

Town of Garfield
TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES Preliminary Draft
Town Hall – May 28th, 2014

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

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

GUESTS: Cher Curtis, Cathie May

Cher was wondering if the city was going to put some dirt back in the hole at Pat Pfaff's place. Mayor McCown said he was going to level off the gravel. He wanted to stay away from the sprinkler line and make sure he didn't hit it, he will confirm with Cher exactly where the sprinkler line is. Public Works is going to take a little gravel over and put it in the driveway; they will also put some gravel in the alley where the flooding waters took some gravel away.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mark Young **MOVED** to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of May 14th, 2014. Sharon Schnebly seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Officer Joe Merry present for the Police Department.

Officer Merry said we are waiting for Bishop's office to review the language in the code book detailing the sign ordinance. There is an older sign ordinance stating that a sign can be no larger than 2 feet by 2 feet. We will need to wait to get some clarification from Bishop's office on this matter. He will also be reviewing the 72 hour parking rule. Depending on his suggestion we may want to alter the ordinance so that vehicles can't be doing long term damage to our streets and parking strips. The definition is very loose when it is defining a trailer. Sharon Schnebly asks does it say anything that can be drawn upon a roadway or any other language that helps clarify the restriction. Officer Merry says again the language is vague but if we address it now at least next time we are faced with this situation we can pull the letter and make a ruling right away. Mark Young asks do you need us to look at the language and possibly make a change to it. Officer Merry will check with Bishop first and then we can address this matter.

Officer Merry said we need to clarify if the ordinance pertains to a vehicle, car, truck motor home, etc. and the statute talks about moving it, so we need to probably elaborate some on the ordinance to make it more enforceable. He has only had to use it one time in the past. Sharon said does it specify right away or does it talk about streets and the right away. Officer Merry explains our normal position is just to ask the person to move the vehicle but sometimes they are not required to move the vehicle under the current language. Mayor McCown brings up that there is currently a boat and a wooden swing parked on city property at the park and it needs to be moved. Officer Merry responds he will get right on taking care of that. Officer Merry explains a lot of these nuisance ordinances normally don't get enforced unless there is an unruly individual. Mayor McCown is in favor of rewriting the ordinance a bit so that we can use it when we need to.

Cathie May wonders if there have been any tickets issued for parking too close to the fire hydrants. Officer Merry confirms that he hasn't had to issue any citations for that reason, however he assures Cathie If you have a complaint then please let him know and it will be dealt with. Cathie informs Officer Merry of a household where they continually park their vehicles within feet of the hydrants.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: Robby Johnson and Brad Hasenoehrl have furnished a written report for the council meeting.

Water

- System is operating normal
- Leak at Busch and Guiney's to be fixed tomorrow
- Meter Reads went fine, Brad is now familiar with the route

Sewer

- Influent pump is showing signs of wear and tear, it may need replaced or rebuilt
- Waiting for price from Strom for the electric on the float system
- The plant continues to show signs of improvement
- Bar-Tech will be hauled off in the coming weeks, will check again with Anatek to get the result from the samples so we can send to Bar-Tech

Garbage

- Both trucks experienced mechanical difficulties this week
- New truck is operating fine again
- Old truck will need repaired at Ed-Ka, the liner from the compactor slipped out.

Streets

- Downtown streets were swept for May Day

Parks

- Mower operational again
- Mowing and weed whacking continues twice a week
- Dog waste collection bags are installed at the park

Questions for Public Works:

Mark questions the use of the old truck today for the route. Tim Southern said I can tell you about that, Robby started with the new one and the electronics went down on it for a bit. Robby was doing dumpster pick ups with the new truck and put the truck in reverse when the display went down. Brad ran the rest of the route with the old truck. Eventually they unplugged the display and it re-set the system and ran fine. Tim and Robby found nothing wrong with the truck. Brad took the old one to empty in Colfax and on the way back lost the lining. The old truck is at Ed-Ka to be fixed. Mayor McCown said we still have 7 dumpsters to be retro-fitted.

Mark would like to know the latest on the cost discrepancy from the quoted price and invoiced price from the mechanic who worked on the garbage truck in Spokane. Tim is still waiting for them to call him back with details on the invoice in question. They haven't sent another bill yet and no late fees have been attached to the invoice as of now. Tim explains we gave them a truck that was running and when they gave it back it wasn't running and numerous things were wrong with the hydraulics which weren't even supposed to be worked on.

Mark asks if we have heard anything additional from the Dept. of Ecology yet. Cody confirms there has been no additional information from them yet. Mayor McCown said the plant is running better all the time and the tests are coming back closer to normal. Cher asked is the arm running on the bio-cell and she is assured it is that it simply turns at such a slow rate of speed you probably wouldn't be able to tell it is running while driving by.

OLD BUSINESS:

United Recycling should be down here in the coming week to talk with Mayor McCown and find out what the Town of Garfield is looking to do with the recycling program. They will then return and make a presentation to the council.

The compost collection site box has been filled and the county came and took it away, we are waiting for another box to continue hauling what has arrived within the last week. We are currently running more than one box per month. A guy from the Whitman County Health Dept. is coming Friday morning to look at the progress of the collection site.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Palouse RTPO Regional Transportation.
There is some confusion as to what the RTPO offers or does for small communities like Garfield. Mayor McCown explains that they want us to sign an interlocal agreement with them; however we aren't fully aware of what they do. Mark said Daymon was looking into some sort of transport cooperative with SWEDA at one point. It was a conversation that took place for about two years and then it was dropped about 6 months ago. Sharon confirms it was a van pool route but it didn't work out. Mayor McCown says it is apparent we need some more information, possibly the organization can come in and give us some details. Mayor McCown asks Cody to write back and explain that we need more information and facts about their organization and what they offer. If it is important enough they will come and make a presentation to us.

2. Annual report complete and available for review.
Cody explains to the council that the Annual Report was completed on time and everything checked out fine. Annie Pillers signed off on the report and it was submitted to the State Auditors Office electronically.

FINANCIAL:

1. 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 # 11411-11414 PLUS EFTPS	Payroll: \$6,551.00
Check Register #11415-11422	Claims: \$2,139.88 Total: \$8,690.88

ADJOURNMENT: Sharon Schnebly **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 PM. David Jones seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Ray McCown, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Cody Lord, Clerk/Treasurer

