

Town of Garfield
TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES Preliminary Draft
Town Hall – January 8, 2014

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Ray McCown called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM

ROLL CALL: Mayor Ray McCown, Sharon Schnebly, Tim Southern, Mark Young, David Jones, and Daymon Marple present. Staff – Public Works Superintendent Robby Johnson left at 7:30 and Clerk/Treasurer Cody Lord. Absent:

GUESTS: John Kuehner, Stephen Bishop arrived at 7:08, Cher Curtis and Roy Weiker arrived at 7:12.

- Roy has signatures from residents who may be affected by a street closure from 8th street to the park so a sledding party can occur. Roy received the signatures to not plow the road during the first snow. The church now has insurance that will cover the sledding gathering. The surrounding tenants will have access if the road is closed just in case there is an emergency. Robby will block off the roads when there is enough snow to sled on. Council is in agreement that everything sounds fine on this matter.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Sharon Schnebly **MOVED** to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of December 19th, 2013. Mark Young seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Officer Joe Merry is present for the Police Department. Chief Neumann had another engagement tonight so he sent Officer Merry in his place. Officer Merry will relay any concerns directly to Chief Neumann.

- Some prowling has been happening and the department is watching over this. Sharon asked what are they targeting? It appears they are targeting cars, firewood, and fuel. If anyone sees anyone after 11pm on the street that looks suspicious, they are to call Officer Merry and he will ID them.
- The situation at the 3rd and Jefferson house is still an ongoing issue. The plan is for them to return and to figure out how to properly contact them. A civil process must have a mailing address to serve them proper paperwork. The next move after the 15th will be to go over and talk with Bishop Law to see what the remedy might be. About the 15th or 16th the police department will check in on the home owners.
- Officer Merry sent an email to Chief Neumann about inquiries from people looking for residences here in Garfield to start marijuana groves. Chief Neumann is starting to research and will address the matter soon.
- There is a sign ordinance dating back to 1989 talking about posting signs in a yard. The ordinance was passed and a revised ordinance says that signage can only be 4 feet by 4 feet. This may be what we can use to address nuisance signs in town. Bishop Law will begin looking into this matter.

Mark Young asks regarding the marijuana groves, is it something the council can specifically address? Officer Merry said so far we are following state and federal codes and the state is dispersing information in the form of guidelines and giving them to counties. People are looking for places to establish a residence or a shop and they need to have an address to be considered for the necessary licenses. Officer Merry can't make any recommendations concerning this matter at this point.

Tim Southern asked is it even legal for us to say if we didn't want them in town? The way some towns and cities have approached the matter is passed a moratorium. Oakesdale has been proactive in this same issue. Any use that is prohibited by federal law is not allowable in the Town of Oakesdale. It is believed that the state already has enough growers and they are not taking any more applications for growers in our county. There are a limited amount of applications and once they are issued no more will be allowed to

grow or sell. Mark Young says depending on the council's direction, we should be getting on this matter to stay ahead of the issue. Mayor McCown would like to direct this to a police committee to look after such issues. A meeting could be set up with Officer Merry, Chief Neumann and Stephen Bishop to further discuss the issue once the committee is formed.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: Public Works Supervisor Robby Johnson was in attendance for the Public Works department.

- Before the holiday Robby spent some time in Spokane with Western Systems, to go over things to be done with the truck. Robby has been dealing with the sales rep and telling them exactly what is needed. They are currently installing the hydraulics and cradle system. Also the conversion kits are being worked on. The truck should be done and ready soon.
- A meter break happened and was taken care of immediately.
- Ackerman Heating looked at the boiler at the WWTP; they repaired this issue and did some training with Robby and Brad on how to effectively operate the piece of equipment.
- The recycling will have to go to Whitman Transfer, at this time they are paying a \$30 bail fee. Boxes will have to be taken when they are full, they are not weighing that much and not bringing in that much. Cardboard is \$50/ton, mixed paper \$10/ton, and aluminum we will price out as we have it ready to go to see who is offering the best rate.
- Robby and Brad took a trip around with Mayor McCown looking at things to add to their work list and get completed in the future.
- Robby and Brad have been spending a couple hours a day at the plant. One of the soft start systems was not operating properly; it is repaired and seems to be working fine again.
- The school currently has four 4 yard dumpsters. Mayor McCown said the school owns all their own dumpsters. Garfield School Superintendent Zane Wells says that he doesn't have anything budgeted to buy new dumpsters at this time. Maybe the town would be willing buy them and he could use that money to put towards new ones? Tim Southern asked what is the condition of the dumpsters? Two are okay and 2 are needing repairs. We could have them here as surplus as we have about 10 dumpsters at this time. Sometimes people just sit on them, so we do get low from time to time.
- Mayor McCown asked about the conversion kits and the price that we are paying. Western System is charging us \$105.00 a pair. Since we are dealing with Western Systems and retrofitting the truck, they already have the jigs so we felt it was better to let them conduct the business. Robby and Brad will be welding the tubes onto the dumpsters. It is determined that these tubes and boxes are already underway and nearing completion.
- Robby forgot to send in a water sample in November. It will have to get mentioned in the consumer confidence report and it is not be a big issue.
- There was a substantial water leak at Zane Wells' today. The leak is fixed and back up and running.
- We are going to start working on the scrape pile.

