

Town of Garfield
TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES Preliminary Draft
Town Hall – May 25, 2016

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Ray McCown called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

ROLL CALL: Mayor Ray McCown, Mark Young, Neal Leon, Daymon Marple, David Jones and Dave Ulrick. Staff: Clerk/Treasurer Cody Lord and Public Works Mark Phillips. Absent:

GUESTS: Tim and Tami Southern, Becky Pfaff, Don Brown, Rebecca Jones, Sharon Schnebly, Mike Nodine, Sandra Cavallo, and Scott Bowman.

Mayor McCown asked if anyone would like to speak and Rebecca Jones said she would with Mayor McCown responding she could speak about anything other than the sewer plant. Rebecca asked why he was able to restrict the topic if it was open to public comment. Mayor McCown said it should be something concerning your street, sidewalk or house and says the council is working on the sewer plant the best they can and it is coming along. Jerry Love asked will you be giving an update where things are at out at the plant. Mayor McCown said they will talk about the David Tysz contract a little later in the meeting.

Mike Nodine would like to talk about 8th street which is where his house is and says the grader didn't go up his road. Mayor McCown said the grader went up there this year and Mike again states it wasn't graded. The mayor confirmed the road past the orchard and around the corner towards Grossmans was graded. Mike stats if they did they missed a big section by his yard and ditch. Mike also wonders if the garbage truck can move over when going up that road as there is a large rut showing up in the road. Mayor McCown said maybe the guys can bring a piece of equipment up and knock the ruts down. Mike asked if he could put the garbage container on the other side of the street and Mark Phillips responded it would be best if he kept it on his side due to the sharp corner and overhanging trees.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Daymon Marple **MOVED** to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting May 11, 2016. Neal Leon seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

Chief Neumann said that Mayday was pretty uneventful due to the rain. There was a two vehicle collision on Main Street. The department responded to a theft by juvenile, also there was some dogs on the loose that were taken to Pullman because they didn't have tags, the owner had the tags on their key ring. The dogs were chipped so the owner was found however the department doesn't have a chip reader so they have to take them to Pullman.

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

Water

- A fire hydrant was pulled out on California and D Street.

Sewer

- The construction is underway on the SO2 tablet dispenser, they had to T into the system and bore a hole into the side of the contact chamber to get it finished.
- The sludge pump blew a gasket, it is an important feature of the plant so it must be repaired quickly.
- The fecal coliform tests are coming back better however they are a little high on ammonia. Marks says all and all the plant seems to be going pretty good.
- They hauled 3 loads of solids to Bar-tech with another load ready to go.

Garbage

- The mayor and Brad have been working on the appliances to dispose of them, there is about 15 left. Daymon said he went over and looked at the pile and it is looking much better.

Streets

- Brad has done some black top patching on Spokane Street.

Park

- Flags will be out for Memorial Day weekend.

Mayor McCown said he would like to see them get the new timer on the sprinkler system in the park. Neal asked if they have an extra sludge pump and the mayor responded no that is the pump that transfers material out of the digester. Neal wonders if it would be faster to get another pump. Dave Ulrick explains it is a pump that is built into the system and not really able to be taken out. Mayor McCown said there are other parts that are wearing and Ellie from DOE would like the town to have parts on hand to repair broken pumps. Mark said the parts were \$1,400 for the gaskets. Daymon questioned if the other repaired pumps were in yet and the mayor confirmed, yes all the pumps are in now.

Mark said they are starting to get rags in the pumps at the plant and he is having to pull them out. He explains these will eat up a pump quick and he is not sure how they are getting into the system but for now he is periodically pulling the pumps to check them. Mayor McCown talked about the completion of the sewer line at the base of south hill stating it is completed and went well. Mark Young questioned if David Tysz has been showing up more frequently and the mayor said yes he has. Sandra Cavallo asked about the siren in town and why it isn't working and the mayor said the siren still works but it has stopped ringing at the noon hour because currently there is a line broken somewhere and the phone company has not found it yet. Neal clarified that it still works through the line in the fire station.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. David Tysz Insurance

Mayor McCown said he talked with David Tysz about carrying his own insurance but he won't purchase it because it is too expensive so he thinks the town should compensate him for it which would be about \$100.00 a month. The mayor said that he talked with the clerk in Rockford who explained their operator actually works for a fertilizer company and only does their testing and submissions to DOE for \$300.00 a month. Dave said he also tried to contact him but they haven't actually talked with each other yet. The mayor said there is also a Spangle guy that is not willing to do any satellite work for other communities. He said there is one other potential guy working with McCoy Terminal and he has his license and he might be a prospect. Mayor McCown said for now they should be sticking with David Tysz stating if he walks away the town plant would be shut down. Daymon said he thinks it would be good to talk with some of the other operators so they have a contingency plan. Daymon said he didn't like the letter David sent to DOE blaming Brad and Mark for the plant issues, he feels this was not professional.

Mayor McCown said he asked David to look into insurance and get back to the council with the costs. Neal asked why the town should have to pay for his insurance if he is an independent contractor. Mark Young said he agrees with Daymon they should be looking for other candidates and in the short term stay with David Tysz. Neal asked did Ellie say if we have Dave Tysz working for the town does it freeze the town's situation of needing a Level II operator. Mayor McCown responded it is not just having David run the plant it is also getting things installed and running correctly. Mark says the town really needs him here physically that Ellie knows that he has not been here as much as the town needs. Mayor McCown said David is coming 3 days a week and is filling out the DMR and sending them in to DOE.

