

Town of Garfield
TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES Preliminary Draft
Town Hall – September 10th, 2014

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 Sharon Schnebly. Staff: Public Works Assistant Brad Hasenoehrl and Clerk/Treasurer Cody Lord. Absent: David Jones.

GUESTS:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Sharon Schnebly **MOVED** to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting August 27th, 2014. Tim Southern seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Chief Jerry Neumann present.

The police officers have been dealing with several things going on around town. There have been multiple domestic squabbles called in recently. These issues will keep the police officers busy for the next couple weeks. Chief Neumann explains that the council should have a letter that has also been copied and sent to the Palouse Mayor for process of complaint. Chief Neumann talked with the author of the letter and gave her a preliminary finding on his part. Chief Neumann will bring back the information that comes from the findings. Chief Neumann said Officer Merry acted above board and everything he did was within his duties and actions. Council explains they will go into executive session regarding this matter. Chief Neumann states if there is anything that needs to be done could the council bring that information back through the Palouse office. Tim Southern asks Chief Neumann if there was a level 2 sex offender in town and did the police department get proper notification of this matter. Chief Neumann said he doesn't know the circumstances but Officer Merry had received some information regarding the individual in question. He is not a severe enough offender to regulate his proximity to the school in town. It is something that the officers are aware of and this individual is under court order so the county will be checking on him and monitoring him.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: Brad Hasenoehrl

Water

- There was a major leak at Union and 2nd Streets. Robby and Brad dug it up and replaced it up with poly and covered the hole again. A yield sign was placed at this intersection since it was already dug up. Other than that the water system has been running smoothly.

Sewer

- Robby, Brad and David Tysz have been draining the digester and everything seems to be emptying out fine, it is just taking a lot more time with the current bags they have to use. They are taking about 6 bags out every week. Mayor McCown thinks they need to go back to the basket system as it is easier to handle and holds more. David thinks there will be about 7 or 8 more baskets full of material. There is already about 75 baskets full out there. David has expressed he would like to switch to the burlap bags and just order the ones which are the right size for the catchment container. They are looking at \$2.00/bag and they would be filling about 7 a week. Robby is researching if Bartech will take the burlap bags without having to handle them as they are unloaded. Brad explains they are supposed to keep that digester at about 8 feet ideally. Brad also explains that he and Robby are just starting to get the hang of operating this component at the plant. 6 bags will reduce the level of the tank about 6 inches. Tim Southern asks Brad, will it stay at this level once it is emptied. Once they get to the 8 foot level then they will be able to maintain with removal about every 2 or 3 weeks. Once the plant works properly then it will be a lot less work, David explains the new bacteria will lower the sludge output over time. Right now they are working on getting the dead bugs out of the bottom and getting back to healthy live bugs in the middle of the tank. It empties from the bottom and works its way up. At the 8 foot level they will be

at the peak performance of bug life. Tim asks how many bags they still have. David went to Spokane and got some standard burlap sacks to get them by until the custom ordered bags can be shipped. They are a little short so they built a platform for them to sit on while filling. Mayor McCown again says he feels they need to go back to the basket system. Tim questions what they do with the stuff in the baskets. Mayor McCown said they can lift with the equipment above the back of the truck and slit the bag open and empty the contents into the bed of the truck to empty at Bar-Tech.

- The Plant is running a lot better in general. The level in the aeration chamber is starting to settle out.

Garbage

- Oct 21st is the date set for all town clean-up. All systems are running fine in the garbage department.

Parks and Streets

- Robby and Brad spread the pea gravel at the park where the kid's playground equipment is. The usual mowing has occurred. They replaced the sign at 2nd and Union and will also start on Friday changing out more signs throughout town. Tim asked what is the plan with the fire hydrants. Brad will ask Robby what the hydrant plan is for this year. Mark Young points out there will be an upcoming inspection and asks will the lack of installation come up at the inspection. Tim said it shouldn't be an issue; we have them and will eventually get to installing them.

Sharon Schnebly asks did we figure out what we are going to do about town cleanup and the lack of dumpsters. Brad points out that the sign says all small items should be placed into contractor bags for easier collection during all town clean-up. Sharon would like to see a few suggestions placed on the sign stating where people can go to buy contractor bags to use during the town clean-up.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Restaurant PDA Transfer of Title to Town of Garfield. Mayor McCown would like to table this until the next council meeting since the PDA wasn't able to get a quorum.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Letter from Town Citizen
(Executive session)
- Start of the Budget Process. Tim said we will have to wait for some more variables like insurance rates to come in until the beginning of November before we can get close on the budget numbers. In the past they haven't done the budget until the middle of November because of the lack of numbers needed to get it accurate. Cody explains this is just to get everyone thinking about the process so that we can be organized once it is ready to be put together.

Executive Session: The council **MOVED** to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters {RCW 42.30.110 (1) (g) } reconvening at 7:45 PM. The Police Chief, Public Works Assistant and Clerk left the meeting. Council went into Executive Session at 7:19 PM.

The council meeting reconvened into regular session at 7:47 PM.

Tim Southern announced he will be resigning from his council position sometime between the middle of October to the beginning of November in 2014.

FINANCIAL:

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

Check Register # 11531-11535
Check Register #11536-11556

Payroll: \$7,874.89
Claims: \$44,307.58 Total: \$52,182.47

ADJOURNMENT: Daymon Marple **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 PM. Tim Southern seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Ray McCown, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Cody Lord, Clerk/Treasurer