

Town of Garfield
TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES Preliminary Draft
Town Hall – April 27, 2016

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Ray McCown called the meeting to order at 7:00 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: Rebecca Jones, Sandra Cavallo, Tim and Tami Southern, Jessica and Craig Hundsrucker, Don and Debbie Brown, Roger Million, Cher Curtis, Sharon Schnebly, Randy Carlson, Jerry Love, Gregory Bear, Lisa Hasenoehrl with Keltic Engineering.

Roger Million asked the council about shutting down 6th street from California Street to Union on Sunday and wonders if the town could provide barricades so they can conduct an auction. Council does not see any problem with this and Dave Ulrick encouraged Roger to talk with the public works dept. to it get arranged and make sure they know what is going on. Mayor McCown said the barricades are behind the building and they could be used as long as they are returned.

Mayor McCown said he would open the public comment to anyone who wants to talk as long as they have something new to talk about. Tami Southern said you can't open the conversation to the public and then tell her she can't talk about the sewer plant. Chief Neumann said in order to save the argument the mayor can do that, he runs this meeting and this is an observation for the public to observe what this council does, it is not for you to be permitted to outright speak. Sharon Schnebly said he just opened the meeting up to the public. Mayor McCown said if there is anything outside the sewer plant you are welcome to speak. Jerry Love said he has provided the recording from the last council meeting and wants to know if it will be added to the website for public observation. Mayor McCown said it can't be online. Jerry responded he can understand the issue of space constraints but he wants the community to know it is a public record that has been given to Cody and anyone can request to listen to the record. Mayor McCown said it is known that they can request it through Cody, it will be on file and anyone is available to request the recording.

Rebecca Jones said she would like to speak. Mayor McCown asked what would you like to speak about, and Rebecca replied the sewer plant and employee relations, however her subjects have been taken off the table and she feels the mayor has silenced her and her freedom of speech.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Daymon Marple **MOVED** to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting April 13, 2016. Dave Ulrick seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Chief Jerry Neumann present for the Police Department.

Things have been well for the last couple weeks, there have been some family issues and disturbances but other than that everything has been fine.

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

Water

- Daymon Marple asks, has the telemetry system been working alright? Mark says they have a new battery to put up on the tank, they just need to get it installed which will probably happen after Brad gets back.

Sewer

- Mark said they are still waiting on the most recent set of fecal numbers to be returned.
- He took 7,500 lbs of bio-solids to Bartech today and wasted another 8 boxes.
- He is getting the digester level lowered.

Garbage

- Nothing to report everything is fine.

Streets

- Brad has been putting up street signs.

Park

- Mark said the grass has been growing rapidly and hard to keep up with.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Keltic Engineering, Safe Routes to School

Lisa Hasenoehrl is here to talk about the safe routes to school grant which is due the 13th of May. Lisa provided the council with a Google map showing the proposed routes to school, there are 3 routes that qualify for the grant opportunity and are fundable projects. 3 quick questions would the town like to apply for all 3, 3rd street would be \$273,000 and the other two would total \$160,000. Mayor McCown asked what do you think are the chances of getting the whole project completed versus doing pieces at a time. Lisa responds it is very fundable since it accesses a lot of community space. Does the town want to contribute a match, they can use cash or in kind services with city personal which could assist with some prep work that can be turned into a dollar figure, stating that she believes the project won't fund unless there is a match.

Eric would suggest the town do 3rd street if they decide to do it in pieces. Mark Young asked is this a grant that comes out once a year and Lisa confirms this will not be awarded until this time next year and they are on a two year funding cycle. Mark said he is skeptical about tying up funds for projects with the current sewer plant issue and he would suggest the town goes in the route of doing a section at a time. Council discusses the routes that would make the most sense to undertake at this time. Lisa states if the town did a 1% match that would mean \$1,700 partial cash and partial employee time, say something like 50% sidewalk removal and 50% cash. Mark said he is a little hesitant to commit the town employees at this time due to the present issues and time constraints at the plant. Mayor McCown said the plant will be under control by the time they are ready to take on this project since it will be another year from now. Dave confirmed things are starting to look better out at the plant.