Mayor McCown interjected saying there are a few more things he wants to talk about concerning the Public Works Department. The biggest concern for him is the sewer plant. The second concern is the compost pile. Mayor McCown has been talking with the Ecology Department in Spokane. 3rd, he would like to talk about the junk at the recycle shed. Mayor McCown is willing to come and help clean at the shed. 4th, behind the shop he wants cleaned up. 5th, the inside of the shop, Mayor McCown wants to design a balcony and help clean it up and organize what is out there. Robby stats he agrees that these are things that need to be addressed and taken care of.

- Robby will be gone on Friday, he has some things to take care of in Moscow and a bus trip so he will be using some of his comp time.
- Robby and Brad have been doing some study time with David Tysz and learning a lot about the WWTP plant.
- Stephen Bishop says there is a culvert at 8th and Adams that must be plugged and water has come

up and over the road, it is now starting to recede.

When time allows Mark Young would like to take a tour of the Waste Water Treatment Plant and see what it is all about. Mayor McCown went through it with Jarrod Pfaff a couple weeks ago and found it interesting and informative. David Tysz has it going in the right direction.

Mayor McCown has had two people approach him wanting to know why there is no garbage collection at the park. He asked Robby if we can put an ordinary dumpster over there. Robby will take a normal cart over there tomorrow.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Marcus Munn Cascade Computing Lease. There aren't any changes it just needs to be signed and will be completed soon.
- Mayor McCown met with Avista at the old water tank he would like to know what we have up there that we are paying utilities on. Why are we paying on this tank? Cody will look into why we are paying for power up there and what the power is going to.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Mayor McCown and Councilmember David Jones have already been sworn in at the bank and the Oath of Office was notarized. Tim Southern felt the Oath of Office should have been conducted at the council meeting so that it is a public forum. Tim stated it is just courteous to wait until the first council meeting and it has always been conducted this way. Mayor McCown said in Idaho it is conducted that way and in the State of Washington Jan.1 is the beginning of the term that he wanted to get signed in so that he could conduct his initial meeting with Robby and Brad. Tim again said he thinks waiting until the first council meeting would have been appropriate. Mayor McCown felt he had the authority to do it the way it was done.
2. Council/Mayor to name a councilmember to be on the Joint Fire Board.
 - Tim Southern and Mark Young are already on the board. Mayor McCown suggested David Jones as the new board member. Mark Young **MOVED** to name David Jones to the Joint Fire Board. Daymon Marple seconded the motion and motion carried. David Jones abstained. The announcement will be made at the Joint Fire Board meeting which has been moved to tomorrow the 9th at 6:00 pm.
3. Council/Mayor to name a new Mayor Pro Tem.
 - Mayor McCown suggested Mark Young as the Mayor Pro Tem. Daymon Marple **MOVED** to name Mark Young as the Mayor Pro Tem position. Tim Southern seconded the motion and the motion carried. Mark Young abstained.
4. Council/Mayor to name the Financial Committee.
 - Mayor McCown would like to suggest Tim Southern join the Financial Committee with already acting member Daymon Marple. Daymon Marple stated that he would like to remain on the committee. Mark Young **MOVED** to name Tim Southern and Daymon Marple to the Financial Committee. David Jones seconded the motion and the motion carried. Tim Southern and Daymon Marple abstained.

