

**Town of Garfield  
TOWN COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES Preliminary Draft  
Town Hall – July 27, 2016**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Ray McCown called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

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

**GUESTS:** Darrell and Wanda Grossman, Jerry Love, Scott Bowman, Sonja Hall, Mary Miller, Cathie May, Trisha Clayton and Rebecca Jones.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Neal Leon **MOVED** to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Daymon Marple seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Daymon pointed out one word was incorrect and it was meant to be millage and not mileage. The change will be reflected in the final version.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT:** Chief Jerry Neumann and Officer Joe Handley present for the police department.

All is well in the town, they had 4 hours of call outs last week. They have been dealing with some neighbor disputes and the Lawson trailer park cleanup. The patrol vehicle was moved but the battery was dead so they have been trying to charge the battery. Mayor McCown said it looked like the trailer had been cut up at the trailer park and Chief Neumann confirmed that they are working on it.

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

**Water**

- The telemetry system failed again this last week and seems to act up mostly in the summer. Mark thinks maybe they should send out some request for bids. Dave Ulrick suggested having someone come look at it, maybe a connection is bad somewhere and possibly they could trouble shoot the situation. Mark Young informed the council that the guy who installed the unit is now retired. Mark said Strom has been out to source some new equipment. Neal Leon asked if there was a way they can fix one piece of it instead of replacing the whole system. Mark said last year Strom looked at the system and they were going to replace some wiring and radio units. Daymon suggested reaching out to Marcus Munn and see if he could be any help.

- Joe Keller is repairing the wiring on Well # 4.

Mayor McCown said there is a guy in Elberton who has experience taking care of water systems through the computer, possibly he could be some help. Mark Young asked Mark if he got the system back up and running. Mark said yes he reset it and it came back on and as soon as the pumps are running the water kicks back on.

**Sewer**

- Mark said the sewer numbers are coming back good from the testing facility and David Jones asked are we in compliance and Mark replied yes. He still needs to do more sludge removal.

**Garbage**

- Everything is going well averaging 5 tons a week.

**Streets**

- Mark will call Lyman's tomorrow and get them lined out and he will make sure there is some type of time guarantee. David asked what are they applying and Mark answered usually it is a water based product.

**Park**

- Mark said he had another sprinkler head on another line fixed and all lines are back on. Dave asked if he ever got the sixth station to run and Mark confirmed it is still not operating.

Mark Young asked if they have had any contact with DOE and Mayor McCown said he had talked with Ellie today but she didn't provide much information. Daymon questioned if they were still in trouble with DOE and the mayor confirmed yes the town is still in trouble. Ellie and Andy O'Neal are supposed to be visiting the plant soon, maybe sometime in August. Mark thinks he will go ahead and reach out to Andy himself.

Mayor McCown asked if Mark had heard back from Larry Hunt concerning loading the Bobcat and taking it in to get repaired and Mark responded they haven't talked yet as he has been very busy trying to keep up with things. Dave said the recommendation to move the equipment is to remove the hydraulic hoses and hydraulic oil will drain and then it will move, however they may not know which ones to un-hook. Neal said they can also locate an excavator that can lift 16,000 lbs. and that would be enough to load it on a flatbed instead of dragging it.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **1. Forklift Bid**

Mayor McCown said after Cody sent out the financial statements so far for the year showing all the recent expenditures and given the fact that the digester is now nearly empty and they will not be hauling as many bio-solids from the WWTP, with the lawyer expenses and Brad's departure from the town and the costs associated with that, maybe they shouldn't buy a forklift at the present time. The mayor suggests putting a kill switch on the current forklift so the battery doesn't always go dead. He said although they can wait on a forklift they really need to buy a backhoe as he is about through keeping up with the compost pile. If Mark takes the track hoe out there it is an eight hour job. Currently the town doesn't have the man power and they have other issues like leaking fire hydrants and water lines and only one man doing the town work.

