

Town of Garfield
TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Town Hall – January 22, 2014

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Ray McCown called the meeting to order at 6:59 PM

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

GUESTS: Susan Love, Janice Lund and building inspector Dan Gladwill.

Residents of Garfield are wondering what can be done about Berg's home. It has a truck that has been parked there for a year, has not moved and is not working. Is there an ordinance about the length of grass and what can be done? Officer Merry has tried to serve her with a nuisance violation and issued a ticket but has been unable to serve her at this time. Officer Merry hasn't worked on this matter since summer time. It is believed that she hasn't lived there in over a year. All the debris and vegetation is part of the nuisance and will be taken care of soon. Officer Merry states we just need to get her served.

Mayor McCown asked if there are still cats in the house? Daymon Marple said that there is nothing in there including animals. Tim Southern assures the guests that like every other governmental issue, it takes time, but is being worked on. Daymon says there isn't any ordinance specifying the length of grass, there is an ordinance that addresses nuisances on the property. The yard is far beyond what is acceptable. At the other nuisance home on South 3rd street there are still around 3 abandoned cats. Officer Merry says we have never had any luck with the Humane Society coming and trapping them for us in the past. Daymon asked if the homeowners have left this house? Officer Merry confirms they are officially not there any longer. Officer Merry said the police department is not in the business of doing anything with abandoned cats.

Dan Gladwill, the town's building inspector is present. Officer Merry and Dan went up and addressed the nuisance property on South 3rd. The house is abandoned and is definitely a public nuisance. Officer Merry and Dan will write a letter to the bank to describe the condition of the house and the animals that are bedding there. Dan has gone to the assessor's office and found out who owns the place, although there is still some questions as to where the homeowners can be reached. Also Dan has gone to the Paine house and put a stop order on the property in the flood zone. It is determined that Mr. Clark is the owner of the house and on the property title. He only has two vehicles on the property which are an issue at this time. It is official they need to stop work on the property until they can come into code. The homeowner has said he will do the things needed to be in compliance in a flood zone. All three guests exited the meeting at 7:10.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mark Young **MOVED** to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of January 8th, 2013. Tim Southern seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Chief Neumann in attendance for the Police Department. Chief Neumann states that Officer Merry has put a lot of work into the investigation on this South 3rd street house. The payments are now late and taxes are behind. The house is uninhabitable and determined to be a nuisance to the community. The homeowner's address that was provided in Moscow has no association with the homeowners of the property. It sounds like the homeowner left to Texas and will not be returning. The Town of Garfield will hold the bank accountable for the property and they will have to make some decisions to either burn it, clean it up, dismantle it and bring it up to code or repair it. Mayor McCown said the lot is probably worth more with the house not on it. The police department will get a letter off to them and give them an idea of what it entails to fix the situation at the property.

The Police Department is working on an ORV (Off Road Vehicle) ordinance. Economically it would be smart to have Palouse and Garfield work on this jointly. We can write the ordinance which allows golf carts

and ATVs access on some country roads with rules for travel. The ordinance should be the same for Palouse and Garfield so they are easier to enforce. A lot of safety restrictions and requirements will be built in for public safety. In certain small counties it is automatically allowable for ORVs and certain travel can't be denied. Forest Service roads are also ORV allowable at this time. Tim Southern said he can sit down with the Police Department and hammer it out if needed. Smaller county roads will allow access to areas of recreation. We would need to make sure the ordinance coincides with the regulations of the other counties. Mayor McCown said Albion may have a similar ordinance and if so then Stephen Bishop probably would have the information on it. Mark Young asks what is the purpose of the ordinance? Tim explained it is so smaller towns can use their ATVs to run errands around town and access certain allowable smaller roads. The Town of Garfield currently says you can't cruise around on your ATV unless you are doing work around town. It would allow more movement and use of these vehicles. The ordinance would require a license to operate the ORV and then regulations would need to be put in place.

Mark Young asked does the Police Department have any follow up on the marijuana regulations? Chief Neumann said Garfield will not be granted a retail license and that we might possibly be allowed a grow/production license. This means we could have someone come in and do production if they meet all the state requirements and pass an extensive background check. The State of Washington has been granted x number of thousands of square feet to allot to production and most of that is going to the west side. It is questionable as to what kind of tax revenue it will bring into Garfield if a production facility was here. Mayor McCown explains there is currently a letter that is talking about this issue. Right now they have to go through the permitting process which will require an extensive background check and a lengthy process so not something that will occur overnight.

