

Town of Garfield
TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – Preliminary Draft Only
Town Hall – December 7, 2011

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

ROLL CALL: Jarrod Pfaff, Andrew Flodin 7:01, Larry Hunt, Sharon Schnebly, and Tim Southern. Staff – Public Works Assistant Perry Brown 7:03, Police Officer Brian Dentler, Police Chief Jerry Neumann, and Clerk/Treasurer Annie Pillers. Absent: Daymon Marple. **GUESTS:** Cher Curtis and Cathie May.

Cat Problems/Rabies Certificates – Cher Curtis talked about the ongoing cat problem in Janice Lund's neighborhood, noting a new requirement effective 1/1/12 for all cats, dogs and ferrets to have rabies certificates. Sharon Schnebly confirmed this and explained in more detail the new Washington Administrative Code that makes it a misdemeanor not to have a current rabies certificate for all dogs, cats and ferrets and if not enforced there is a \$50 fine for the first offense and a \$100 fine for the second offense. If a person cannot prove a current rabies certificate for their animal they are written a criminal citation. Sharon Schnebly suggested the police department contact the animal shelter ahead of time on bringing cats over. Council discussed the need to inform the community of this new law. Ideas included putting it in on the website, a notice on the water bills and posting it at the post office, bank and tavern, and a press release in the Whitman County Gazette.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Larry Hunt **MOVED** the minutes of the November 21, 2011, Public Hearing and Regular Council meeting be approved. Andrew Flodin seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

POLICE REPORT: Chief Neumann updated council on recent activities and provided the early October through early December 2011 Activity Log. He briefed council on follow up and ongoing activities from last week. Chief Neumann reviewed the activity log, noting it doesn't show everything the department is doing, like when he comes over a couple 3 times a week to do morning patrol. This accounts for one or two hours a week. He noted the department is consistently hitting 5 or 5.5 hours. He noted the department is dealing with their first chicken complaint and there could likely be a challenge. It was suggested the town send a letter to the owners. Officer Dentler said the owners were asking if they could have some time to get into compliance. Council thought 2 weeks would be reasonable.

Chief Neumann asked if there were any other questions from council. Sharon Schnebly said she wondered if the town was getting a consistent 5 hours per day, noting there were 4 days the town didn't get 5 hours. She said she just wanted to make sure the town was getting what it pays for in patrols. Chief Neumann noted not all the department's activities end up on the activity log and they need to get noted what is not counted, stating it needs to be on the form. Sharon Schnebly noted the council has had questions and asked for things to get done and they didn't. Larry Hunt referred to the recent issue with the school bus on the edge of town. When it was first brought up by council, Officer Brian Dentler was at council and he was asked what he could do. He was going to notify the sheriff's office. 2 weeks went by and when asked Officer Dentler had not yet talked with Chief Neumann. Larry Hunt noted with only meeting twice month and two weeks in between, and looking into or getting answers at each meeting, he asked Chief Neumann if he could come to all the meetings he could. Chief Neumann noted the two officers do 90% of the work in town and they will come. He has other meetings he has to attend and will not come every time. He noted they are contract employees providing a service to Garfield to the best of their ability and go above and beyond. If the town was not happy with the services, the town would need to do something different. He said if not happy, let's make a change. He noted the department is on call 24/7 and feels vested in the community.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: Perry Brown noted he hadn't planned attending the meeting so he hadn't checked to see if there was anything to follow up on for council. He has been busy doing the basics and keeping things going. He was supposed to be on vacation this week so hadn't worked a lot.

1. WWTP – The flappers appear to be working and Saturday they were successful when the lead plugged and the lag started. Another set of wheels were picked up for the other cart. By next week it's possible someone won't have to go to the WWTP 7 days a week.

2. New Dumpsters – all six new dumpsters are in with 2 currently rented out.

3. Sludge Removal – Mayor Pfaff said to take the sludge to Barr Tech before the end of the year under the current permit. There is a time limit on the permit. Perry Brown said Bill was waiting for approval from Barr Tech. They have to decide if testing is required again on the sludge. It was thought the sludge should be fine, since more time had passed. Mayor Pfaff said to make sure it was done under the existing permit.

4. Park Surveillance System - It was confirmed the installation was nearly complete.

5. Snow Plowing/Vehicle Maintenance – Perry confirmed the snow plow truck has a good set of chains and is ready to go. The bobcat also has a set of chains and he thinks the grader has a set as well. The backhoe, orange truck and garbage truck all have chains.

6. Traffic Mirror - Larry Hunt built a set of brackets to hold the mirror steady. The wind causes it to move. When installing the brackets Larry found the back of the mirror is cardboard, like an indoor mirror. He suggested purchase of 2 or 3 cans of rubberized spray to spray the entire back of the mirror and protect it.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Larger Dumpster Rate: Mayor Pfaff revisited the issue of the dumpster rate for the newer, larger dumpsters. Perry Brown confirmed the existing older dumpsters are 1-1/2 yards and the new ones are 2 years. Mayor Pfaff said if the town doubled the rate it would be half the price of Empire. Larry Hunt asked if a person could get a ton into one. Perry Brown said it would depend on what was being thrown away. He said very few dumpsters ever get close to the one ton. The dump rate for the current dumpsters is roughly \$41 with tax. Sharon Schnebly **MOVED** the council set a \$65 per dump rate for the new 2 yard dumpsters, effective 1/1/2012. Larry Hunt seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. 3rd Street Overlay TIB Grant Approval: Mayor Pfaff confirmed the town was awarded a TIB no match grant for the 3rd Street Overlay project. Larry Hunt asked about grinding the asphalt just like was done on the 2nd Street project this year and planning ahead to use those grindings right away rather than piling them on his proper and turning into rock after 3 months. He suggested the contractor take the grindings right then and put them on the road where they are to be applied. Council agreed with this suggestion. Tim Southern **MOVED** to approve the TIB Grant for overlay of 3rd Street and authorized the mayor to sign the grant documents. Larry Hunt seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Resolution 2011-15 – Firefighter Salary: It was noted the 2010 firefighter salary schedule was the same as the 2011 proposal. Sharon Schnebly **MOVED** to approve Resolution 2011-15 adopting the 2011 Firefighter Salary schedule. Tim Southern seconded the motion and the motion carried. Abstention: Andrew Flodin.

FINANCIAL

1. APPROVAL OF CHECKS: Larry Hunt **MOVED** approval of the following bills presented to council for payment. Sharon Schnebly seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously
Check Register #10232-#10239 Payroll: \$7,163.16; Check Register #10240-10252 Claims: \$16,227.24
TOTAL: \$23,390.40

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Larry Hunt **MOVED** the council go into executive session for personnel reviews {RCW 42.30.110(1) (g)}, reconvening at 8:15 pm with no further business to be acted upon. Sharon Schnebly seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. The public, police officers, public works assistant and town clerk left the meeting at 7:40 pm.

The council reconvened into regular session at 8:15 pm with no further business conducted.

ADJOURNMENT: Sharon Schnebly **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 pm. Andrew Flodin seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Jarrod Pfaff, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Annie Pillers, Clerk/Treasurer