

Town of Garfield
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
October 14, 2009

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Jarrod Pfaff called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Jarrod Pfaff, Andrew Flodin, Larry Hunt, John Kuehner and Rob Watkins. Staff - Public Works Superintendent Dave Ulrick, Police Chief Jerry Neumann, Clerk/Treasurer Annie Pillers. Absent: Tim Southern. Guest: Project Access-Jenny Schwartz.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

Project Access – Garfield Caregiver Support Group: Jenny Schwartz with Project Access addressed the council. She relayed that Project Access provides services to seniors in rural Whitman and Latah County. Their focus is to keep seniors in their homes as long as possible by bringing services to them. One thing they discovered that was missing was a caregiver support group, whether the care was being provided in-home or at a facility like LaDow Court. The caregiver support groups provide an opportunity to share ideas and resources. The Garfield group will be starting October 21st in Smokin' Papa's backroom. Jenny encouraged the council to share this with any one they know who might need this. She noted it was confidential and private. She also asked them to let her know if a different time or location would make a difference. She referred to the Project Access website on the pens: www.accessonthepalouse.org.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Andrew Flodin **MOVED** the minutes of September 23, 2009 be approved as written. Larry Hunt seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Police Chief Jerry Neumann provided council with the last 1-1/2 month's activity log that accounts for hours. At the next meeting council will get the typed activity form. Mayor Pfaff asked if the department had got a hold of Donna Poire regarding barking dogs. Chief Neumann believes the department did contact her and there was some involvement with working on that. He noted a dog was recently impounded and a ticket issued. Additionally, a dog license was purchased. John Kuehner asked if anything had been done with junk vehicles. Chief Neumann noted Officer Merry had taken that under his wing. He said in Palouse they have set up a hearing process, with their first hearing coming up. Mayor Pfaff confirmed in Garfield, residents can come to council and ask for an extension. Larry Hunt noted there is a criteria set up in Garfield as to what makes a junk vehicle. Everyone agreed the junk vehicle problem was better since the tow company came to town. Chief Neumann thought Good Guys would come back and pick up vehicles. He was willing to help residents with titling or ownership problems.

Chief Neumann presented quotes for telecommunications items from Inland Cellular and Radio Shack. These items would be funded under the JAG grant recently awarded to the town. Annie had assisted getting qualified vendors and quotes. The equipment proposed would provide for enhanced cell phone service in the cars and the office. Chief Neumann thought the town could add a second stationary cell phone antenna to the building and it would be covered under the grant. Chief Neumann read the quotes: J&L Electronics \$1740 for 3 in-car 3 watt boosters and \$1,075 for the stationary external cell phone antenna; Inland Cellular \$2,046 for 3 in-car 3 watt boosters and \$1,584 for the stationary external cell phone antenna. It was clarified all bids were without tax. John Kuehner **MOVED** to accept the low bid from J&L Electronics, Inc. Rob Watkins seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC WORKS:

1. **Hatter Creek Salvage.** Dave reported that Hatter Creek Salvage had contacted him about taking the town's existing scrap metal pile and on a regular basis hauling off any more that comes in. They would provide a large trailer for use. Scrap metal could be deposited into the trailer and they would

haul it off for \$40 a ton. Dave indicated it was 20 foot box trailer. Dave thought it would fit on the recycle paved area. If the price of scrap metal goes up they would pay more and if the price goes down, they would pay less. Council consensus was to have Hatter Creek Salvage take the existing scrap metal pile and leave a trailer for ongoing deposit and removal. Dave confirmed this would be for scrap metal only. Their price for aluminum cans was .25 cents a ton while Pacific was offering .45 cents a ton. Dave would stay with Pacific for the aluminum cans.

