

Town of Garfield
PUBLIC HEARING 2016 FINAL BUDGET
TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FINAL
Town Hall – December 2, 2015

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

ROLL CALL: Mayor Ray McCown, Mark Young, Daymon Marple, Sharon Schnebly, Tim Southern and David Jones. Staff: Clerk/Treasurer Cody Lord and Public Works Brad Hasenoehrl and Mark Phillips.
Absent:

GUESTS: Scott Bowman, Neal Leon, Justin Phillips, and Cher Curtis.

PUBLIC HEARING: Mayor McCown opened the Public Meeting for the Final Budget Hearing at 7:02 pm.

Mayor McCown asked if everyone looked over the budget. All the council members said yes and Mayor McCown asked if the council needs any time to go through it. Mayor McCown talked about Fund 401 and said currently the fund has been losing money for the last couple years mostly due to the sewer plant upgrades and repairs on the garbage truck. The town will give it another year and if it hasn't subsided then the council will have to look at adjustments so it doesn't continue to lose money. David Jones said possibly they will need to make some budget cuts.

The Public Hearing was closed at 7:04 pm and the regular council meeting reconvened.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Sharon Schnebly **MOVED** to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing (Preliminary Budget) and Regular Council Meeting November 18th, 2015. Daymon Marple seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Officer Joe Handley present.

Officer Handley said over the holiday there were a couple domestic calls but no arrests were made. There was 1 vehicle collision last week with no one injured. The police department will be starting to address some of the parking issues in town for traffic related issues. Mayor McCown asked was there a fault in the collision, and Officer Handley said yes, one vehicle was going too fast and blew the stop sign. There was only slight damage to the cars. Mark Young asked where the department was at on the trailer park. Officer Handley said currently they are in compliance, but they still have some issues to address in the spring. A few snowmobiles have been covered with tarps. Mark asked how many of the trailers were occupied. Officer Handley said currently there are 3 residents residing in the park with another possible tenant in the future. They are removing the two trailers at the top of the court in the spring and summer time. Mark said he appreciated the department keeping up on it.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: Brad Hasenoehrl present.

Water

- Not much going on with the water system and everything appears to be running fine.
- Chlorine is currently at .8 milligrams which is a little high, trying to stabilize at .5

Sewer

- Plant is running decent.
- Pumping out the contact chamber didn't do anything for the fecal coliform numbers. They have been increasing the chlorine on the effluent but haven't been getting the results so they are wondering if there might be an issue with the feed system. Possibly the brass coupler went out so they may have to dig it up and fix it.

Garbage

- Everything fine with the garbage route.

Parks

- Nothing currently happening in the parks department.

Streets

- Brad said he and Mark started jetting out the storm drains and sucking out the debris in the lines. They also graveled the roads to make sure to address the slick conditions. Mark and Daymon both said the gravel helped with the slick conditions.

Mark asked if the stretch of road was fixed that the concerned citizen came in about. Brad said they did take gravel up and spread it. Mayor McCown asked Rebecca if it helped and she said it was much better. Justin Phillips questioned why the road gravel didn't distributed the night it was so slick and asked can the town get that done the same night it is needed. Brad explained he went out that night and did it. Justin said he must have gotten to town shortly before it was completed. Mayor McCown confirms he was out about 9 pm.

Tim Southern asks is the chlorine you are pumping still not the using the new system. Brad confirms it is still operating on the old system. The pellet system is after the chlorine is injected into the system. It will pump right into the same tube so if there is a problem then they will still have the issues. Brad is trying to figure out how he can check the system to make sure this is the issue before digging it up. Sharon Schnebly asked if there is a breach in the chlorine system where the chlorine would be going. Brad says it would be going straight into the ground where the clarifiers connect to the contact chamber. At the injection point would be where the brass fitting would be found. Dave said he changed it out about 15 years ago. Daymon asked is there a way to bypass it to see if it affects the fecal coliform numbers. Brad said he will try every angle before he has to dig it up. Mark Phillips said the chlorine mixing is done inside the building and anything outside the building is diluted with water. Tim said he thought the purpose of the new system was to take that away. Brad said it is so they can get away from the gasses. Tim asked will you be using the same lines as the current system and Brad confirms this will be the case.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Interlocal Agreement with Pomeroy for WWTP Operator

Mayor McCown said he has some unfortunate news, the Interlocal Agreement fell through, Mayor McCown said he talked with Willie today and the Mayor of Pomeroy yesterday and everything was perfect. He was trying to get the hours set and make an offer on extra money for him coming here. Willie said he had talked with his supervisor and he don't think he better go up there. Mark asked Mayor McCown is he looking for more money. Mayor McCown said he offered giving him an extra \$100 a day to make it worth his while and Willie still said no, originally he was going to do it for what he was making at Pomeroy.

Mayor McCown said he called Ellie and hopefully she will call me back tomorrow with some other options. Mark asked did you talk with the Mayor of Pomeroy at all. Mayor McCown said he hasn't had a chance to talk with him since he heard about this from Willie but will talk with him soon. Mayor McCown said Pomeroy even agreed to let Willie use their vehicle. Sharon asked what the plan is now. Mayor McCown said until he talks with Ellie there isn't much of a plan. David Jones said it sounds like to him they need to find someone else. Ellie was going to see if Idaho has a plant like the towns but she hasn't gotten back to Mayor McCown.

