

Town of Garfield
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
September 22, 2010 – Final Draft

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Jarrod Pfaff called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Jarrod Pfaff, Andrew Flodin, Daymon Marple, Tim Southern and Rob Watkins. Staff – Police Chief Jerry Neumann, Clerk/Treasurer Annie Pillers. Absent: Larry Hunt. Guest: Kathy Westacott.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: Kathy Westacott addressed council regarding two matters – the park and the trailer park. She has lived by the park for 30 years and said this summer was awful around park. She broke up many fights and said it's the same kids. Younger families won't take their kids to park because of the fights and destruction. She said the park is a mess. She's found broken glass, a needle, condoms, and underwear. Kids are in and out of the bathroom constantly. There are people there all hours of the night. Kathy said she does not feel it is her responsibility to break up fights and clean the bathroom. She has done both.

Mayor Pfaff updated Kathy that they know about the kids in the park. The problem council has right now is that there is nothing written down so they can't do anything. They are working with Stephen Bishop to write down definitively what they can do, i.e. you do this in the park and this is what happens, you do this in the park and you are kicked out permanently. He said if the town busts them now, it doesn't hold up.

She noted the trailer park, although better in the last month, has steady traffic coming and going. There are dog issues and drug problems. She's been told unless the officers see the problem, nothing can be done. She expressed frustration that more can't be done. Chief Neumann confirmed there were 3 citations issued in the last month on the dog problem. He confirmed a citizen seeing something doesn't work; the police officer needs to see the problem, other than through the courts and a search warrant. The department has to follow this fine line. Mayor Pfaff agreed with Kathy and said he has talked with Officer Merry in the past about this same frustration. However, Chief Neumann is right about what can and can't be done. The police department can only go so far and then it's the task force.

Chief Neumann asked Kathy to let him know when there are fights in the park. He needs to be able to document all this and without getting a call, he can't do so. Daymon Marple talked about floodlights in all 4 corners of the park. Kathy said there used to be lights at the basketball court. Rob Watkins suggested locking the bathroom doors at night. Chief Neumann talked about regulating the times the park could be used. Rob Watkins referred to the town's current ordinance that allows the mayor to close the park at night. Rob Watkins encouraged Kathy to be sure and call the police when there are fights at the park. This will allow the department to find the common time and arrange their patrol time accordingly. Kathy Westacott left the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Rob Watkins **MOVED** the minutes of September 8, 2010, recessed to September 13, 2010, and recessed to September 21, 2010 be approved as written. Daymon Marple seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Police Chief Jerry Neumann updated council.

Park: Chief Neumann would follow up with Stephen Bishop on how he wants to word the ordinance to best suit a small community. He suggested may the town come up with our own ordinance and present that to him. Mayor Pfaff would also follow up with Stephen.

Police contract: Last week the Palouse council met and unanimously approved a 3-year contract with a no increase for 2011, a 1.5% increase for 2012, and 1.5% increase in 2013.

Reserve Office: While Officer Dentler is out on a medical Reserve Officer Terry Snead has been filling when needed. Officer Merry and Chief Neumann are splitting shifts to cover calls.

Spare Police Car: Mayor Pfaff asked that the spare car be moved at least twice a month, rotating at each end of town. Chief Neumann noted ongoing problems with the battery. It was agreed for out-of-towners, the presence of the spare vehicle was a speed deterrent, especially during Cougar game weekends.

PUBLIC WORKS: Tails.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution 2010-21 – Setting Public Works Assistant Salary: Rob Watkins **MOVED** to adopt Resolution 2010-21 setting a new salary figure for the Public Works Assistant effective October 1, 2010. Andrew Flodin seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Old Business:

