

Town of Garfield
TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES Preliminary Draft
Town Hall – March 26th, 2014

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

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

GUESTS: Cher Curtis, Kevin Elliott, Melody Jones, Katie Young, Travis and Sonja Hall. Greg Kolar arrived at 7:15.

Greg Kolar is attending the meeting to discuss the marijuana issue. Joan Wride borders the property where the application has been submitted and Greg is going to be building a house there. Greg is pondering whether the land value will be affected by the presence of marijuana crop next door. They are contemplating not building due to this situation. Greg brought some knowledge of investigations he would like to highlight. Police often make the statement that crime goes along with growing marijuana. Fremont police said criminal activity and marijuana go hand and hand.

Greg explains his territorial view would now become a marijuana farm. Who wants to buy that view? Greg said financially he feels we would be affected by the decision to grow marijuana in town. Greg thinks it will also bring questionable people to town. Daymon Marple said the Planning Commission will meet on Monday and you should present these comments to them. Stephen Bishop will be at this meeting and you can echo your concerns there and hear what the thoughts are of the town's attorney. Sharon Schnebly is concerned the smell of the farm will be apparent to the neighbors, and that this alone could be one of the biggest issues. Katie Young said it will definitely affect the property values.

Mark Young said the council was concerned about this to and had the town attorney draft an ordinance similar to the Oakesdale ordinance to address this issue. Sharon added that Stephen Bishop has changed his position on this matter after drafting that ordinance. Mayor McCown said the city attorney drafted up an ordinance similar to Oakesdale which states we can't have business contrary to Federal Law, however he is now worried this may encourage a lawsuit. Cher Curtis encouraged Greg Kolar to fact check against small towns in Colorado to give the group some statistics on how it will change the community.

Mayor McCown said when the state passes a law it puts the pressure on us. Katie expressed that she was aware of the one public meeting but thinks an issue of this scope should have a couple meetings to get everyone fully informed. Sharon explains we are only required to have one and if additional ones were needed that would be up to committee chair, she also added it was properly posted about town, on the website and also officially in the Colfax Gazette. Katie thinks no matter what direction the town takes with this situation, as many people as possible should have input. Sharon explains if we did this every time it begins to bog the process down, however the town's input is important.

Sharon also explains the next step in the process will be the applicant applying for a Conditional Use Permit. Then a notice will go out to all residents within 300 feet of the applicant and give them a chance to have their opinions heard. The goal of the Planning Committee at this point is to try and regulate it in a manner that doesn't get us into trouble further on down the road. The way the current zoning reads, there are only a couple places in town which will make sense for this kind of operation, so it pretty much knocks out much of the town. By the time we get done with the zoning code it will be nearly impossible to do in the Town of Garfield. Melody Jones asks what the purpose of the next meeting is. It will be to finalize any changes to be made to the zoning code with the assistance of the town attorney.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Daymon Marple **MOVED** to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of March 12th, 2014. Sharon Schnebly seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Chief Neumann present for the Police Department.

Everything is quiet in the town of Garfield. Chief Neumann has no new news on the 3rd street property. Mayor McCown said he called the finance company and the finance company said the homeowners are still making payments on the home so nothing can be done on the property at this time. Mayor McCown thinks we should have the building inspector send the “Condemned Property” notification to the finance company. Chief Neumann gave the council his department activity report for the quarter.

Mayor McCown said there is a truck on the sidewalk by the daycare that he would like to see moved. It is okay for the owner to put it there while working but it has been there all fall. The owner moved it for a short period and now he put it back on the sidewalk. He should back it in when he has stuff to throw out and then get it off the sidewalk that evening. Currently parking the truck there is blocking one of the busiest sidewalks in town. Mayor McCown said he believes it is also time for Mr. Brown to clean up his belongings beside the street. Sharon encouraged that he should also move his boat to which Mayor McCown added it is on city right of way. Mayor McCown said it is a trailer and not attached to a vehicle so it should only be allowed on the town street for 3 days, the items on the other side of the street are just storage items that need to go away. Daymon Marple mentioned that there is also a trailer at the end of Union Street that needs to be moved since it is illegally parked. Mayor McCown asked Chief Neumann to follow up with these matters.