Daymon thinks if it is a year from now that they would do the project, they could put some money in reserves now to use when the time comes, saying an estimated \$1,700 would be a 1% match, maybe round it up to \$2,000. Lisa said based on the change of interested routes, Eric will refine the costs and get those over to Cody. Mark pointed out that due to time restrictions they need to decide everything they can tonight so they will be able to submit the application on time. Mark said if they contribute just cash, it would be estimated at \$3,500 to \$3,700 and wonders would that be due at the time the grant application is submitted. Lisa clarifies you would receive the reward this time next year and then you would have to design the project and have it bid by possibly July of next year and that is when the match would be required.

Mayor McCown said the in kind portion would require the town to dispose of the old concrete which can be a problem to deal with. Neal thinks the town would just have to haul it to the landfill. Mayor McCown said personally he would be more interested in contributing the 2 percent in cash. Lisa will let Cody know what 2 percent is on the final bid amount. Lisa suggests the council make a motion to allow the mayor to sign for the finalized contract so they don't have to wait for the next council meeting. David Jones **MOVED** to finalize the safe routes to school grant application including the east side of 3rd Street from Union to the school and the north side Spokane Street from 3rd to 5th Street and the matching funds contributed by the town are not to exceed 2%, or \$4,000 of the final bid amount. Mark Young seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. Lisa said she is waiting for the school to get some information back to her and Daymon has talked about the project with Patty Cotrill and Zane Wells.

Randy Carlson said he received the mailer stating garbage cans were supposed to be pulled in from the street once they were emptied. He questions what communities like Pullman and Moscow do to get their residents to pull the cans in from the streets. Mayor McCown said there is nothing in the town rules that said they need to be removed from the street and Neal confirmed it doesn't but he thinks would be nice if

people would just like to get it off the street and the mayor adds that Moscow fines them if they don't put them away. Neal said in the winter time it is hard for some of the residents to haul their cans through the snow. Daymon points out the cans become a hazard if they remain on the street. Mayor McCown suggested they table the matter it for awhile and take time to think about it.

Mark Young wants to address the previous council meetings executive session, stating the candidate they were hearing about for the Level II Operator position decided for personal reasons to back out. Mark suggests putting together an add to see if the town can attract a full time Level II Operator or a Contract Operator. Mayor McCown confirms the executive session was to talk about the guy that had applied for the position when Mark was hired and states he was exactly like he was when he talked with him on the phone, interested for a few minutes but when he called back he wouldn't commit. Mark said to the mayor there are things about the conversation with him that they shouldn't be talking about openly and he would just like to leave it as he is no longer interested in the position.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Gregory Bear City Property Easement

Gregory Bear lives on Manring Street and he has presided there for about 15 years. He is here to ask the town for an easement to cross over some property the town owns which is where the decommissioned well house sits. He wants to put a pole building on his property but will need to cross over a 30 foot section of property owned by the town that is no longer used. His shop will be a 30x24 building and he will use the building for storage and parking his motorcycle. He has been taking care of the 30 foot strip of land for quite some time. Daymon clarifies this house is behind where the Partch's live. Gregory is also working with the town's attorney to have a property line adjustment to fulfill current zoning regulations. Mayor McCown confirms he owns all the property around the well, the town owns a 30 foot strip that runs north and south and he thinks it will not be infringing on the town property at all. Dave believes there will be no issues as long as he doesn't build on it. Neal Leon **MOVED** to allow Gregory Bear an easement to be able to cross the city property where the decommissioned well house sits for the purpose of being able to access his pole building. Mark Young seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Parking Issues On Council Nights

Cody informs the council Alan Lewis has come in requesting that on council nights people parking for the meetings please find an alternative place to park rather than in front of his residence. He also asked if people could be more mindful now that there is someone residing there. He wonders if the town can put up no parking signs in front of his residence. Mayor McCown said unfortunately if we do it for one resident then they have to do it for all residents and that isn't feasible, they are public streets and available for anyone to park on. Dave said he feels it is a very difficult issue to enforce and hopes it is possible people just be more respectful.