1. Ordinance No. 388N – Setting November/December 2010 Council Meeting Schedule: Mayor Pfaff talked about the upcoming holidays in November and December, noting the regular November meeting would be the day before Thanksgiving. Daymon Marple **MOVED** to adopt Ordinance No. 388N setting the November/December 2010 Meeting Schedule. Rob Watkins seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Ordinance No. 389N – Budget Amendment for Public Works Salary Adjustments and Retirement Payout: Mayor Pfaff explained this amendment covers the retirement payout for Dave and the salary increases. Rob Watkins **MOVED** to adopt Ordinance No. 389N amending the 2010 budget to allow for salary adjustments in the Public Works Department and the retirement payout. Andrew Flodin seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Utility Billing – Legion Hall: Mayor Pfaff explained it was discovered that the Legion Hall was not being billed for utilities and there was no record to show why. Larry Hunt had discovered this. Annie Pillers had talked with Lajeane Proctor and she understood they would be billed starting October 1, 2010. Lajeane had no record why there was no billing. Council reconfirmed any property receiving utility services would be billed. It was clarified, as a commercial property, garbage service was not required.

4. Garfield PDA Appointments: Daymon Marple reviewed the PDA appointments with council. Emily Smelser had recently expressed interest in joining the PDA board. Daymon said Larry Hunt had been unable to participate and would be off the board. Annie Pillers noted, after talking with Stephen Bishop, he had recommended all the positions resign and be re-appointed by council. Mayor Pfaff accepted all the PDA resignations. Rob Watkins **MOVED** the following Garfield PDA Board appointments:

Sally Bishop, Rich Landers and Daymon Marple	Term 9/22/2010 - 3/7/2012
John Love and Katie Young	Term 9/22/2010 - 3/7/2013
Emily Smelser and Andrew Thomas	Term 9/22/2010 - 3/7/2014

Andrew Flodin seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Planning Commission Appointments: Mayor Pfaff indicated this topic would be skipped until Phil Weagraff reviews the matter. Annie Pillers confirmed Andrew Flodin recently had to resign.

6. Employee Dependent Health Coverage: Mayor Pfaff said during the hiring process for a new Public Works Superintendent, he discovered that new hires could be losing up to \$800 a month if they come to work for the town due to spouse and child health insurance. He said the town could pay \$400 a month towards the premiums. He proposed paying ½ the spouse and ½ the dependent coverage. He thought the budget could handle this until 2012 and starting in 2013 the inflation factor would kick in to cover this. Andrew Flodin was okay with this proposal and said he was hopeful it would ensure a long-term employee. Andrew Flodin **MOVED** effective October 1, 2010, the town would cover one-half of the health insurance premiums for employee's dependents and spouse. Daymon Marple seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. Annie Pillers would update the personnel manual accordingly and present this at the next council meeting.

APPROVAL OF CHECKS: Rob Watkins **MOVED** to approve the following bills presented to council for payment. Andrew Flodin seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.
Check Register #9649- 9657 Payroll: \$5,328.96 #9658-#9667 Claims: \$8,995.93 TOTAL: \$14,324.89

RESIDENTIAL DUMPSTER RATE: Mayor Pfaff revisited the cost of residential dumpsters, suggesting that the rate be increased. He gave the example of a household who uses the dumpsters for themselves only. That household pays the same 2-can per week rate but could fill the dumpster way beyond that amount. There are a couple of dumpsters that are shared by more than one household, with each household paying the 2-can per week rate, but that is a choice of the dumpster owner. Rob Watkins clarified a person could get a dumpster and not pay an excess fee. Mayor Pfaff confirmed this. He said Perry Brown thought there were 7 residential dumpsters in town. A proposed residential dumpster rate of \$35 to \$40 was discussed. Andrew Flodin **MOVED** the residential dumpster rate be \$35 a month. Daymon Marple seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. Annie Pillers would have an ordinance reflecting that rate ready for council adoption at the next meeting. Rob Watkins talked about revisiting this rate in 6 months. Mayor Pfaff noted the rate would go up in January with the inflation factor.

RECESS: Daymon Marple **MOVED** to recess the meeting until Monday, September 27th at 6:00 pm. Rob Watkins seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting was recessed at 8:03 PM.

Jarrod Pfaff, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Annie Pillers, Clerk/Treasurer