

Town of Garfield
TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES Preliminary Draft
Town Hall – October 8th, 2014

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Ray McCown called the meeting to order at 6:58 PM

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

GUESTS: Cher Curtis

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Daymon Marple **MOVED** to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting September 24th, 2014. Mark Young seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Chief Neumann present.

Last week there was a question about a semi in town that may not be legal. It was determined the semi is licensed and insured and is in legal standing. During the evening patrol there was a person in the metal pile and there was some concern about this individual being there. Chief Neumann asked does he have a release of liability from the town to be in the scrape yard. Mayor McCown said he has no authorization to be there and in fact there are about 3 people that come down there and take items. A Garfield resident was caught on surveillance dumping a hot tub in the metal pile. Mayor McCown said he broke down the hot tub with his backhoe. Sometime after he had the tub crushed the same vehicle that was recorded leaving the item drove by. Mark Young asked have they been warned. Mayor McCown said he followed them home and gave them a stern warning and told them the next time it will be a \$500.00 fine from the police department.

The police department has been working on barking dogs at 7th and 8th Streets; they have been able to make some contacts and headway on reducing the noise. It is evident that it is quiet a nuisance. Chief Neumann asked if Officer Merry had conversations with the council about the amount of dogs any household can have and Daymon Marple explained it was a conversation about chickens and cats and that dogs were not part of the discussion. Chief Neumann suggested maybe limiting the number of dogs allowed per resident since it seems to be a situation where one dog starts barking and then they get all of the other dogs in town barking. Daymon says his neighborhood dogs start barking about 11pm and stop barking about 3 in the morning, and that it is really becoming a nuisance. Also the moose are back in town; currently there is one bull, one mother and two juveniles.

Mayor McCown asked if there have been any more disturbances from the business downtown. Chief Neumann says the tenant has a permit for a medical marijuana crop that the police department has been invited to inspect. There have been some concerns from neighbors of all kinds of people coming and going from there at all times of day. It is referred to as the marijuana shop in town. Currently there are thought to be between 5 or 6 medical marijuana grows in town. Chief Neumann says if we can catch them buying or selling then we can bust them and address the issue. The council talks about the tax collection that the state and Federal Government are collecting from the sale of marijuana making it quite pricey. Mark stated it is so high that the state and the Federal Government are going to push the marijuana users to buy it illegally.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: The Public Works Update is Filed By Report.

Water

- 3 water leaks have been fixed in town (Highway 27, 3rd Street, and California Street). One ran all weekend on 3rd Street resulting in about a 50,000 gallon water loss. The one on the highway needs to be replaced with a 4 inch line. The hole was on the bottom of the pipe and has been covered with a stainless clamp for the time being.
- Dept. Of Health, water sampling to begin tomorrow.
- All other water systems are operating normally.

Sewer

- The plant operator David Tysz has the letter from the Dept. of Ecology and is drafting a response to the letter. He is also working on the paperwork that is needed for the Dept. of Ecology. He will probably have to start coming down about 3 days a week to work on the plant and his charges to the town will have to increase to between \$750 and \$1,000 a month. Currently his invoices are averaging about \$500 but more time will be necessary to complete all the Dept. of Ecology items. Mark takes a look at the letter and points out the dates and deadlines that need to be met to be compliant with the Dept of Ecology. Mayor McCown said the immediate items are taken care of and the October 31st deadline items are underway. So far we are good on the timeline. Mayor McCown also said he instructed Cody to send the Pretreatment Ordinance that we will be reviewing to Ellie Key at the Dept of Ecology and see if everything looks alright before we adopt it. Also this will show them that we are working on getting their items taken care of.
- The Bio-solids will be hauled off again shortly to Bar-tech in Cheney, ideally this will happen around 10/15.
- WWTP log sheets are being filled out daily for the Dept of Ecology.
- Wasting from the digester is being performed weekly.

Garbage

- The recyclables are ready for transport to the dump.
- Clean-up week starts 10/21 and signs have been posted about town.

Street

- Patching was completed on 3rd Street between Highway 27 and California Street. Fortunately there were two retired guys in town who have paved roads before and they lent a helping hand to help Robby and Brad get the job done. This was a great chance for Robby and Brad to get some exposure to laying blacktop so they know how to do it better in the future. Mayor McCown said he believes that they are done doing street patching for the winter and there probably won't be any more blacktop batched this week.
- If the weather holds out and more batching occurs, other areas around town will be marked for repair.

