

Town of Garfield
TOWN COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Town Hall – November 21, 2011

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Jarrod Pfaff called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

GUESTS: Christine Bowman, Cher Curtis, Lisa Hampton, Eric Hasenoehrl, and Cathie May.

PUBLIC HEARING – Final hearing on 2012 BUDGET: Mayor Pfaff opened the public hearing at 7:01 PM and provided copies of the 2012 Budget. He noted Current Expense and 401 needed the most help. Current Expense is now down where he would like it. He said 401 has drastically less of a loss than where it started. Mayor Pfaff suggested bringing about \$30,000 from reserves for 401 to bring the beginning balance up. He was also tossing around the idea of taking \$1 off water reserve and putting it back into water or sewer's operating, from \$20,000 to \$15,000, for the start of 2012. He was sitting tight on any other changes until the end of the month numbers were available. Mayor Pfaff asked for questions. Tim Southern suggested the \$1 reserve go to sewer since the cost of that is going up. Daymon Marple agreed since sewer was going up more than water. Tim said the water fund was known, and council would probably have to pick up that \$1 somewhere. He said hopefully the town could hold off until 2013. The plant was operating better with the problems fixed, but it was now costing more in the long run to operate. Council consensus was to add the \$1 reserve into sewer. Mayor Pfaff again asked for any questions. Mayor Pfaff was asked if the \$30,000 from reserves would be enough to cover costs. He said it was right on the line. Tim Southern suggested rather than moving the full \$30,000, budget for it but only move \$10,000 or \$15,000. Mayor Pfaff agreed \$10,000 a quarter could be moved and then watch to see how it's going. Daymon Marple asked about meters. The mayor said that would have to be put back in. It was confirmed the town had plenty of spare garbage cans and dumpsters. No maintenance/replacement work was scheduled for the garbage truck. Mayor Pfaff closed the public hearing at 7:10 pm and reopened the regular council meeting.

KELTIC ENGINEERING: Lisa Hampton and Eric Hasenoehrl congratulated the town for their TIB award. Mayor Pfaff said the TIB overlay project came out fantastic this year. The water is going where it's supposed to and the road looks great. Eric was pleased with the curb reveal so water would not go on the sidewalk. Because the asphalt was thinner than they had thought, it made the project easier. Mayor Pfaff said he liked that the grindings could be used elsewhere. Tim Southern asked about 10th Street qualifying for TIB now that it was treated with grindings. Eric confirmed it would qualify for preservation money and could have an overlay on it. He further noted that grindings make a better base than rock as they bind. A rock base requires 2 inches while asphalt only requires 1 inch. Grindings would be closer to 1 and ½ inches. Eric confirmed the town was awarded a TIB grant for the 3rd Street overlay project. The town was not awarded the chip seal projects. Eric said in talking with the director, Steve Gorcester, at TIB, they were low on funds and were trying to get something to each place. It was agreed the town should have another street ready for placement of grindings at the same time 3rd Street grinding occurs.

POLICE REPORT: Officer Joe Merry updated council on recent activities. The department assisted Whitman County with a search warrant for narcotics and stolen property in town. From the department's work, another search warrant was issued for Oakesdale. These continue as ongoing investigations with 3 people taken into custody. Officer Merry said follow up on the school bus parked out of town, confirmed the individual had permission from the property owner to be on the property. He is not living in the bus and will be completing truck driver training in two weeks. Officer Merry also said the department was continuing to work to re-familiarize a family with seizure laws on stolen property and with a change in the manager of the facility, they have been calling and been very cooperative.

Sharon Schnebly asked when Chief Neumann was coming back to a council meeting. Officer Merry said

he was just filling in for the chief tonight because of a game. Officer Merry offered to answer any questions of Sharon or the council. Sharon Schnebly said she preferred to have the chief at a meeting so they didn't get told about having to talk to Jerry. Due to a call, Officer Merry left the meeting at 7:15 pm.