Mayor McCown said he is going to talk with Ellie and see if the town can send them to Pomeroy for a day or two to do some training. Mark asked are there any other plants besides Pomeroy that are closer to Garfield. Daymon said the guy that engineered the plant also engineered some in Idaho so they are waiting to see if there are other similar plants out there. Justin asked since the deal with Pomeroy fell through can the town send the guys down there to do training. David said it still doesn't address the issue the town needs a class 2 operator. Sharon agreed saying the town would just be spending money for nothing as they would get as much experience time here as he

would down there, plus it is just taking someone away from the town. Tim asked do we still have the contact information for the guy from the Seattle area that wanted to work here and could it be possible that he is still interested in working for the town. Sharon said that is an option as he was interested awhile back in coming here for what the town was offering.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Resolution 2015-07 Setting the Salary Schedules of Public Employees and Officials for 2016
Mayor McCown said this resolution is for setting the salaries for the Public Employees and Officials, saying as you know there is an ordinance that gives the current employees an \$800.00 raise on their anniversary and normally the council gives a cost of living raise. Daymon said the cost of living follows the state guidelines and it is figured into the new budget. Scott Bowman asked who is this raise going to, is it city officials or city employees. Mayor McCown said the mayor and council hasn't been paid for the last 3 years but from now on they are going to be paid. Scott said in light of your recent budget shortfalls, city officials shouldn't get a raise. Tim clarified the members of the council haven't taken payment by personal choice. Mayor McCown said this year the council is not going to do this. Mayor McCown said he has talked with the rest of the council and they would like to get paid.

Mayor McCown said council can get paid and then gift it back to the town if they like for anything of their choosing. He would like to donate for trees at the park saying he has spent enough of his own money so far. Tim said you can do that if you like, but if the three other council members don't want to do that then they have that option. Mayor McCown said he feels the council has been forced into forgoing their pay in the past. Mark said to Mayor McCown don't speak for me, he had elected to voluntarily not get paid. Daymon said part of the reason they had elected to do this in the past was because they would have to file a tax disclaimer over the payment received.

Mark feels they should keep it the way they have been doing in the past. Daymon said to the mayor you can take yours if you like. Tim said we have always kept the dollar amount budgeted and at the beginning of the year Cody can put out the waivers and each council member and mayor can elect to take or not take their pay for meetings attended. Sharon said yes this is correct, this way the money is there if anyone would like to get the money. Tim said at one point they had a council member who elected not to get paid until the very end of the year and because it was budgeted and he changed his mind the town then paid him his full amount at that time.

Daymon said concerning the \$800 step pay raise on employees anniversaries, this equates to about \$33 a paycheck, it is what the state does for state employees and we are trying to keep in step with them. David asked does that include the COLA adjustment as well. Daymon said no this is the step only, the cost of living raise is based on what the state index estimates, last year was 2 percent and this year will drop slightly to reflect the decreased cost of fuel. Tim Southern **MOVED** to pass Resolution 2015-07 setting the salary schedules for public officials and employees for the Town of Garfield. Sharon Schnebly seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Ord. No. 453N 2015 Budget Amendment
Mayor McCown explains Cody needs to transfer \$25,000 from 410 to 401 to have money in the bank to pay bills during the final month of 2015 and also to cover 13th month transactions until Jan 20th. The town also need to increase the appropriations for the utility deposits fund from \$2,000 to \$3,000 so Cody can pay out a few more utility deposit refunds. Daymon Marple **MOVED** to adopt Ordinance No. 453N amending the 2015 budget. David Jones seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Tim said in the past few years the plan was to have an increase in rates every two years which amounted to 2 percent. He feels the town is pretty much on track with what they thought as a result of this utility rate adjustment. He explains at the beginning of the year they like to have

\$25,000 to \$35,000 to make the first quarter payments in Fund 401. He said he would advise looking into these rates and watching them closely. Water has been alright, garbage has been about even, sewer he would suggest looking real hard at raising it maybe \$.50 to a \$1.00, and possibly doing the same for water. The goal was to have some money set aside in the reserve accounts so when things went wrong the town would have funds to take care of it. The town is still running in the black, however costs are rising and he suggests watching very closely to make sure rates are keeping up with the increased cost of doing business.

3. Ord. No. 454 N Adopting the 2016 Budget

Daymon Marple **MOVED** to adopt the 2016 Budget. Mark Young seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor McCown asked if there was anything else the community would like to talk about. Scott asked where the town stands on fire hydrants. Mayor McCown said the town has about 40 hydrants in town and 38 are working fine. Scott said on the last list it said there was at least four broken ones. Mayor McCown said since then they went around and checked them all. Two are working but just leaking including the one on Spokane Street. The one that is broken is right across from the mayor's house and the other one is a new hydrant that doesn't have water to it. Scott said he believes there is a 3rd that is not functional down by D Street. Mayor McCown said there is a dead hydrant there but with another one located about 30 feet away from it. The dead one will be eventually removed. Scott said that he hopes a resident located next to the dead hydrants doesn't have a fire as it is a safety issue for the town.

Tim said it has been a pleasure working on the council and it has been fun. He hopes in the future the council continues to really watch the budget and not allow things like unnecessary and unneeded equipment to get purchased. He feels like things might start heading downhill if this isn't watched.

Daymon asked if what we had in the 2016 budget for the fire department were the figures the department approved this evening and Cody confirmed the town has the correct figures.

FINANCIAL:

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


Check Register # 12091-12093 PLUS EFTPS
Check Register # 12094 PLUS DOR
Check Register # 12095-12105

Payroll: \$6,484.11
Claims: \$2,730.90
Claims: \$10,802.97 Total: \$20,017.98

ADJOURNMENT: Daymon Marple **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 PM. David Jones seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.


Ray McCown, Mayor

ATTEST:


Cody Lord, Clerk/Treasurer

