

Town of Garfield
TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES Preliminary Draft
Town Hall – January 14, 2015

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

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

GUESTS: Tom Kammerzell (Port of Whitman), Cher Curtis, Peggy Ray, David Ulrick, Sonja Hall and Rebecca Strange.

Tom Kammerzell is here to introduce himself to the council; he is the Port Commissioner for the Port of Whitman County. Port had a great win this week with the approval to dredge the Snake River below the dam. It went before the judge in Seattle. He reviewed previous information and made the ruling to allow the dredging to occur. On Sunday immediately after the ruling they started dredging since there is a very small window to get the project done. The judge pushed back the hearing so they could potentially get going on the dredging sooner.

There was some worry about four boats getting stuck and it could cause injury. The new hot button concern is an eel. The eels couldn't get up the one inch raise in the fish ladder so a special ladder was constructed for them. Concerning the rail line, McCoy is working on getting some money through the transportation budgetary process. Tom explains when he first came to the area there was land available at Central Ferry and surrounding areas but now there is no more land available.

Tom also gives a report on the industrial park in Pullman saying on a year to year basis the industrial park they has sold about 1.5 lots. Last year they sold 5. They just finished water and sewer to the new side of the new industrial park. It did run longer than anticipated but since it was a bid the contractor doesn't get paid any additional money. They got the job done and it was acceptable. Revenue is coming in from the fiber optics and Pullman seems to be seeing the biggest gain in that area.

Mayor McCown asked what they do with the dredged material. The dredged material can be taken upland but it is very expensive to transport, instead there is another site about 15 miles down from Clarkston, where natural spawning beds can be created. If boating down there you want to be careful around the area that looks like an island.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Daymon Marple **MOVED** to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting Dec. 17th, 2014. Mark Young seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Chief Jerry Neumann and Officer Terry Snead

The police department has been rather busy the last three weeks in Garfield with 3 different arrests. There were some mental health issues and also they had to track a juvenile down in Tekoa. The 3 different officers have been sick so it set them back some on time over the holidays. Some additional call outs were a result of the slim officer hours. The old Crown Victoria police car is back in operation until the new police cruiser arrives. The Crown Victoria was taken to Baggots in Palouse to have an inspection and some tuning to make sure everything was running alright. The Durango was totaled so the police department has put a bid on another vehicle and should know in a couple days if it was approved. The Charger was also down for a bit and taken for repairs to Wysup.

Chief Neumann also states that there have been some issues with properly licensed trailers around town. Mayor McCown said he suggested that the police department look at the trailer behind the school the one on 3rd Street and also asked the tenant to remove the debris just across the RR track that was stacked to close to the road creating a hazard. The landowner on 3rd Street moved the camper in off the town right of way and the landowner with the debris too close to the road immediately removed his items. However the owner of the trailer on 1st Street let Mayor McCown know that he is not happy with the police department

tagging his trailer. The size of the trailer is more in line with a camper trailer so we can't determine what to do with the trailer as long as it is on his property. Mayor McCown thinks based on the street easement that the trailer is sitting on the street about 12 feet. Mayor McCown said we can probably request that he move it back further on the property but probably can't have him remove it.

Chief Neumann said from the little inspection they have done they haven't been able to determine if it is properly licensed, they also need to make sure it is good standing with the Dept. of Licensing in Washington State. It was determined the tip out is a factory tip out for that trailer. The main concern will become if he wants to make it a more permanent type of structure. Tim Southern asks is he trying to live in it. Mayor McCown said not where it currently sits, instead it will likely be moved to the trailer park. Chief Neumann suggested maybe taking a look at the trailer park ordinance and see if the town has an age limit on housing units in the park. Tim confirms that if he wants to live in it then we currently have an ordinance in place for that. Mayor McCown said in his opinion lets ask him move it back off the street easement and leave it at that. Mayor McCown said there are about 4 others parked on the right of way in town that also needs to be looked into. Chief Neumann said the department will start working on the licensing and go from there.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: Robby here for the Public Works Department

Water

- They have received the repair kit for the chlorinator system on well # 3.
- They will be working on updating the inventory in the water department.
- Right before the holidays Robby and Brad repaired 45 feet of 6 inch main in the sewer line. So far there have been no additional issues in that area with the sewer line.
- The water line that was hit while digging the sewer line, was repaired and a there is still a small leak there. They are going to let it leak slowly until a better time to shut down the main in town to fully repair.

Sewer

- Biosolids will need to be hauled again.
- Last week a tool broke and fell into the Clarifier. The Clarifier will need to be drained and this will be a good time to also clean the tank.
- Dept. of Ecology is coming Tuesday the 20th at 1:30 pm.
- Strom sent a proposal for the pump that is sticking on and off. They will be out to fix that in the near future.

Garbage

- The transmission on the garbage truck is having some issues. Robby will have someone down from Spokane to look at it. Tim asked if they have flushed the transmission and suggested they take care of that before hiring someone to look at the truck.
- The town needs to order some additional dumpsters. Robby will check with the school and see if they want to order some new ones so we can take theirs back for surplus usage.
- Also the town needs to order some more totter cans. Robby asked if the price is right may I order 10 spares, he will also see if they have repair kits to fix the broken ones. Tim thinks they were like \$50.00 each and that the consumer paid \$15.00 per can. Tim asked how many of them are breaking and why. Robby explains sometimes a wheel will break or a lid will get ripped off possibly it is the cold weather and squishing of the can with the collection arm. Council agrees to have them order and pay for 10 surplus totters for future use.