2. Garbage Truck Repairs. The garbage truck will get new tires put on at 1 PM tomorrow (Wednesday). Dave noted the pins and bushing needed to be changed in the walking beams. He said if the town takes the walking beams to Spokane it would be \$635. Another place thought they could make the repairs for about \$1,500 if Dave brought the truck up to them in Spokane. Dave said he did not think the town was equipped to do the repairs. Mayor Pfaff agreed. Terry's Trucks in Spokane quoted the \$1,500 to \$2,000 depending on how tough it is to get them out. Terry's can change the pins and bushings and do an alignment. John Kuehner asked about checking with other places. Dave confirmed he had also talked with Jones and they were \$2,000. Hassan's Tractor was \$2,000 - \$2,500. Terry's Trucks thought they could get the job done in 3 working days - Tuesday through Friday. Larry Hunt thought he might be taking a truck to Spokane too and talked about possibly coordinating taking trucks up and getting rides back. Council consensus was to use Terry's Trucks for the garbage truck repairs.

3. Vacation: Dave noted he would be starting his 2-week vacation October 27th.

4. Street Maintenance Training: Dave reported attending the recent street maintenance class in Spokane. He said there are some new patching materials but they were a little disappointing. One vendor is going to provide the town with some samples. Purchasing in bags the price ranges from \$500-\$600 a ton. No one is making UPM locally. Dave noted when it was made locally he was paying about \$70 a ton for bulk UPM. He noted the products won't work in weather under 50 degrees. Generally the product lasts a couple of years depending upon how bad the potholes are that are being filled. Dave also noted making contact with an independent vendor in Oregon for rescue equipment, gas sensors, etc.

5. Street Sweeper: Mayor Pfaff asked Dave to start looking for a replacement street sweeper for town. Dave asked about having a vacuum. The Mayor said he should get what he wants and that the town would try to buy this next year.

6. Reservoir Overflow Meter: The water float switch has been received. H2E will be out the first part of November to do the programming. The software is on order and the password will be emailed to the town. H2E asked that the float switch be installed prior to their arrival so that all the work can be done in one day.

7. Water Leak Detection: Dave has been using some equipment from Evergreen Rural Water to detect water leaks on 3rd Street, Neal's and John Love's. Larry Hunt reported he stopped to listen and said you could literally hear gravel rolling. Dave said this type of equipment is very expensive (\$1,700) and Evergreen Rural Water is willing to come out and help with detection when needed.

8. Sewer Camera Work: Dave confirmed he had used the sewer camera around town recently before it was sent back to Rosalia. The filming is recorded on a DVD for review. Council spent some time reviewing one of the sewer line pipes filmed. Dave was instructed to get prices on sleeve costs per foot.

9. Fire Hydrant Leaks: Rob Watkins, following up from the recent hydrant flushing, asked about the fire hydrants that had leaks at the top (off on nuts on top stripped). Dave said he would need to see if they had replacement parts to fit the older hydrants. For now, public works carries a pipe wrench for that purpose.

10. Snow Plow: Rob Watkins asked if the snow plow was ready to go – hinges, bushings, pins, etc. and would be ready to run the first day out. Dave confirmed it was air over hydraulic and was ready to go.

11. Christmas Decorations: Dave confirmed they planned to put up the bells the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, unless they were busy with snow plowing. The replacement bulbs for the decorations had been ordered. Rob Watkins asked about the amount of Christmas decorations on 4th Street, noting they were very sparse compared to Main Street. Dave said decorations had not been installed,

because in some cases the poles do not have power and in some cases the 45 degree angle makes it hard to reach. Rob Watkins clarified the pole near his property does have power as a street light was taken off it a few years ago.