Mayor McCown said the Bobcat has been down for a month and it may be another month before it is operational unless they decide to pay \$3,000 to have it serviced. Mark asked if the reason the bobcat won't start because of the computer system and Dave replied that it is a proprietary system so Bobcat would have to service the machine to get it to run again. They will have to hook their computer to it and they will have to either come to Garfield or haul it to their shop. Neal thinks as far as the forklift is concerned they are only going to be using it for the sewer plant so it is not an everyday piece of equipment at this point. Mayor McCown said actually Mark uses it to jockey around and deliver the dumpsters and put the winter decorations up with it and a few other random chores. Daymon Marple **MOVED** to defer the forklift bid until next year. David Jones seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

#### **2. Resolution 2016-05 Special Street Levy for Spokane Street Repairs**

Mayor McCown said this is a levy for \$10,000 to work on Spokane Street between 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> streets and it will go on the November ballot, the council will need to take action on it if they would like it to be on the General Election ballot. Dave Ulrick **MOVED** to place resolution 2016-05 on the general election ballot. Mark Young seconded the motion and the motion carried. Daymon Marple was a no vote.

#### **3. Resolution 2016-06 Street Levy Repair and Maintenance for Back-up General Election Ballot**

Mayor McCown said this is the back-up levy in case the street millage fails in the primary election they can put it back on for the general election. Daymon Marple **MOVED** to adopt resolution 2016-06. Dave Ulrick seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

David asked Daymon why he voted no on the Spokane Street and Daymon replied the voting will be left up to the people on whether they feel working on Spokane Street is important. He doesn't feel it is any more important than some of the other dirt roads in town.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

## 1. Applicants for PWS Position

Mayor McCown said they have had 4 applications turned in to date. The candidates are from Colfax, Colorado, Potlatch and Pasco. Mayor McCown said the Pullman applicant is currently incarcerated and they were really excited about the Moscow applicant but later found out he is only level I waste water collection certified, so really he would be a good prospect for a laborer but he wouldn't qualify as a level II operator until after he tested and could do so in 1.5 years.

Mayor McCown said another candidate sent in his resume from Colorado where he currently runs his own waste water consultant company. He is a level III operator in Colorado and level IV operator in Wyoming. Cody will check with Ecology but it is thought he will have reciprocity of a level IV certification between Wyoming and Washington. Mayor McCown said another guy has come forward that has worked with Reuel Klempel in the past, Reuel is trying to get this guy to come be a contract operator for the town and bring one of Reuel's son to be an apprentice at the plant. The guy came up and he met the mayor at the plant, he is also level 4 certified, however all he want to do is the sewer plant. He said the place is filthy and the sludge needs to be emptied and he would suggest not having ecology down here for at least a month so it could be cleaned up first. The mayor said until this application came in from Colorado, he was going to ask him come in and interview. The only issue is he is 300 miles away and would only want to come 3 days a week and he would also want a two year contract for the same rate that Brad was making.

Dave asked how are things with Ecology now, are they still expecting the town to hire full time. Mayor McCown said if he would come 3 days a week and do all the paperwork in 6 months it would be the way it needs to be to make DOE happy. The town would need to hire a 3<sup>rd</sup> guy to help with the 6 water leaks right now and other projects around town. The mayor feels they would have to put a surcharge on the sewer rate of \$20.00 a month to pay for the additional staff because of the plant. Dave said he would really be interested in the guy from Colorado as he sounds like the best option. Mayor McCown instructed Cody to call him and see if he can come up and interview. The mayor would also like to see if he can handle the shovel and do other things around town.

Mark pointed out that the guy from Colorado has been the chief operator for Buffalo, Wyoming and has extensive training and experience in waste water management. Daymon said if they move forward with the guy from Pasco and he is only will to come 3 days a week he feels he should only be making 3/5<sup>th</sup> of Brad's salary or about \$25,800 and he feels they will need to negotiate him down on that. Mayor McCown said he will not come for that rate. David also said he thinks they need to check into the Colorado applicant. Mark said whoever they hire as our supervisor has to have an equivalent to a level 2 waste water certification and they shouldn't consider the applicant unless they qualify. Mark feels they should continue to advertise the position for another week. Mark said he can't see paying this guy to come in for 3 days when DOE has said no more part time employees at the plant. The council discusses having a backup plan since Mark will not be a level II operator for another 2 years and Dave points out this guy may come up here from Colorado and say I don't think so. The treatment plant committee has agreed to assist the mayor in interviewing the applicant.

