

Town of Garfield
TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – Preliminary Draft
Town Hall – September 14, 2011

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Jarrod Pfaff called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Jarrod Pfaff, Larry Hunt, Daymon Marple, and Sharon Schnebly. Staff – Public Works Superintendent Bill Bowman, Police Officer Brian Kriebel and Clerk/Treasurer Annie Pillers. Absent: Andrew Flodin and Tim Southern.

Guests: Cher Curtis, Tom Kammerzell, and Cathie May.

Port Commissioner Candidate Tom Kammerzell – Tom Kammerzell said he stopped by to say hello and introduce himself as he was running for Whitman County Port Commissioner. He felt there needed to be better two-way communication between cities and the Port. He said his commitment, before the election, and if elected, after the election, was to get to each town at least once a year. With the current economic troubles, no individual town or port or county commission could get out of this alone. He said he had been listening to folks in Garfield today and he heard over and over the need for a grocery store and restaurant. He understood Garfield has a public development authority. He said Lacrosse had this and put together a really good business plan with their own funds and matching money.

Mr. Kammerzell said he was boisterous about first, foremost and last – water, keeping Central Ferry, Almota and Wilma open. He said he was from a family of 4 generations in Whitman County. They have Highland Cattle outside of Colfax and that works for them. He would like to see getting different businesses and jobs going. He resigned from the school district the day before the primary election, so if elected, he would have the time to do this job. He has been attending Port meetings since last year and has attended everyone since May of this year. The other candidate for the Port is Al Sorensen, an insurance salesman from Pullman.

Mr. Kammerzell said he likes to take a wide view of everything and would like to see the Port more focused on economic development for all of Whitman County. He briefly noted some of the Port's responsibilities, including the Ports of Almota, Central Ferry and Wilma, plus Boyer Park, the Colfax Airport, the 110 grain car facility and the recent stimulus money fiber optics project from Spokane to Clarkston – economic development, tourism and promotion for Whitman County.

Park Maintenance/Water Leaks – Cathy May asked about several park maintenance items including a broken sprinkler head; how come the park hasn't been mowed in 3 weeks; feces in the men's restroom; water on the floor in the women's restroom from the broken toilet; removal of the cement around the old restrooms; and the large tree branch still hanging down. Bill responded the Perry had been on vacation and the mower was currently broken but the replacement parts were in now. Cathy asked if the additional public works helper could do the mowing. Bill did not recommend this as the town mower is hard to operate. Bill said the new stainless steel toilet for the women's restroom had been ordered. Bill tried to reach the hanging branch with his backhoe but it was just beyond his reach. Cathy noted Dave Ulrick has a pole he can use. Bill said the new gazebo will be put on top of the old restroom cement. People in town were talking about putting it in, but it kind of died out. Cathy said she thought the previous water leak near her house might be leaking again. Bill said he was waiting to get an excavator to do the work so they don't have to get into the highway.

Junk Vehicles/Dog Nuisance/Cat Issues – Cher Curtis thanked Joe Merry for his follow up contact on a recent request she had about problems with junk vehicles. Cher asked about ongoing problems with dogs barking. Officer Dentler explained the procedure for a barking dog nuisance and encouraged Cher to call or have the person call the non-emergency dispatch number when the dog is barking. He said for the department to address this problem the officers have to sit and listen to the dog barking. He said if it's a problem dog, call any time, day or night as this is the only way to fix it. Cher indicated dispatch always wants to know the exact address and sometimes that's hard to know. Officer Dentler said they would still

look in the general area. He did note though, that often people do not want to give their name or address to dispatch so they don't call in with the complaint. Cher asked if there was type of cat ordinance, similar to the dog ordinance as stray cats are a real problem. It was noted there was no such ordinance at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Annie Pillers noted a minor typographical correction in the minutes changing the month July to August for approval of minutes. Larry Hunt **MOVED** the minutes of the July 21, 2011 Special Council Meeting and August 24, 2011 Regular Council meeting, as corrected, be approved. Sharon Schnebly seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Police Officer Brian Dentler reported August was nice and easy. September was starting out kind of busy. He's had one incident where 6 juveniles were cited for trespassing at a church. From this a clean-up work party is being scheduled. Larry Hunt asked Officer Dentler about the idea of a curfew and getting information on this. Officer Dentler said getting information is not a problem, but he did not want to speak for his department, preferring to talk with Chief Neumann and Officer Merry about it. Larry Hunt asked him to do so before the next meeting. Sharon Schnebly said curfews are one of those things that the kids that are being good and doing things get punished too. She said juvenile services can put a curfew on the individual. Larry Hunt recommended an 11 PM or midnight curfew. He asked if council was interested in looking into this as a tool. Mayor Pfaff said he was not, particularly if it was simply going to be one more ordinance that is only enforced 20% of the time. But he was much more interested in what the police department thinks about it and if it would actually be used. Before the next council meeting, Stephen Bishop would be contacted on the legality of a curfew

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: Bill Bowman reported:

Park – the new door handle is on the men's restroom. Parts for the lawnmower are in and it will be put together soon.

