

Town of Garfield
TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES Preliminary Draft
Town Hall – March 25, 2015

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

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

GUESTS: Peggy Ray, Sonja Hall, Travis Hall, Kevin Pickron and Scott Burn

Sonja Hall read from a letter to bring attention to matters at the park. She presented the issues she sees at the park and what she would like taken care of. She talked about how the Garfield Community Association has taken a year to fix the swing they said they were going to fix awhile ago. She brought up that there is no drinking fountain there. Restrooms are closed and advertised on the highway as still open. She offered to purchase heated pipe tape to wrap the restroom pipes so they could remain on all year. Mayor McCown explained that you can't leave a toilet in operation over the winter without the space being heated. Tim Southern confirmed the restrooms will remain closed for the winter. Sonja Hall said that the Tekoa restrooms are open all winter and Tim and Mayor McCown both confirmed that is because they are heated.

She would like to suggest the boy scouts refinish the picnic tables as a project. Sonja would like to see the storm drains cleaned out and install drain tile around the play ground equipment. She would also like to have the public works guys move one trash cans to the play area. Tim explained the water problem is the lay of the land and there is nothing that can be done about it this time of year, the water table is just too high. Sonja suggests digging a dry well some place in the park. Mayor McCown questions if you put a dry well in where will the water run off go? Sonja talks about the line going to the storm water or sewer system. Tim explains to Sonja that definitely won't be happening as the town is making strides with the sewer plant and nothing needs to deter that.

Mayor McCown encourages Sonja to join another committee in town who already contributes to the park as this would be the easiest way for her to get stuff accomplished. Sonja explains to the council that she is not interested in joining a committee that she is disinterested in the committees in Garfield. Sonja asked if she were to raise the money or have play equipment donated would the city install the play equipment. Mayor McCown said no it must be the right play ground equipment, something our insurance would approve and would be safe for the community. Mayor McCown asks Sonja to understand that they are always working on many other problems so they will get to the park as time and money permits.

Sonja explains she would like to put together a volunteer group to put the park back together. Kevin Pickron states didn't Palouse have a committee which raised the money for equipment and then the city gave them approval to install it. Mayor McCown toured the park and looked at the playground equipment. He agreed there are some things that need to be repaired or replaced like the strap to the swing and the crack on the slide. Sonja asked why people can't volunteer to do these things. Mayor McCown said bring in a list of people who would be willing to volunteer and what they are willing to do. Mayor McCown will then recommend a committee to look after the park. Robby told the council the swing and chains had been ordered. Sonja asked when they would get replaced and Robby said as soon as they arrive.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Tim Southern **MOVED** to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting Feb. 25th, 2015. Mark Young seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Chief Jerry Neumann and Officer Snead present.

Things continue to stay busy. During the last couple weeks a couple arrests were made and a couple of late evening call outs took place. A car ran into the bar the other night and the driver was arrested for drunk driving. The sex offender living in Garfield is now wanted nationwide and non compliant so if anyone knows where he is at let the police department know. Officer Snead will be departing the department May

1st to enter retirement. The police department has been seeking an applicant for a full time police officer with a lateral entry into the program. It will be open shortly and closed April 15th. Idaho does qualify for a lateral entry. Out of state would require two weeks of training with the agency with the next training in June. All the new police equipment is on line. Chief Neumann also stated he would send the Palouse Chicken Ordinance to Cody to distribute to the council members.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: Robby Johnson present for the Public Works Department.

- Water is running fine.
- The water repair on 3rd street will be completed on spring break while the school is out of session. It will require a shut down of the water system momentarily while the repair is completed.

Sewer

- Sewer plant had a lot of run off yesterday.
- The plant lost a pump over the winter and needs to be replaced it will be about \$5,000.00.

Garbage

- 4 yard dumpsters are back and up at the school being used.
- Robby is ordering 10 new totters and will also be getting the repair kits.

