received a bill from the Whitman County Landfill for \$186.00. Mayor McCown has been in contact with David Nails, who is in charge of the landfill. David Nails left a message and the Mayor believes the figures are \$46.00 / ton for cardboard and \$27.00 / ton for co-mingles. Even if we bail the cardboard before delivering they will press and bail again and then send it out to someone else. Currently we have about 30 bails in the shed.

Currently the public works guys are taking the recycle up to Spokane for \$40.00 ton on cardboard and newspaper is \$20.00 a ton and aluminum cans are paying pretty well. Down the road we may need to separate the cardboard and newspaper and then co-mingle the rest of the materials. Every Monday the guys will sort the items that come in and use the old truck to dump them. Mark asked how safe is the old truck? Mayor McCown said there really is nothing wrong with the old truck. The metal base has been fixed in the back of the truck. Down the road it might need a clutch, but it was adjusted in mid January. Mark says the only reason he is asking is the council was informed that there was not much left in the clutch and that they were having problems with their knees trying to shift gears.

Mayor McCown says remember it will only be going to the Colfax, there won't be all the hills, stopping and starting and backing up that they used to have to do around town. Mayor McCown said if we had put another clutch in it the old garbage truck would have run for another ten years. Mark thinks if it is safe enough to drive back and forth then he believes it to be a good idea. Mayor McCown said once the recycle shed is cleaned out then the public works can store equipment in there. Mayor McCown said he wants to talk with Pacific Hide and Fur himself and see if they have a truck that can stop in here occasionally and pick up our recyclables and take back to Spokane for us.

So far since switching to removing the yard debris, Whitman County Dept of Public Works has hauled away 7 loads in their containers. The town has spent about a \$1,000 so far this year in composting. Mayor McCown projects it will end up costing about \$1,500 in compost removal fees this year. Mayor McCown said he is using his own backhoe to fill the boxes, the town doesn't have the necessary equipment to fill them, and running back and forth on the track hoe will eventually ruin the tracks resulting in about a \$6,000 fix. Several council members stated it looks very nice at the yard waste facility.

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 # 11523-11525 Plus EFTPS
Check Register #11526-11530 PLUS DOR EFT

Payroll: \$6,041.94
Claims: \$3,416.26 Total: \$9,458.20

ADJOURNMENT: Sharon Schnebly **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 PM. Daymon Marple seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Ray McCown, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Cody Lord, Clerk/Treasurer