Streets

- The rock chip pile is still fine and Robby will not purchase more unless they are needed.
- The Christmas lights have been taken down for the season.
- The pot hole in front of the post office will be filled on the next dry day. Daymon Marple adds that there is a big one by Dave's house and a couple more around time.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Ecology Update. Keltic Engineering was made aware of the last deadline that is needed to fulfill the Dept. of Ecology demand letter. Tim asked on the 20th can all the council walk through then plant with the Dept. of Ecology. Mayor McCown said I am not opposed to you all being there, but the main purpose of the meeting is to teach the Mayor the process without distractions. Mayor McCown said you can attend if you wish to mess that process up. Another meeting can be set for the rest of the council to learn more about the plant.
2. Surveillance Camera Installation. It is determined that the town needs surveillance in the park, recycling shed, back yard, road to the composting facility and the WWTP. Tim asks which one of the options does the town want to go with. Cody stats that it would be nice if we could have a system that is movable from the office computer. David Ulrick questions the cameras that he had placed around town and it is stated that they are no longer useable as they are outdated. Mayor McCown said the camera at the recycling shed doesn't allow us to see faces and we need to be able to recognize offenders. Mayor McCown asked Cody to contact Marcus and see if he will come into the next council meeting to talk about the installation and system we should be getting. David also suggests that whatever the manufacture claims is the length for the viewable inferred system at night to cut that recommendation in half and it will be accurate.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Restaurant Ideas (Guests Peggy Ray, Rebecca Strange and Sonja Hall)

Peggy is here to bring some ideas to the council for the restaurant space in town. Peggy states at this point we are talking about a hope or a dream that we can get the restaurant opened as a restaurant again with possibly a mini mart in the backroom. Peggy talks about the committee she is forming to help with ideas, so far Cher Curtis and Cody Lord will be on that committee along with possibly Donna Gwinn. Peggy says the group will meet in the near future. Peggy has been in the space a couple times; the first time was to learn the lay of the land and the second time was with Roy who was there to update them on the condition of the equipment. Peggy has also talked with Daymon about what the Dept. of Health is requiring. There definitely needs to be flooring, lights and cleaning of the space to make it sparkle. These items they are in the process of moving forward with immediately.

Mayor McCown and Rebecca Strange will look into the costs of lights along with trying to find some volunteers to install it. Daymon told Peggy to get in contact with Phil Weagraff as he was the one who initially offered up the flooring for the front room and hallway. Daymon said the Pfaff brother cousins offered to pay for the carpet or linoleum in the back room and that Roger would probably be her point of contact.

Peggy said that Cody has suggested coming up with several different scenarios on how they could move forward. These scenarios might include hiring a staff person to run the restaurant and then various possibilities on how the restaurant and mini mart would work together with some volunteer staffing of the facility. As a committee they would look at making these recommendations to the council. Peggy says they can't expect someone who is starting a business to make major improvements or changes to the building. She would like to attempt to raise some money from the community so the building can pass the inspection from the Dept. of Health. She would like to raise about half the money from people who can make major donations and then sending another donation letter to the postal area for smaller contributions.

Also by sending this letter out they will be able to see if the community will support a mini mart. Peggy’s other idea is that there could be a membership or a co-op with an annual or lifetime membership fee. This way emails can be sent out to members about special deals at the facility. David Jones asks will the committee be working on how much money needs to be acquired. Peggy states it is a good committee so I feel encouraged that they are willing to put some time into getting this to work.

Tom Kammerzell suggested talking with Avista and see if Avista will help with a light upgrade. Avista will also come and do a building audit for free since it is owned by the town. As a fund raiser in Lacrosse they used tiles to show that people supported the restaurant and placed the tiles on the wall. Mayor McCown said that Peggy Ray has talked with him about this matter, but he has told her he doesn’t feel the town is in a situation to spend any money to make this happen. Tim said he believes this to be a good idea to have a restaurant in town again, but that if you are going to be running a business from that space then it would probably be best to turn the building back over to the PDA once established so there are no issues.

Cody suggested that the Municipal Research of Small Cities has free attorneys on staff to the town that could answer any accounting questions we have in the meantime to make sure we are handling everything correctly. Tim reiterates the town has to be very cautious about the expenditures they grant to any business but the PDA has greater capabilities in that respect, he asks that all activities are double checked before they are committed. Tim says he is wondering if the PDA would need to get the building back so there is more flexibility, the PDA can collect the rent and possibly pay for the insurance. Peggy Ray assures the council they will get each scenario evaluated before moving forward.

2. Purchase 2 New Dumpsters for Rental. Mayor McCown explains that the town currently doesn’t have a dumpster to rent anyone. Tim suggests trading out the school dumpster and in turn the town will get four back for surplus. The school would cover half the cost of the four dumpsters. The school wants to go to 4 yard dumpsters. Mayor McCown said the two yard dumpsters are small enough they can be wheel around, if there is the slightest bit of snow the four yard becomes impossible to move. Tim said I think the four yard dumpster are around \$600.00. Daymon thinks the small ones are more usable if they want to get new ones. Daymon Marple **MOVES** to buy two of the two yard dumpsters if they are around the \$475.00. David Jones seconded the motion and the motion carried with Tim Southern opposing.

FINANCIAL:

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

Check Register # 11678-11682	Payroll: \$8,209.41
Check Register # 11683-11685 4 th Qtr Taxes	Payroll: \$2,714.09
Check Register # EFT DOR	Claims: \$971.98
Check Register # 13 th Month Transactions (11687, 11688, 11690, 11692, 11694, 11696 – 11711, 11713)	Claims: \$12,095.59
Check Register # (11686, 11689, 11691, 11693, 11695, 11712, 11714)	Claims: \$34,425.97 Total: \$58,417.04

ADJOURNMENT: Daymon Marple **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 PM. David Jones seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Ray McCown, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Cody Lord, Clerk/Treasurer