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

- Water system is operating fine. We lost a chlorine pump on pump # 3. Mayor McCown said he talked with David Ulrick and he thinks we can buy all the parts to repair it. The paperwork should be here in the office to find the items to complete the repair.
- Sewer running as good as it can at the moment with the bio-cell being repaired. Hopefully the plant will be operational again on Friday. The Dept. of Ecology will be here this next week. David Tysz had some personal matters he was attending to so not around these last couple weeks as much but will be back spending more time with the Public Works Department to get the plant back on board. Robby and Cody will be attending DMR training on Wednesday in Spokane. The plant will be completely operational again in a couple months.
- The new garbage truck will be making its way to Garfield in the next couple days. Robby and Brad will take the recyclables up at the same time. April 15th will be all town clean up week. Surveillance has been installed at the scrap iron collection site to catch violators who are either disposing of the wrong items there or are coming from various communities and using it to dump. Robby has worked a deal with Whitman County to use their grader. We have to send a written request to explain the purpose of using the grader at a rate of \$90/hr. Robby and Brad will follow with the roller and smooth everything out after it has been graded. The dumpsters are still being retro-fitted with new tubes for the new garbage truck. The compost box was picked up but was a little overweight.
- Street sweeper is operational and road cleanup will begin soon. There are some gates open so there was a lot of dust created on the trial run and will require a little more repair to make it operate correctly.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Budget Amendments** Tim Southern isn't here to go into more detail on this so the council will move this topic to the next meeting.
2. WWTP. ML Albright has been working on the bio-cell out at the sewer plant. They exposed the old pipe and cracked out the concrete surrounding this pipe. They will start pouring the concrete to

re-anchor the pipe tomorrow and it will be hard enough to put the new bolts in on Friday. Friday it should be close to operational again. Mayor McCown said that Keltic Engineering called to say they would have to make some alterations to one of the pipes and the tooling and materials will cost an additional estimated \$2400.00.

NEW BUSINESS:

Erin Olsen and Denise Hasenoehrl would like to be on the Zoning and Planning Commission. Daymon Marple **MOVED** to appoint Denise Hasenoehrl and Erin Olsen to the Planning and Zoning Commission. David Jones seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. Katie Young said she would also be interested in being on the Planning and Zoning Committee. Sharon said she would give her name to the committee at Monday's meeting.

Mayor McCown said he wants to talk about the compost pile and the conversation he had with the county employee David Nails. Mayor McCown talked with David about our problems and our compost collection site. David approved us to do a couple of loads of compost in the boxes that are to be hauled away. The county has a chipper that they provide to surrounding communities through a grant. If we want them to, the county will come up here and chip and haul our pile for nothing. Mayor McCown said it sounds like they could be here with in a couple weeks to work on our pile. The outfit that chips the pile will put the chips in their trucks and haul them away.

In the last couple weeks an additional two boxes full of debris has arrived at our site. The council brought up that the county did it before and they raised the price on us. Daymon asked the Mayor to make sure they are promising us free and to possibly have them put it in writing. The recycling yard is cleaned up however the very first thing that arrived was a sofa, and then a swimming pool. Mark Young asked was our surveillance up and able to catch the persons who left these items. Mayor McCown is thinking about locking the gate and making patrons come and get a key from the clerk so they can dump inside the contained area. Sharon thought possibly a warning sign would help detract people from dumping the wrong items.

Daymon said there is lady living in a trailer illegally parked at the end of Union Street. The neighbors have complained she has been living there for an extended period of time with no utilities being charged to her since it is not an official residence. Chief Neumann has been instructed to have a talk with the residence and ask them to have the trailer removed.

Cher asked if we looked at the water leak at Roger Guiney's place. She assumes the water is coming from the town's side. It is thought to be on Cher's side of the street. Cher said it is getting kind of big now, and has resulted in a big puddle in front of the loading docks.

Daymon mentioned that the pot holes at the Busch gas pumps are becoming more difficult to navigate. Several guests and council members agreed that the potholes are beyond excessive and something needs to be done to level the yard. A call will be placed to Busch to ask them to take care of their lot.

FINANCIAL:

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

Check Register # 11334-11336 Plus EFTPS
EFT Dept. Of Revenue
Check Register # 11337-11341

Payroll: \$6,495.48
Claims: \$1,080.82
Claims: \$29,118.13 Total: \$36,694.43

ADJOURNMENT: Daymon Marple **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 PM. Sharon Schnebly seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Ray McCown, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Cody Lord, Clerk/Treasurer