3. Randy Carlson Bike Rally in Garfield

Randy says on June 19th he and Craig Mitzimberg would like to barricade off California Street to the center line so that they can host a gathering for bikers. It is not a rally just a place for them to stop and have lunch and listen to some music which will be three ladies playing ukuleles. If the event has good enough attendance, the next year they would like to include the Meat Shop to provide the BBQ. Randy said everyone will be welcome. He is seeking permission from about 11:30 to 2:00 to have the street partially closed. Dave asked is there any requirements for an event permit with the town and it is determined the town doesn't require that at this time. Dave said if there are no requirements than he has no issue with it. Daymon suggested Randy get a hold of the public works guys to get the barricades to be put in place. Mayor McCown said make sure to take the barricades down when you

are finished and you must bring them back to town hall.

4. Sewer plant updates.

Mayor McCown said Dave Tysz is willing to work 2 to 3 days a week and Ellie approved that as long as the guys down here keep time cards and Dave has to fill out a time card as well. Mark said he would like to consider this short term since David Tysz hasn't been consistent here and if this doesn't work out with the 90 day deadline the town will be in a world of hurt. Mayor McCown said Dave can't take money and instead he would like the town to provide a gas card for \$200.00 a month. David Jones said he also thinks they should be advertising the position since DOE made it clear they had 90 days to have a Level II Operator. Mayor McCown said Ellie told him if David Tysz is willing to work those hours and provide the records that the 90 day deadline is off the table. Mark said he would like to see this statement in writing from Ellie or Diana. Mark feels they should be putting together an add which spells out what the requirements are that the town is seeking. Neal questioned is David Tysz providing 3 full days a week and Mayor McCown said no 2 or 3 hours a day

Cody said that Dave Ulrick asked him to look into any issues that may be presented by having David work for the town in trade of a fuel card. Cody said he received a response from the town's insurance and is still waiting on MRSC and the State Auditor to get back with him about potential conflicts. AWC, the town's insurance said that since David Tysz is a contract operator for the town he is required to carry his own liability insurance and bond while working on the premises. Roger Neal thinks for the exchange of \$200 in fuel this will hardly cover the cost of his annual insurance that is necessary to meet their requirements causing him to reconsider either the amount or the responsibility. Cody will get back to the council at the next meeting with the conversation with MRSC and the State Auditor.

Daymon feels they should still go ahead and put out an add stating the town is looking for a part time contract operator or a full time public works position and advertise it immediately. Dave said he talked with a guy in Worley and he contracts with other communities in the area, there are a lot of small towns like Garfield that can't afford to have a Level II Operator on staff, so he suggests the public works guys do the work and the operator comes in and checks on the facility and makes sure the testing is happening and paperwork is done. Mark said he would also like to advertise a full time position or part time operator but wants to make sure the town doesn't drop the ball. Daymon Marple moved to advertise in the Evergreen. Mark said he would like to see the advertising more regional. Evergreen Rural Water is an association and they will advertise for free. Mark asked can it be articulated in an ad that the town is looking for one or the other, can it be written to include full time or part time so the town doesn't miss out on any prospects.

Mark said there was a lack of response the first time since there was no dollar amount in the advertisement. Daymon thinks they should be looking for contract operators and see what they can find, but what he is hearing is they are interested in looking more for a full time employee, and Mark clarifies they will be looking for whatever they can find, part time or full time to make the pool as wide as possible. Daymon suggests posting in freesouthwestwashingtonjobs.com and other free publication. Daymon Marple **MOVED** to advertise in a regional manner as soon as possible for part time or full time Class II or III Operator. David Jones seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. Mark said the other add that they initially did was looking for a supervisor position. Daymon confirms the other add they initially did was looking for a supervisory position however it is hard to find a sewer plant operator that wants to run a backhoe. Mayor McCown said only one qualified guy applied last time. Neal responded they won't know unless you put it out there.