KELTIC ENGINEERING (continued): Mayor Pfaff asked about funding options for a fire station. CDBG was discussed as an option and the town possibly qualifying if the town was responsible for providing the station and built the station. He talked about a new interlocal agreement for this and charging rent, to show the clear separation. Keltic would check with CDBG staff on this possibility.

Mayor Pfaff asked about WWTP stream maintenance. Eric said this is common for treatment plants and if the project was under ½ acre it would stay under the 404 nationwide permit process. It requires completion of a JARPA application which Keltic offered to complete. Once returned the town would then have a checklist of requirements to do the work. If the project goes over ½ acre, it means a 401 permit which requires showing due cause and possibly environmental studies. He said if the project was narrow (3 feet wide) along the creek it should qualify and improve the flow. He estimated a figure of \$7 to \$10 a yard and said there would need to be a place for the spoils.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Larry Hunt **MOVED** the minutes of the November 9, 2011, Public Hearing and Regular Council meeting be approved. Sharon Schnebly seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: Bill Bowman reported:

1. WWTP Repairs – ML Albright was scheduled to replace the flappers the following day and they might be finished that same day or if not, the next day.

2. New Dumpsters – the town now has the 6 new dumpsters, 2 yard in size.

3. Sludge Removal - waiting to hear back from Barr Tech on getting rid of the solid waste and purge the digester. The digester should keep better heat if get rid of the bio. Initially it sounded like Barr Tech was going to require some additional testing but the town may be able to bring it in now.

4. Park – it was noted the leaves in the park were not picked up again this year and this was now 2 years in a row.

5. Christmas Decorations – Cher Curtis thanked Daymon Marple for allowing use of the PDA building for repair of the Christmas decorations. She also thanked David Ulrick and Annie Pillers for their help and Perry Brown for getting the decorations to them.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Granting Utility Easement: Mayor Pfaff updated council on a request from JE Love a number of years ago for a utility easement when new power lines were placed. Larry Hunt and Tim Southern were the only council members around at that time. He noted the easement was approved but never written down. Now with the vault going in for fiber optics, JE Love was requesting this again. Council was agreeable. By voice resolution, Tim Southern **MOVED** a utility easement be granted to JE Love Company LLC, along the south 6 feet of the alley in Block 8 between 3rd and 4th Street with the stipulation, if not used for more than 365 days, the easement terminates, and authorizing the mayor to sign the easement document. Sharon Schnebly seconded the voice resolution motion and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Dumpster Rates: Mayor Pfaff asked council if they wanted to have a different rate for the new, larger dumpsters recently purchased. He estimated they were double the size of the current dumpsters. He also confirmed these are rental dumpsters, not permanent dumpsters. Annie Pillers would provide council with comparable rental figures from other companies.

3. Equipment Attachments: Tim Southern asked how much the crew would use attachments on the Bobcat such as pallet forks, a trencher, etc. Bill confirmed they got pallet forks when they got the Bobcat. Based upon the type of digging with exposing pipe to repair, and particularly sewer lines, he could not justify the purchase of a trencher. Larry Hunt noted the town could rent one for \$50 a day if needed. Tim said he was just checking as he would be attending an auction in Kennewick.

FINANCIAL

1. APPROVAL OF CHECKS: Andrew Flodin **MOVED** the following bills presented to council for payment.

Daymon Marple seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously

Check Register #10217 Claims: \$22,357.27;

Check Register #10218 Claims: \$59,659.69 Spoiled Check #10191

Check Register #10219-#10225 plus EFTPS Payroll: \$6,336.96 Spoiled Check #10224

Check Register #10226-#10231 Claims: \$6,819.43 TOTAL: \$95,173.35

ADJOURNMENT: Tim Southern **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 pm. Andrew Flodin seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Jarrold Pfaff, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Annie Pillers, Clerk/Treasurer