

Town of Garfield
TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES Preliminary Draft
Town Hall – August 24, 2016

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Ray McCown called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

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

GUESTS: Sandra Cavallo, Rebecca Jones, Sharon Schnebly,

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Daymon Marple **MOVED** to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting Aug. 10th, 2016. Neal Leon seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

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

There have been a few juvenile issues which are being resolved. The Lawson clean up has made great strides. They have one more pile and the boat trailer is being fixed and Chief Neumann estimates they are about 95% where they need to be. Council said it is getting better. Officer Merry is working on the nuisance property on south hill and will be working with town attorney to keep pushing it along. He is trying to find the owners again and find out what is going on with the property. Chief Neumann said someone boarded it up to keep the cats out. School is starting Monday so Neumann would like to remind people to watch for the little kids walking and slow down at bus stops and roads that lead to the school.

Palouse has completed the ATV ordinance and road use following state law. Chief Neumann said in Garfield they have kind of let ATVs on the roads for various uses. Palouse requires they meet the state inspection process and are licensed for road use. They must have horns, taillights and blinkers if used at night. UTVs require a helmet, windshield or glasses. Chief Neumann said he and Daymon went down and talked with the commissioners about this ordinance. Mark Young asked if there was an age limit and Chief Neumann said that state law says you have to be a licensed driver and there are minimum age requirements for operating and teenagers must be accompanied by an adult. Daymon said there are currently some people using them to go out to the compost and Chief Neumann said there were a few folks that have them now and do use them to go to the compost facility and he doesn't have a problem with that as long as they are following the rules and using the vehicles for that purpose. Mark Young asked if the police department could give them some direction on the matter. Chief Neumann said he has an ordinance that he can exchange the names from Palouse to Garfield and he will get it to Cody in the coming week.

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

Water

- Fixed the chlorine injector at Well # 3
- Meter reads are done
- Leak at Grossman's is becoming an issue and would like to get to it next week and they are planning on putting in a new line there.
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Sewer

- Numbers came in high the last test of July solids, removal was too high and ammonia was too high so two violations occurred. Mark is moving some of the solids into the contact chamber.
- One of the influent pumps is out of adjustment and had debris in it with a gap that was too large so items were collecting. They need to have a small gap so items can't get into the motor. Mark will have to purchase a new propeller for this pump.

Garbage

- All is good and the truck is running fine.

Streets

- The dust control that was put down on the streets is holding pretty well.

Park

- Daniel is taking care of the lawn in the park and weed whacking. Mark has been unable to find time to spray for weeds so far this year.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Public Works Superintendent Position

Mayor McCown said they had an applicant from Colorado and the mayor semi offered him the position. The applicant got home and sent another email stating that he was requesting three months severance from the town if he was to be let go in the future. He also wanted to be compensated for his moving expenses. The mayor told him he was unable to offer that. The applicant wrote the next day saying he needed at least a month of severance and would like \$3,000 for moving expenses, \$1,500 now and \$1,500 when he relocated for good. Mayor McCown said he didn't call him back after his second request. Mayor McCown said Reuel Klempel, the guy from the Tri-Cities got tired of the traffic commuting to his new position on the Westside of the mountains and told the mayor he would to take the position for \$60,000 and can start the job on Monday. Mayor McCown said Reuel will guarantee the town one year of employment and has a Class IV water and sewer license and a CDL Class A license.

Mayor McCown said he would discuss it with the council and get back to Reuel on Thursday. Mayor McCown said that Reuel worked with Roger Pennell and Roger stated he was the best employee he ever had. He has relatives in the Colfax area that he will stay with while he is here working. Daymon asked if he was going to mind doing other things in town besides just working at the plant. The mayor said he talked with him about digging holes and plowing snow and Reuel didn't have a problem with that. Mayor McCown said he is ready to give him a try as long as the council was alright with it and happy that he wasn't going to have to provide an employment guarantee or pay for relocating this candidate. Mayor McCown said he would call Reuel and offer him the job and that he could start the 1st of September. David Jones said he supports it and Mark Young asked that the mayor also call the other candidate and explain that the town was going in a different direction.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Possible Sewer Rate Increase

Mayor McCown explains that because of the higher wage they will be paying for the new employee to work at the sewer plant and all of the other expenses, the sewer account has overspent. He feels they are going to have to raise the sewer rate to make up for the budget shortfall. The mayor shows the council how much the raise increase will generate if it was raised \$10, \$15 or \$20 per account, per month. Mark Young suggested the finance committee take a look at this and the expenses projected and then have a public hearing for public input. Mayor McCown said he would suggest putting it on as a temporary surcharge until things turn around at the plant and then they can retract it. Daymon and David will meet Cody at town hall at 1:00 on Thursday to look over the budget and they can discuss it at the next meeting.

2. Appointing a Councilmember to the Planning and Zoning Committee

Mayor McCown explains that once Sharon was done on council a spot also came available on the Planning and Zoning Committee for the town and they need to replace that position. Sharon Schnebly said that is was a great duty, it didn't require too much as they only met a couple times a year to discuss zoning issues. Daymon said he would volunteer to be on that committee if no one else wished to take the spot. Mayor McCown appointed Daymon Marple to the town's Planning and Zoning Committee.

Neal Leon suggested that the town dig a hole at the composting location so that the container could be at ground level and residents could load their own yard waste into the container saving the town the need to

purchase equipment and use town employee time to load the box. Mayor McCown said that anything and everything would end up in this box if residents were allowed to load it themselves. Mark also said that the location is not a permissible area to be digging to make such an accommodation and Dave Ulrick confirmed because of the previous site use it would not be wise to dig a hole for this purpose.

Rebecca Jones stated that she put in a public records request and wonders where the council is at on filing this request. She stated that Cody has provided her with his portion of the necessary information but she hasn't received anything from the council or mayor at this time. Mark asked when this public record request was submitted to the town and Rebecca responded a couple weeks ago. Mayor McCown stated that he couldn't send any because he doesn't do emails.

Sandra Cavallo said she did some simple math and on 250 households paying the increased rate and the rate hike would pay for the entire \$60,000 salary of the new employee which should already be partially budgeted because there was already an employee at the plant and she stated her concern for the community is once the rates go up she worries they will never come back down again. Mayor McCown said in addition to the increased salary for the new hire, the plant also must be switched from chlorine gases to liquid chlorine and also the de-chlorination tablets are more expensive than initially thought. Sandra said the taxpayer should be able to voice their opinion if they are in favor of it or not and be able to state that they wish it to go to sewer plant upgrades only. Rebecca said there is about a \$30,000 discrepancy in what the mayor is asking for and what he is explaining will be purchased with the proceeds from the increased rate. Sharon said she would strongly encourage the council to open the discussion to a public meeting for Garfield resident input.

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 #12412-12413 PLUS EFTPS	Payroll: \$4,441.20
Check Register #12414-12422 PLU EFT DEPT OF REVENUE	Claims: \$8,495.74
	Total: \$12,936.94

ADJOURNMENT: David Jones **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 PM. Neal Leon seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Ray McCown, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Cody Lord, Clerk/Treasurer