Dave said that he doesn't feel that two ads are necessary, maybe an add can be constructed that the town is looking for a full time or part time contract operator in one add. The committee will help to find all the free publications that the town can publish with. Mark mentions there is a retired operator from the Spokane system that is willing to post up there to help the town out and see if they can find an interested operator. Daymon said in the meantime the town should continue to use Dave Tysz. Mayor McCown said you need to furnish him with a gas card of some type because he not going to come

down and do it for nothing. If we don't figure out a way to compensate him then the town will be without an operator. Mark asks what the alternative is if Cody just told us that insurance doesn't allow this. Dave said we need to find out for sure, if they don't recommend it that is one thing but if we can't do it that is something else and Cody hasn't heard back from the main agency who will be able to address this issue.

Mark suggests making this a separate topic to discuss at a later time. Dave wonders how they are going to keep Tysz until someone else is available with Mayor McCown voicing the same concern because they are currently operating under his license. Daymon asked, he doesn't want the money and Mayor McCown responded no he can't take the money. Jerry Love asked if Dave Tysz is currently being paid and Mayor McCown responded no he has been doing it for nothing for the last year. Jerry suggested talking with the IRS about the matter and Mayor McCown responded they will get it handled.

Mayor McCown asked if there was anything else pertaining to anything other than the sewer plant or employees. Rebecca would like to be on the meeting minutes wondering why others are allowed to talk about issues while others are stifled. Mayor McCown said we recognized Jerry and that was the only one. Tami Southern said you are censoring the rest of us and Mayor McCown said that is enough.

Neal touched on the recycling area, saying it's getting to be a total mess, there more appliance and metal there than this town can be putting over there and he suggests maybe temporarily closing it, clean it up and come up with a plan to organize it better so out of town people can't be dumping over there. Mayor McCown talked with David Nails at the landfill and Garfield is the only town that does it, if Garfield doesn't allow people to dump it people can haul it to the landfill for nothing but what they will do is put it out for clean up week. Dave says it does seem like we are getting an awful lot for town. Chief Neumann said residents of Palouse can dump just yard waste, leaves and grass and you have to buy a \$15.00 year permit. Neal said I would like to see it stay open. Mark clarified you are talking about the metal yard and appliances and asks if it is his imagination but has it just recently escalated. Dave said that is another thing the town's people can try and help us in monitoring. Neal said he would hate to involve the police and give tickets to people. Dave said most of these things are community problems and we are all part of the community.

Jessica Hundsrucker said there is a HVAC school in Spokane that will come down and haul them away, they will haul them away for free to use as education tools for their students. Mark ask if Jessica could get that information to the town and she responded she will get it to Cody. Sandra said someone had made the suggestion about maybe putting a metal gate across the metal part and leave the key with Cody, it won't stop people from dropping on the outside but then you will know it is an outside person. Mayor McCown said that is one consideration they have to look at.

Sharon Schnebly said she has one question, who has been mowing the lawn lately. Mayor McCown said he just hired a kid this afternoon, Allen's grandson, Brad has been off all week and nothing was mowed on Friday. He will mow everything tomorrow for \$11.50 an hour. Daymon questions is this temporary. Mayor McCown said he will mow the park and everything else and he will be there at 7 in the morning and Mark will get him started and that today he used his own equipment. Mark said the only concern he has is him using his own equipment and Mayor McCown said he will be using the city's riding lawn mower tomorrow. Jerry asked if he covered under insurance and Mayor McCown said he is covered as a temporary employee.

FINANCIAL:

Approval of Checks: Daymon Marple **Moved** to approve the following bills presented to council for payment. Mark Young seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Check Register #12262-12264 Plus EFTPS

Payroll: \$6,756.08

ADJOURNMENT: Daymon Marple **Moved** to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM. David Jones seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Ray McCown, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Cody Lord, Clerk/Treasurer