Regarding the sign nuisance Stephen Bishop has the current zoning/ordinance, and will address whether we write the letter or if he will supply the letter to address nuisance signage in the Town of Garfield.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: Public Works Assistant Brad Hasenoehrl was in attendance for the Public Works department.

- There is still a leak at the house on 4th street and it has been determined it is not on our side so they have dug it up and begun work on this leak.
- The vacuum plate on the meter on California across the street broke and it will be fixed soon.
- The treatment plant oversight operator David Tysz has asked the Public Works Department to go out there once more each day for operation items. The bio-cell is still not working, and Robby and Brad started bagging the cells to empty out the tank but this method was not working well. They are scooping them and throwing them over the wall for temporary storage. Currently Robby and Brad have gotten down about 4 feet.
- DMRs are caught up to about July, and David Tysz has been training them on correct sampling techniques.
- New parts for the garbage truck may not be ready until the first of March. There was a small miscommunication but now that is taken care of and moving forward nicely. Friday Robby will be getting the new trailer for water, sewer, and garbage and will also be picking up two new dumpsters. The retrofit parts for the dumpster will also be coming on Friday. There are currently 20 dumpsters around town to pick up. There are about 5 more that are around town that we can retrofit in to retrofit for the new garbage truck.
- Robby, Brad and Mayor McCown picked up the scrape iron last week, Hatter Creek picked up the trailer and we are waiting for the trailer to come back, once back we will be loading again and the scrape pile will be nearly complete.
- A roll cart has been placed at the park for public use. Robby and Brad have been picking up sticks in the roadway as we see them to keep things clear and clean around town.
- Also Brad has been spending some time cleaning out the mezzanine and the shop is starting to look much better.

Mayor McCown asked, what are the lockers in the shop for, and do you use them? Brad explains they are

not being used much and we are working on ideas to get better organized. Tim Southern said the Public Works guys are wanting a better way to organize things, they have identified a storage container that would help them out greatly. The cost of these storage units would be \$950.00 each. The old lockers are useless. They would like one storage container for the shop and one for the waste water treatment plant. There are some of the same old lockers at the gun club and we can take the ones we don't use over there.

- The quick connect for the skidsteer is broken. A new replacement one would be \$750.00. They are also going to look at a place to see if it can be repaired in hopes to save us some money. A used one is thought to be about \$400.00. To weld it would be a couple hundred dollars. The Bobcat part will go to Lewiston tomorrow and have it looked at and see what our best option is. They capped the hydraulics so it will not require the entire piece of equipment traveling to Lewiston.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Update on Burn Permit for Brush Pile

Mayor McCown called on Monday after the meeting. He explained to the Dept. of Ecology guy what the council's concerns are. The representative in charge of the burn permits talked with another Dept. of Ecology representative and collectively they saw no issue with the current thought on getting rid of the pile with localized small burns. Each day before we burn we have to call a number to check on the status of burning in our area. The burn permit is good for 6 months. Mayor McCown said that we will burn smaller piles each day and keep record of the material that is being burned.

Tim Southern thinks that once the burn is done we should load the grass and leaves into the container for disposal. He says we don't want to overload the disposal containers but we shouldn't have an issue with this. Due to the cost and requirements we don't want to be a composting site in the future. Mayor McCown said let's let it coast for a year and see what happens. Let's drag the stuff that isn't decomposed already into the box, the other stuff will just naturally spread out as we load the bulk of the material into the box. Mayor McCown says that he would like to start burning when we can and when the weather and conditions are permitting.

Mark Young suggested finding out which people in town need to be notified because of breathing issues. We can then put a notification in the Post Office to let people know we are burning. Maybe we can put out this notice the previous day. Tim Southern says that we need to also have the fire out by dark, and we need to talk with Chris McCully to get a water supply out there to put out the fire completely each time we burn. Tim said he would rather just get it done with maybe burning a few larger piles. Maybe break it down into a couple larger piles and torch it and get it done with. Tim said we were expecting to spend the amount of money in the budget to dispose of those boxes that in the future as work time allows that we follow that process.

If they fill the box every Wednesday, then once the initial pile is gone we start using the boxes then we don't have to worry about the people with smoke issues. The past bills for dumping have been relatively low and dependant of hourly wages, fuel rates, and leasing of the truck to haul the material away. Average cost will be about \$75.00 a load. Daymon Marple says some of that material is not going to burn well. If the town is burning then we need to adhere to the Dept. of Ecology's laws and regulations and we need to follow them precisely.