Streets

- Streets are swept.
- Roller is in the shop and they are working on the water system.
- Need to think about getting the roads grated. Robby will let the council know if the county is going to do it again. Mayor McCown suggested waiting until the water is gone for a bit so the roads aren't so soft.
- Robby thinks they should start bringing some rock up. They are down to about 2 truck loads or about 15 tons. Mayor McCown said he thinks we can get by for a month or two. Tim asked how much are you thinking you want to get. Robby would like to have about 4 or 5 loads picked up with the town's truck.
- The mower is ready, and they will run it over to the park soon.
- Robby would like to purchase a sprayer, fertilizer spreader and Thatcher. Robby showed them some specs on the equipment he is interested in purchasing. Mayor McCown said he thinks a different spreader will be needed as the one in the picture only throws out a dribble; he thinks getting one that has a spreader to throw the product would be better. Tim said the problem with the sprayer is the overlap so you may lose some product and questions if they have any boom systems. Robby will look more but the boom systems are big and more expensive. Robby asked the council if he had approval to get the equipment and Mayor McCown said while don't you show us your final decisions for purchase before buying but yes the equipment needs to be purchased.
- Robby would like to look at getting the new zero turn mower purchased as well. Mayor McCown said Home Depot has about 14 different zero turns available. Cody can call St. John Hardware in Colfax and some others around for a price quote on a 54 inch zero turn. Tim said he is okay with moving forward with the Thatcher, and the rest of council is fine with the Thatcher purchase. Robby will look into if he can get a bigger spreader. Mayor McCown said make sure you can turn it on and off while you are pulling it around. Robby confirms that he will probably be pulling it behind the mower. Tim suggested seeing if they can put the sprayed in the back of the gator. Tim also asked if they have a gun on them as well. Robby thinks he can find one of them with a gun on it. Robby will have prices on mowers at the next council meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Restaurant Update
Peggy Ray is here to give the update for the restaurant. Avista visited last week and gave them a

report on what can be done to save energy in the restaurant. The filter in the furnace and air conditioning unit was taken out and was not sealed. There is a lot of leakage on the doors into the bar and into the freezer. There are two hot water heaters in the ceiling over the kitchen that needs to have blankets wrapped around them to retain heat. When the Avista guy was up there he saw a lot of broken glass. It has been cleaned up so the electrician can get up there. Someone needs to take a picture of the insulation in the ceiling so he can evaluate if enough is in there. Also he recommended a person installing a vapor barrier under the building to minimize energy loss. Peggy Ray potentially has someone who is willing to crawl under there and do that. Tim questioned why Avista is doing this. Peggy Ray explained they do energy audits for business to conserve energy. Mayor McCown also added they were hoping to have some lighting options that will be eligible for a rebate. Peggy Ray shows the council a scale of the lighting, they are 4 foot t-5's and they have a wrap around that has an etched design.

Peggy Ray went to Lacrosse and Endicott to see their grocery stores. Lacrosse organized a non-profit group with McGregor's help; they now own about 5 buildings in town. Peggy Ray thinks it may be a good idea to have a non-profit that can acquire empty spaces and rehab them. They are now making money off the buildings that they rehabbed. Peggy Ray explains if there are buildings abandoned there is some value in the town acquiring them and getting them in shape and selling them. Lacrosse decided they will be a tourist stop so they are becoming a museum for the ice age.

In terms of the restaurant, the lights have been ordered and Joe Keller will install them. The materials for the vapor barrier have been purchased and Peggy Ray will try to get someone to put the vapor barrier down. The committee is still up in the air in terms of the flooring they want. Also up in the air are some of the contributions that are going to be used for remodeling the space. Peggy Ray explains the long term goal was to get the building habitable. Another long term goal was to get the space suitable for a grocery store, and to also allow the community to use that building for various events.

Tim questions are you not seeking a person to run and operate a restaurant. Peggy Ray believes the only thing that will work in this town is if it will become a regional restaurant. There is no one interested in currently opening a restaurant. Sonja Hall has expressed she would be willing to cook the meals for the senior dinners. At this time it probably is not going to be a restaurant. If someone wants to come along and is willing to pay reasonable rent the town would welcome them to open a restaurant, but it hasn't worked yet. David Jones confirmed so you are restoring the building so that someone would be inclined to do this and Peggy Ray confirmed yes.