Daymon said he would like to just follow-up on the bobcat and forklift matter. Daymon said he has checked with a couple companies and they are able to rent a backhoe to the town at a far cheaper rate than the town having to go out and purchase one. Daymon has gone out and priced them and they are about \$65,000 for equipment that is about 10 years old. Dave said if there was one in town they would use it 4 or 5 times a week, for instance going over to the composting area twice a week. Mayor McCown points out that taking a scoop of gravel with bobcat takes about 20 mins to go anywhere in town whereas with the backhoe it would take about 5 minutes. Brad wouldn't drive the track hoe to the fuel pump because it took too long to get there. Neal pointed out they are not junk equipment, but they are not as mobile as the large rubber tired equipment. The rubber tired backhoe can do everything that the track hoe and bobcat can do and can access all the utilities in the alley or street and he is unsure why the backhoe was changed out to begin with. Neal thinks they wouldn't put a lot of hours on the backhoe so the town doesn't need

something that new. Neal bets they would put about 500 hours on that kind of equipment in a year, and Dave said he thinks Neal would be surprised how much they would use it. Neal said if they are moving it every day, they would be looking at 1,000 a year.

## 2. Guest Rebecca Jones to Discuss 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment Rights

Rebecca Jones said the thing she would like to address is the nature of asking to be put on the agenda to speak at a council meeting. She said town residents have no choice but to accept that new policy, but it doesn't give residents a chance to voice their opinion until after the meeting. Rebecca said rights have been violated and that has been acknowledged in a prior meeting. Rebecca said she has not yelled or been vulgar, she simply wishes to exert her liberties. Rebecca questioned how does the council intend to determine when and what right a person has to be on the agenda. She is wondering if there is a road that is more productive for everyone that doesn't silence opposition.

Daymon responded by saying this is a town council meeting, all the councilmen are citizens of the community with families and some are on summer vacation. The council would like to conduct their business as quick as possible and then head out. Sometimes they are required to have a public hearing for proposed ballots and this meeting is open to the public. The regular council meetings are open to public viewing but it is not open to the public for comment. Daymon said Cody is our clerk and takes care of day to day things so that they can come in and quickly conduct a meeting. Daymon said the other thing that can be done is letters can be sent to the town council or get ahold of them and tell them your concerns so the council can discuss it at a meeting.

Mark responded to Rebecca saying as Daymon said they are trying to take care of business as efficiently as possible. For the last 6 years until recently taking public comment was effective and it worked, however things have changed and now they have to approach it differently. If the council can't take care of city business the way they have in the past then they have to change the rules, this is the only way they can take control of the council meetings. Mark suggest contacting them through emails or on the street, but at town hall let them take care of business. Rebecca asked how one does that if they have attempted to reach out through that path and gotten no reply, how does she move forward?

Mark said there is an election coming up and that is where your voice can be heard. Either run for office or find someone that is like minded. Rebecca asked what will be the process for getting on the agenda. Mayor McCown said it is going to be limited. Dave said RCW states the mayor controls the agenda. Jerry Love asked which RCW is that. Dave said he has gone through the RCWs and it is in there saying the mayor runs the agenda. Neal said almost every city in the state has it on their books that there are rules to speaking at the council meetings, it is all on the computer. Rebecca said to keep in mind when you open the meeting up to the floor then you selectively allow some to speak and others not to speak, it becomes a problem.

### **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 #12374-12377 PLUS EFTPS	Payroll: \$11,044.67
Check Register #12378 VOIDED CHECK	Claims: \$0.00
Check Register #12379-12384	Claims: \$9,510.14
	Total: \$20,554.81

**ADJOURNMENT:** Daymon Marple **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 PM. David Jones seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

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**Ray McCown, Mayor**

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Cody Lord, Clerk/Treasurer**