

**Town of Garfield
TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES Preliminary Draft
Town Hall – August 26, 2015**

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Pro Tem Mark Young called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM

ROLL CALL: Mayor Pro Tem Mark Young, David Jones, Daymon Marple (arrived at 7:03), and Sharon Schnebly. Staff: Clerk/Treasurer Cody Lord, Public Works Assistant Mark Phillips Absent: Mayor Ray McCown, Tim Southern

GUESTS: Neal Leon, Justin Phillips, and Sandra Cavallo,

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Sharon Schnebly **MOVED** to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting August 12th, 2015. David Jones seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Chief Neumann and Officer Joe Handley present for the police department.

There has been 1 arrest and 1 booking with physical assault since the last meeting. Officer Handley located the vehicle with person in question in Palouse. Mayor Pro Tem Mark Young asked what the crime was. Chief Neumann said it was domestic dispute, however the victim became uncooperative and wouldn't give details so they couldn't move forward. The department also responded to a couple medical calls. Chief Neumann said the department is getting some complaints of late night prowling, he encourages anyone that sees people outside lingering around during odd hours to please call 911 or Whitcom so they can properly handle the situation. He explains that this is usually happening around 11 pm to 2 am. Mayor Pro Tem Mark Young asks are there any reported crimes. Chief Neumann said it appears nothing has been stolen just people walking where they shouldn't be walking at late hours. Because of this the department will be doing some creative patrols in the future. Mayor Pro Tem Mark Young asked are the reports coming from residents or commercial patrons. Chief Neumann reports they are residential complaints they are receiving.

Guest Sandra Cavallo asked has the problem person on 7th street been dealt with. Chief Neumann asked did the police respond there. Sandra was not sure but said one of the neighbors was uneasy about going out in their garden because of this problem person. Chief Neumann assured Sandra that her neighbor was fine to go outside.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: Mark Phillips present for the Public Works Department

Water

- There has been less trouble with Well 4. Clay Mallet was out from SEL, he was with the Town of Garfield when the telemetry system was put in. The pump has settled down, but eventually the town will need to think about the new controllers. Sharon Schnebly said she heard a complaint about the water pressure going down over the weekend. Mark said he hadn't heard anything in the office from any residents in the town complaining about this, every time they check the tank recently, it has been good.

Sewer

- A couple pumps are out and they are waiting on Strom to come and fix them. There has been a little bit of influx of grease in the systems, Mark suggests they will visit the care center and the school to make sure they know not to send grease down the drain.

Garbage

- Garbage is running smoothly.

Streets

- Several holes have been dug in California Street and Wesley Street for patching.

Park

- The parks are staying pretty green but the lawn trimming has slowed because of the heat.

OLD BUSINESS:**NEW BUSINESS:****1. Computer Equipment at the Community Center**

Mayor Pro Tem Mark Young explains that Marcus Munn from Cascade would like to install some equipment in the community center and asks Cody to elaborate. Cody explains Marcus wants to stick some new equipment in a locked box into the community center to allow more services to the residents of Garfield. The main purpose for the equipment is so that if the power goes down a battery source would be available to power internet services for up to 48 hours during the power failure. Mayor Pro Tem Mark Young would like to know why the equipment would need to be installed in the community room. Daymon Marple suggested the Fire Department as a house for the equipment. Mayor Pro Tem Mark Young said it is necessary to have a code to access the fire department so that may be an issue. Cody also said because it is high tech equipment it would probably need a clean environment. Mayor Pro Tem Mark Young asks about the note on the licensing agreement. Cody explains the licensing agreement should reflect equipment and not antennas and it should also state the town should not be held liable for theft since it will be housed in a public place, even though the equipment will be secured to a wall and be inside a locked box. Cody will check with Marcus on the reason why he wanted to stick it in the community center and see if there is a potential of sticking it in another facility in town.

2. Noxious Weed Ordinance # 450-N

Daymon explains he took the ordinance to Bishop's office to have them alter some of the language and it is still not exactly what he had hoped for. Daymon was hoping to add a piece that came out of Rosalia's ordinances which states weeds left unattended should not exceed 12 inches of height. Also he was hoping this would reflect the months April 1 thru October 31 which is high weed growth season. Sharon said the only question she has is how to determine between vegetation and weeds. Daymon explained this is to deal with houses with yards that are not maintained and could house rats, mosquitos and big and tall weeds that may become a fire hazard. Sharon said the other question she has is about the lien on the property, stating the town will never collect on a lien unless the home owner sells or refinances the house. She is not sure this the route the town wants to go in order to manage the weeds and collect on charges assessed to rectify problem yards.

Daymon said the other ordinance example gave residents a 10 day notice, if they don't do anything to take care of the issue then the town marshal could address the issue and present a fine. Sharon said a Warrant of Abatement would be a better route to go then the town furnishes them with a bill. Chief Neumann liked the direction Sharon was going, this way the police department can work with the homeowner which about 99 % of the time residents will take care of the issue. Mayor Pro Tem Mark Young said the town had some issues dealing with the property on 3rd street and dealing with overgrowth there. Chief Neumann said it was a different kind of issue there because we were jumping back and forth between dealing with the owners and the bank. Daymon explained the town has a new attorney working on this stuff, Eric Hanson, and Daymon suggests going back to him, looking at those original pieces and making the changes the council is talking about. Neal Leon stated if want to discuss residents yards in town then you also need to look at the town's property. Sharon said he brings up a good point because that is a door that is going to get open. Mayor Pro Tem Mark young said it starts with the town, we have to clean our own house and make sure things are taken care of. Sandra said since the council is talking about taking care of their

own house, she would like to add that the garbage truck is throwing litter all over town when emptying people’s garbage. Residents in town are expected not to litter so she wants to know why it is any different for the garbage truck, which she feels is the biggest litterer of garbage in town. Daymon said the next thing that would need to happen would be require all residents to put garbage into garbage bags and not allow loose garbage so it can’t be accidently dropped on garbage collection day.

FINANCIAL:

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

Check Register # 11990-11993 PLUS EFTPS	Payroll: \$6,383.90	
Check Register # EFT Dept. of Revenue	Claims: \$1,708.77	Total: \$8,092.67

ADJOURNMENT: Sharon Schnebly **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting 7:21PM. Daymon Marple seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Ray McCown, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Cody Lord, Clerk/Treasurer