Parks

- Park leaf maintenance will be occurring soon and the leaves will be removed from the park as they fall.

Mayor McCown says that Brad will be taking next week off for vacation. Robby is hoping to take a load of cardboard to Spokane and he should be able to take almost all of it on this trip. Currently there is a load of cardboard, a load of aluminum and 7 or 8 boxes of newspapers that need to be transported.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Palouse RTPO Interlocal Agreement. Mayor McCown reminds everyone this is the guy named Marshall Doak that came and talked with us about what their organization was about. This is the final version of their agreement which needs the council's approval and Mayor's signature. It doesn't cost the town anything and the contract can always be canceled. David Jones **MOVED** to accept the Palouse RTPO Interlocal Agreement as written. Mark Young seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.
2. Dept. of Ecology Log Sheets and Update. The log sheets describing the duties of Robby, Brad and David at the WWTP are here for display. These logs will be attached to the DMR sheets which are submitted to the Dept. of Ecology on the 15th of each month. This is what is needed to comply with the Dept. of Ecology's first request on their list. Mark reads the language in the letter and clarifies this is showing hours and itemized details of what they are doing on a daily basis at the sewer plant. It is verified this will help them track hours and daily activity at the facility and hours spent on maintenance of the facility, as well as time spent learning more about the plant through the O&M manuals.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Pretreatment Ordinance WWTP. Mayor McCown instructed Cody to send it up to Ellie Key at the

Dept. of Ecology and make sure we have all the necessary language needed in order to adopt at the next council meeting.

2. Mark Young pointed out the fire district submitted their budget for 2015 to the council for approval and wanted to know if the council was prepared to accept the budget. Mayor McCown expressed that he would like to include this into the Town's budget process and that it shouldn't be adopted until we adopt our budget. Mayor McCown said looking over it he was surprised by some of the differences in the budget between this year and last year's. Council reviews the proposed budget. Mark explains the fire department moved some amounts around but kept primarily the same budget figure for 2015 as was adopted for 2014. Mayor McCown says he thinks the town is paying too much of the total portion based on how much area the town takes up in the total taxing district and that the farm land covers so much more area. He explains the town is about 1 square mile and rural covers about 10 square miles.

Sharon Schnebly explained that being combined affects our fire rating and this rating is what insurance companies use to justify rates charged to homeowners. Mayor McCown said the town is paying too much for the farmers. Sharon said I don't know if I agree. She asks how many of the call responses are from the Town of Garfield. Mayor McCown said there was one fire in town last year. Sharon clarifies by asking how many calls the fire department was dispatched on. Sharon asked Mark and David for their input since they attend the fireboard meetings. Mark explains there are all kinds of services the department provides making them a very involved organization with the town. Mark says it took two years to get an agreement put together and it is working for both parties.

Mark says we get a certain level of services that is worth what we are paying. Daymon explains it is like any other small town fire department; you have them for protection and not specifically what they do day to day. We have them primarily for insurance purposes and then the services they provide. Mark reiterates they are going into the second year with this contract and it is working pretty good with communications between the department and the rural fire board, he would like to see it remain that way.

Mayor McCown said there was a state transportation guy in town and he said they are going to overlay the highway next summer. Part of their process is they will have to put handicap curbs in at all intersections. Mayor McCown told him about the TIB grant we have applied for and the guy expressed he wished the town would keep in contact with him, that possibly they could put the two projects together and save some money. Mayor McCown said we should think about replacing that 2 inch line before they pour the sidewalk, possibly they would need to jog the line over a bit so they don't have to repave over the top of it. There is fiber-optic under there as well and they will have to keep that in mind when digging in that area.

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 # 11564-11568	Payroll: \$7,911.24
Check Register # 11569-11571 Quarterly Payroll Taxes	Claims: \$2,880.34
Check Register #11572-11594	Claims: \$38,805.31 Total: \$49,596.89

ADJOURNMENT: Sharon Schnebly **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 PM. Daymon Marple seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Ray McCown, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Cody Lord, Clerk/Treasurer