Mayor McCown would also like to suggest a Police Committee consisting of two council members. Mayor McCown would like to suggest Mark Young. Mark asked if anyone else has an interest in it. Sharon Schnebly said that she would be interested in it. Daymon Marple **MOVED** to name Mark

Young and Sharon Schnebly to the Police Committee. Tim Sothern seconded the motion and the motion carried. Mark Young and Sharon Schnebly abstained.

5. Burn Permit for the brush pile.

Mayor McCown has been in contact with Environmental Health in Colfax. It was determined that we were penalized because of the burn issue last year. Mayor McCown talked with Paul Rossau in Spokane and told him we are interested in stacking the limbs and branches in small piles and will burn small portions at a time. His only concern is for the neighbor there at the clean green facility. We filled two of those containers and it costs us over a \$100.00 per container. Mayor McCown said it will take an estimated 75 containers to haul it out.

There is some question about getting a burn permit unless the compost is addressed at the same time. The way Mayor McCown understands it is that we will deal only with the burn site. Sharon Schnebly spent time with the Dept. of Ecology and made little progress except for DOE making more work and long processes for the Town. Tim doesn't think that it will cost of \$10,000 to haul off the current debris. He feels once the Public Works Department has enough time to get out there and stay on top of it, the pile will dwindle quickly. At that time every week we can load what is there.

It would be nice to be able to start regulating who is using the facility. It only hurts the members of town who wants to use it when others from various communities are coming to dump their debris. The party who had an issue with the smoke in the past will be gone for some time allowing for the burn to take place. Tim Southern is not in favor of filling out an application of burn until we know more from the Dept. of Ecology. Mark Young asked is it possible to work with one person at the Dept of Ecology?

The experience has been the burn permit guy may tell you one thing but often times they change how the process is done before the project commences. Mayor McCown states he would certainly apply for the permit now and try getting it going so we are not wasting time. Tim Southern thinks we continue to load and ship out and then we don't have to worry about being a compost site. Once it is full they should haul off and get it loaded immediately again. There are a lot of variables that come into play with the burn permit.

Sharon said they were told they could get a burn permit and then everything changed and it became a much bigger ordeal. Mayor McCown said it is a collection site now and Mayor McCown thinks that if it is a burn day then we can burn if the permit is issued. Mark Young said if the Dept of Ecology said it was considered a recycle or compost site, why should they have an issue if we are no longer doing a composting facility. Maybe have the Dept. of Ecology down again and talk with her about the changes at the site and see if we can get them to give us clearance. Maybe re-explain to them we are not a compost or recycle facility, that we are just a collection site.

Mayor McCown states Paul Rossau seems to be in charge of it and if he appears willing to give us a permit, but Mayor McCown will see what the rules are and if they are going to satisfy us. Sharon said they are more than willing to come down and talk with us face to face and discuss the matter. Mayor McCown said this guy is very easy to deal with and willing to work with the Town of Garfield. It would simply be a burn situation with him. Mayor McCown says if we keep putting it off the neighbors will be back and then we won't be able to burn.

Mark asked Mayor McCown can you gather more information and see where it will go and if we should still be getting this permit. The affected people are expected to be back at the end of February. Mayor McCown said he would burn the piles and he will spend some time out there with his backhoe. Tim asked the Mayor if he is covered by our insurance and could this become a problem. Stephen Bishop says that there is no liability with the equipment that it is very evident that the Mayors in other small towns have to get work done and often times the Mayor will use their

own equipment and time to get projects completed.

Stephen Bishop could have Eric Hanson check with the Dept. of Ecology and see if there is something that can be done and make sure we are covered. Mark said if we are doing it in a sensitive manner to the neighbors and Town of Garfield and have the neighbors on board with our plan then there is a good chance they won't complain again. Mark said he would suggest spending the two weeks and do some more research and in two weeks figure out if it is something we would like to move forward with.

FINANCIAL:

1. 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 #11223 to 11231
Check Register #11232 to 11254

Payroll: \$9,442.32
Claims: \$33,646.89 Total: \$43,089.21

Present the Quarterly Void/Spoiled Check Register 11102, 11165, 11206, 11227, 11228, 11229
Present the Quarterly Adjustment Register.

Financial Committee signed off on the voided/spoiled check register and adjustment register.

ADJOURNMENT: Daymon Marple **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 PM. Tim Southern seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Ray McCown, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Cody Lord, Clerk/Treasurer