Crew Schedule - Perry will be back in tomorrow. They will be busy with lots of locates for the fiber optics project.

Water Leaks – the water leak on California Street is fixed along with a water leak on 7th Street. Cathy May reminded Bill the leak at her place may be coming back. Larry Hunt reported a water leak between his shop and Joe Keller's property. It's right at the property line and likely started Saturday or Sunday.

Boiler Inspections - all the town's boilers and water heaters were inspected today and are good. The boiler repair at the wastewater treatment plant was finished up today and now just needs some fuel. There was no fuel delivery today. Mayor Pfaff recommended shopping for this bulk purchase each time.

2nd Street Overlay Project – Poe started and one catch basin is done. They will be grinding on Monday. Bill will place grindings on 10th Street as they come from Poe on Monday grind. He will put them down flat enough to be driven across. Bill asked about getting the emulsifier. He would get prices for this. He will also make sure to put grindings in at Souders. Any leftover grindings Bill will store. He has one possible spot for storing the extra grindings. Larry Hunt also offered his area for the extra grindings to be stored. Tom Kammerzell said he did not have success storing grindings. Bill said he has had success with this in the past.

Street Maintenance – it was confirmed the town will not know until November about the grant for street repairs on 1st Street near the school and Souders. It was noted the place where the street was dug out near Dick Kriebel's and the school looks like it might be sinking in now.

Compost Site - Cher said the compost area looks nice and the crew is doing a good job of keeping it back.

Extra Town Dumpsters – Bill said they continue to have problems with garbage dumps (garbage, mattresses, etc.) at the recycle center and compost area. Bill had requested a price from EdKa for dumpsters and they had called the same place Bill contacted. Bill estimated the price at \$450 to \$500 each. He thought the town's dumpsters were 2 yard size. Mayor Pfaff asked about pricing on a 3 yard size. He said his dumpster is larger than the town's normal dumpsters. Mayor Pfaff was open to spending \$3,000 for dumpsters and recommended ordering 3 or 4 of the 2 yard size and 2 of the larger size. .

3rd Street Bus/Large Truck Traffic – Larry Hunt said the school buses were having a problem passing along 3rd Street at the school. It was nobody's fault, but between the parked vehicles on the property owner's property and the big tree that is outside of the sidewalk, it's really close. He said it could make a huge difference if the tree was removed and recommended looking at this. He said just removing the tree alone

would make visibility 100% better. He said the food service trucks and buses really have a hard time now. It was agreed to go up and measure the area to see what could be done.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Livestock/Fowl Ordinance No. 406N: Mayor Pfaff suggested the fines be \$50, \$100 and \$200 to match the existing dog ordinance. Council agreed. Daymon Marple **MOVED** to adopt Ordinance No. 406N prohibiting the keeping of livestock or fowl which constitute a public nuisance and providing a penalty of \$50 for the first offense, \$100 for the second offense and \$200 for the third offense. Sharon Schnebly seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. November/December Meeting Schedule: With the upcoming holiday schedule council agreed to hold the November and December meetings as follows: November 9th and 21st; December 7th and 14th. An ordinance to this effect would be prepared for the September 28th council meeting.

2. Railroad Boring: Annie Pillers reported she had finally had contact with the fiber optics contractor about possibly boring for a one inch water line for the town underneath the railroad tracks at SR 27. This water line would supply service to the south entry sign into Garfield. She was waiting back on a cost estimate. Council authorized up to \$5,000 for this project.

3. Nathan Cocking Eagle Scout Project – Sports Championship Sign: Council expressed their pleasure with the sports championship sign recently installed by Nathan Cocking for his Eagle Scout project. A letter of thank you would be prepared for councils' signature.

4. Town Spray Rig: Bill Bowman confirmed the town had ordered a spray rig earlier in the year and later found out it was on back ordered and then the order was completely cancelled. Council recommended Bill consider building the unit himself, using parts through Mokonema McGregor's as they are durable and replacements parts are readily available when needed, even locally sometimes.

FINANCIAL

1. **APPROVAL OF CHECKS**: Daymon Marple **MOVED** the following bills presented to council for payment. Larry Hunt seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Check Register #10110-#10116 Payroll: \$7,071.38

Check Register #10117 Claims: \$26,000

Check Register #10118-#10140 Plus DOR EFT Claims: \$67,908.57 TOTAL: \$100,979.95.

ADJOURNMENT: Larry Hunt **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 pm. Daymon Marple seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Jarrod Pfaff, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Annie Pillers, Clerk/Treasurer -