Mark said speaking of reports he would like to make a request to the mayor that copies get sent to the council as well so they know who is working at the plant and what is being accomplished. Cody said he already made the request to have information leaving the sewer plant to also include town hall so we have records of what is happening. Dave said he suggests getting a job position placed into the free advertisements as soon as possible and Mark said to post it as many places as possible. Daymon suggests they look at the budget for placing a job advertisement and Dave said if they can at least hit the free sites for now. Cody is unsure if AWC has a job posting board and if it would be free but said Evergreen Rural water and WETRC should allow the town to post an ad for free. Mark wants Cody to go ahead and move forward with the free publications. Mayor McCown said that Cody has already created the ad but he just needs input on the rate of pay.

2. Purchase of Forklift

Mayor McCown ran into a guy that was servicing a forklift for Co-Ag and they had a 2011 forklift with a new turntable on it and it would be about \$16,000. Dave asked is there a chance that we can use the forklift the town currently has and outfit it with a turntable. Mayor McCown said possibly but he doesn't feel the wheels are large enough on this unit. Neal also thinks if they find a turntable they could just alter the current one they have. Mayor McCown said it would depend on the cost but he will do some calling around.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Additional Street Levy for Repairs

Mayor McCown said he is embarrassed at two or three street in town and he would like to run an extra mileage of around \$10,000 and see if it passes strictly to work on road improvements. Neal said he checked with Motley & Motley and it would cost about \$10,000 to \$12,000 if the town removed the grindings and they come up and grade it 12 to 13 feet wide. If they have to put rock down, it would be \$15,000 but no more than \$20,000. Mayor McCown asked how about overlay and Neal said he is not in favor of that.

Mayor McCown said the levy they currently run is called a street maintenance fund and they don't spend it on streets. This additional levy would be to simply black top 2nd street from the rail road track heading south 8 feet wide to Union Street and would cost roughly \$12,000. Dave said using chips over the alligator isn't the best idea. Cody mentioned that Gloria Bennet with TIB was in town the last couple days and thinks that 2nd Street is a great contender for a TIB grant this year, she will also brainstorm about Spokane Street and see if there is anything that can be done to fix that. Gloria said that Spokane Street is a little harder to fund due to it being such a short run. Mayor McCown said this Levy would be put on the November ballot. Dave said it can't hurt to put it on the ballot. Mark said they don't want to promise anything that the town can't fulfill so if it passes they need to prepare to follow through. Dave suggested running the levy with a specific street in mind they would like to repair. Mayor McCown said they will talk about it at the next meeting.

An unnamed guest in the audience said she doesn't understand why the community can't ask questions and Mayor McCown said they could talk for 1 minute. She feels it would be a good idea if Dave Tysz came to a meeting so they could ask questions and get clarification on some things. Mayor McCown said that probably isn't going to happen as he is only the operator of the sewer plant and he is just trying to keep the town going. She also stated at the last three meetings they have talked about advertising a Level II operator position, and wonders why this isn't happening. Mayor McCown responded that he would have to fire one employee in order to hire someone else and he doesn't want to fire anyone.

Mark said the main thing is they want to get is a contractor who already has a Level II operator license. Tim Southern said he agrees with Neal not wanting to pay for David's insurance, he should have his own since he is a contract operator and Mayor McCown responded you hired the guy. Rebecca Jones said she understands the issue with what is going on at the plant but wants to know what is being done in the interim with negotiating a new contract., what is being done to protect the town from a liability, the town is really wide open from someone that has been less than reliable for the town.

Mark said they have the same concerns and are on a balancing act at the moment. He states he signed the initial contract when Dave was hired. In the contract it states he will not hold the town liable and will have his own insurance, so for now they are going to run with this short term and try and figure something out long term. He says this is why they are putting out the word for other contract operator candidates, they understand that they are currently hanging out there a bit. Rebecca said that Sonja Hall's dad is a retired waste water operator and maybe the council should be talking with him looking for help. Mark said she sent the email with contact information, currently they are waiting for the advertisement to be formed

and then they will send to the City of Spokane, they have a big operation but they have a city wide information portal that the town can use to put the ad out there. Rebecca said in her mind the only way to avoid a fine is if they have exhausted all options, that the town has thrown everything at it. Mark said they are trusting the town workers to take care of the plant. Mark said he has talked with Evergreen and they are willing to post the town’s ad as soon as the town is ready to post the position. It is kind of like trying to get everyone working in the same direction. Rebecca thanked the council for allowing the questions.

Sandra said she would like clarification on the comment about road funds being used for other things. Mayor McCown said that tax that the town runs every year which is called a street maintenance levy, it doesn’t go to street repairs it goes to things like snow plowing, lights and wages and to maintain the roads. Sandra asked why the town is applying funds to a forklift when other costs like money to maintain roads is needed. Mayor McCown said they need a forklift at the plant they use it for loading waste at the sewer plant to take to disposal and Sandra asked is the sludge packaged and not pumped. Mayor McCown confirmed it is loose and loaded into big boxes.

Becky Pfaff said she would like some clarification concerning Mark and Brad and why if Brad has more experience is he not allowed at the plant, she would like to know who is closer to Level II certification. Mayor McCown said they are signed up for a June 8th and 9th training. Brad will test for a Level I Operator and Mark will be studying and testing for an Operator in Training and Becky said so Brad is scholastically ahead. Mark said Brad can take his Level II operator test in November. Becky said given that answer why is it not Brad who has more experience operating the plant right now.

FINANCIAL:

Approval of Checks: Daymon Marple **MOVED** to approve the following bills presented to council for payment. Neal Leon seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Check Register #12296-12299 PLUS EFT EFTPS	Payroll: \$6,835.88
Check Register #Dept. of Revenue	Claims: \$1,000.57
	Total: \$7,836.45

ADJOURNMENT: Daymon Marple **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 PM. David Jones seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Ray McCown, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Cody Lord, Clerk/Treasurer