OLD BUSINESS:

4th Street Weight Limits: Council discussed the condition of 4th Street and weight limit issues. Larry Hunt reported he had obtained the scale weights on the school buses. The largest bus was 17,300 lbs. The medium size bus (like Oakesdale) was 15,100 lbs. He estimated another 500 lbs for riders, bringing the weight to 15,600 lbs. He said one ton can weigh that amount. He did not think the bus weights seemed like a lot of weight. Larry talked with Perry about the weight of the garbage truck and when it's empty it weighs 23,500 lbs. Mayor Pfaff said the town can't put on weight restrict when the town vehicles are higher. It was agreed the road was just starting to break up. Mayor Pfaff noted originally there was a gentleman's agreement about school buses going into Garfield, Farmington and Oakesdale, but now there are no restrictions of any kind for buses going to other communities. Rob Watkins suggested politely asking Oakesdale if they could use a different route. The mayor was not sure it was the school bus that was tearing up the road. Andrew Flodin said if the road had not been patched before, the problem has been coming about over time. It was confirmed repair of 4th Street was on the town's 6-Year Street Plan. Annie Pillers was asked to send a letter to Larry Kruse about the weight limits and the town's street improvement plan. The idea of moving 4th Street up on the list was suggested. Dave Ulrick that there was about a 5 block stretch that needed work.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Reverse Erroneous Late Fee: Annie Pillers explained an old inactive account was re-activated by the owner who paid the prior tenant balance in full minus \$70 in erroneous late fees that were billed to the account after the tenant moved out and even after the property was rented to someone else. Rob Watkins **MOVED** to approve a credit adjustment of \$70 to Account No. 298 for late fees erroneously charged to the account. Andrew Flodin seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Street ROW Weed Control: Mayor Pfaff talked about weed control for the town and the prior discussion of Dave and Perry getting their applicator licenses. He talked about the liability with weed control and that it may be wise to have a professional applicator, like Larry Hunt with Palouse Hills Lawn spray the gravel areas for weeds. Rob Watkins asked how that would work. It was clarified, like with the park maintenance, there would be a maximum set price. Larry Hunt estimated it would be a maximum of \$300 for the year. Mayor Pfaff noted this cost would come out of the Street Fund. Council discussed sterilization versus a round-up program. Sterilizing requires only one application a year, while a round-up program requires 2 to 3 sprays a year. The trouble with sterilizing would be other shrubbery or trees that might be susceptible. The trouble with round-up would be the timing as to as the weeds already showing and then turning brown for the rest of the season. It was agreed the earlier the weeds were sprayed using round up, the better. Rob Watkins suggested trying a round-up program for this first year and see how it looks. John Kuehner complimented Larry Hunt on how well the park was taken care of each year. He said it bothered him that the town has 2 employees that don't do spraying. He would like to see the town crew have a license and be able to do it. It was noted, it was a timing issue for when the crew would be available to spray, because of other town projects. Further discussion was held on the liability issue. Many schools no longer do their own spraying because of the liability problem. John Kuehner said if licensed, there was protection. Rob Watkins felt for \$300 a year, it was more cost-effective to use a professional. Andrew Flodin **MOVED** to have Palouse Hills Lawn-Larry Hunt do the town's weed control. John Kuehner seconded the motion and the motion carried. Larry Hunt abstained.

3. Ordinance No. 374N – Setting November/December 2009 Meeting Schedule: Larry Hunt **MOVED** to adopt Ordinance No. 374N, setting the November and December 2009 Regular Town Council Meeting Schedule. Andrew Flodin seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CHECKS/3rd QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT/SPOILED CHECK

REGISTER/ADJUSTMENT REGISTER: Annie Pillers had provided council a copy of the 3rd Quarter Spoiled Check Register and Adjustment Register, along with the 3rd Quarter Financial Statements and Narrative Report. After review, council had no questions. Larry Hunt **MOVED** to approve the 3rd Quarter Financial Reports and Narrative, the 3rd Quarter Spoiled Check Register and Adjustment Register and the following bills presented to council for payment. Rob Watkins seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Check Register #9192-#9217. Claims: \$21,417.84 Payroll: \$5,135.85 TOTAL: \$26,553.69

ADJOURNMENT: Larry Hunt **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m. Andrew Flodin seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Jarrold Pfaff, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Annie Pillers, Clerk/Treasurer