We have to have a report to them 7 days after each time we burn which consists of a card we fax in each time we burn. Mayor McCown says St. John keeps their vegetation in a nice stack and burns it when the pile gets big enough. Tim states the problem we may run into is that if we do the slow approach to burning we may not have it burned before the concerned party comes back. David Jones reads from the instructions and says you must report every 7 days after your burn is complete. A copy of the permit must be where you are burning. Tim again thinks we just do it in 2 or 3 stages and get it done and once that pile is gone be done burning and start hauling the debris off on a schedule. David Jones says start off small see how much smoke is produced and evaluate from there. The instructions also say one person has to

be out there during the whole burn. The neighbors are gone at this time so there is not an issue with disrupting them. The council agrees once the pile is reduced then we will go back to disposing of it. Council approves to start burning the piles.

- Power to Water Tank/First Step Agreement

The silver tank on South Hill currently houses First Step. The agreement between the Town of Garfield and First Step has been around since Mayor McCown was here last time. There was a power meter put in and in exchange for internet services we are paying the electricity for First Step. We allowed them to put the equipment up there and we pay the utilities. In the new agreement with Cascade Computing there is no money or exchange involved. There are now two letters; First Step is wishing to move to the black tank and Cascade Computing is expressing some concern about First Step being there. Marcus Munn has some concern there will be some conflict with the interruption from First Step's transmissions. Tim suggested telling First Step no and ask Cascade Computing if we possibly could do some sort of exchange for the equipment Marcus installed on the black tank. Another option is to re-evaluate the contract with First Step. Tim Southern **MOVED** to tell First Step they are not interested in making changes at this time and also tell Cascade Computing we would like to discuss internet service options from them. David Jones seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

- Marijuana Regulations State of Washington

Mark Young said he hasn't had a chance to meet with the Palouse group yet but he went over to Oakesdale and got a copy of their current ordinance addressing this matter. Mark would suggest in the interim we pass an ordinance like Oakesdale's current ordinance. It basically becomes a zoning code matter. He reads a paragraph from the ordinance concerning the zoning. Stephen Bishop has some concerns about how we proceed since it is all murky right now. Mark thinks we should put something in place so we have some kind of direction. It sounds like at this time counties and towns can determine what they are wanting to do with their businesses in their town. Mayor McCown said he is for getting the process started. Mark Young suggested having Stephen Bishop write an ordinance like the one in Oakesdale that would limit our zoning ordinance to authorize land use that might violate state and federal laws. The council is in agreement to go talk with Stephen about this matter and get the process rolling, and bring back the information to the next council meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Annual Report Training in Spokane, BIAS

Cody will be attending BIAS accounting software training Feb. 18th, 19th and 20th. Council agrees that the training is a good thing to do.

- Purchase of New Town Computer

The current age of the computer was talked about and becoming a concern if something were to go bad on it. It currently takes a long time to load and it houses a lot of critical information that we wouldn't want to lose. Council unanimously approves moving forward with getting a new computer.

Tim Southern said we have an ordinance addressing the garbage roll carts and the homeowner responsibilities concerning the carts, however there is no information about dumpsters in this ordinance. Tim would like to talk with Stephen Bishop about this matter and have language for the dumpster that is similar to the roll carts. The town will split the cost with the homeowners for purchasing or fixing dumpsters and we can possibly spread the payments out over 6 months for the homeowner or business owner. Up front it will not cost the people anything. If we implement this now, in 10 years if the dumpster is going bad, then the town could split the cost with them and make sure the dumpsters are safe to use. There are a few dumpsters around town that are not good. Tim says we are going to do the retrofit to the existing dumpsters so they fit the new truck. If the homeowner damages the dumpster then they will pay for the

damages. Mayor McCown says that each business owns their dumpster. Tim says we also bought 7 of them and they are out in town being used. Hawkins owns his dumpster but it is one of the ones in the worst condition. It will be an ordinance which allows us to say we are fixing the dumpsters so it fits our truck and can be operated safely and any future damage caused by the homeowner or business owner can be required per towns request to be repaired.

FINANCIAL:

1. 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 #11255-11258 plus EFTPS	Payroll: \$6,579.45
Check Register #11259-11264 13 th Mon. Trans. & EFT DOR	Claims: \$2,624.98
Check Register #11265-11272 January Claims	Claims: \$33,831.04 Total: \$43,035.47

ADJOURNMENT: Daymon Marple **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM. Tim Southern seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.



Ray McCown, Mayor

ATTEST:



Cody Lord, Clerk/Treasurer