Peggy Ray explains that Endicott is a pretty good indicator of what we would be looking at. They have a grocery store and restaurant that has been in operation for the 26 years. All the money the owner makes in the grocery store she puts back into the groceries. She prepares lunch Monday through Friday and then dinner every other week for one night. The owner explains diners won't come every night. Where she makes her money is a catering service and especially catering for funerals. Peggy Ray explains this is why she thinks our building should be useable for miscellaneous events. There could be senior luncheons, decent foods for apple fest and May Day and maybe a caterer that could use the space for community events.

Tim said he likes the idea but where is the money coming from to keep the space functioning. Peggy Ray said for all events people would have to rent the space. The committee would figure out what the appropriate rental cost is. Peggy Ray also said we then get into volunteers and we need to recognize that towns of this size quite often use volunteers. Peggy Ray has worked on a grant that asks for 12 hours a week paid employee and some money for inventory to get the store started. She says they are talking about small amounts of money and there are currently grants for small rural communities.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Spring Clean-up (Allowable Items)
Spring Clean-up will be Tuesday April 21st. Mayor McCown asks the council is there any restrictions on what residents can set out. Robby Johnson says there should be no demolition items allowed in the clean up, also no wood, televisions or electronics. Pallets need to be taken to the recycle center or taken to Ed-Ka as he can burn them in his furnace. Also there should be no items over 150 pounds. Council agreed these are all good things to add to the flyers this year.
2. Window Replacement at Fire Hall and Town Hall
Mayor McCown would like to replace the window at Town Hall, he thinks it will be about \$150.00 to buy the new window and it will pay for itself in a couple years time. Mayor McCown would also like to replace the 5' x 5' window in front of the fire station. Mayor McCown thinks it will be done about late April or May. Council agrees these would be good things to take care of.
3. Door Replacement at Community Center
Mayor McCown thinks he will try breaking the broken plastic off the door and plugging the holes and painting it.
4. Paint Overhead Doors at the Fire Hall
Mayor McCown would like to see the overhead roller doors painted. He asks the council members who are associated with the fire board to talk with the board and see if the fire fighters can paint them. Tim suggests that it could come out of the boards' money so the town doesn't have to pay for it fully. Also the inside of the community building needs to be freshened up with new paint. A new garbage disposal has been installed at the community center as well.
5. Purchase Lawn Mower
The council agrees that it is time to have bids submitted for the new riding lawn mower. Mayor McCown believes they will keep the old one as a back up or so that both guys can get the lawn mowing done at the same time and quicker.
6. Review Chicken Ordinance for Residents
There is a family in Garfield that would like to have up to 10 chickens on the main street. The council states they are going to have to go with what the current ordinance says about chickens. Town resident Kevin feels the town also needs to be thinking about the curb appeal. Council agrees sticking to the ordinance and only allowing 3 chickens or less for under and acre of land is allowable. Cody suggests maybe changing the language to read differently so he doesn't have to bring each one of these chicken requests to council each time they come up. Chief Jerry Neumann said he will email over the Palouse chicken ordinance and maybe it will help determine how to move forward on the language.

Mayor McCown noticed while driving around that the house on 3rd street just after the railroad tracks with all the animals, they have a pond set up there that is beginning to leak water which is running down across the road. Tim suggests looking at the ordinances to see how to address the matter. Mayor McCown also adds that the yak farm is growing. Mark Young believes it would be a good idea to look at some of the Palouse ordinances and see how ours measure up. Tim asks Mark if he will look through the ordinance as they are currently written. Mayor McCown thinks that it would be a good time to review the fence ordinance. Mayor McCown is not a fan of the plastic fences stating they blow over and become an issue. Mayor McCown asks the council to think about it and they will talk about it at the next meeting. Cody will send on the chicken ordinance, the fence ordinance and the junk vehicle ordinances the way they are currently written.

FINANCIAL:

Approval of Checks: David Jones **MOVED** to approve the following bills presented to council for payment. Mark Young seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Check Register # 11767-11771	Payroll: \$8,225.27
Check Register # 11772-11794	Claims: \$52,268.25
Check Register # 11795-11797 Plus EFTPS	Payroll: \$6,287.76
Check Register # DOR EFT	Claims: \$1,154.32 Total: \$67,935.60

ADJOURNMENT: Tim Southern **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 7:57PM. Mark Young seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Ray McCown, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Cody Lord, Clerk/Treasurer