

Town of Garfield
TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
PRELIMINARY BUDGET HEARING
Town Hall – November 13, 2013

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Jarrod Pfaff called the meeting to order at 6:55 PM

ROLL CALL: Mayor Jarrod Pfaff, Tim Southern, Mark Young and Larry Hunt present. Daymon Marple arrived at 6:59 pm. Staff – Public Works Superintendent Robby Johnson and Clerk/Treasurer Cody Lord. Absent: Sharon Schnebly.

GUESTS: Mike and Gerri Nodine, Roy Weiker and Joe Merry

2014 Preliminary Budget Hearing

Council opened by looking at the budget for 2014. Council is waiting for final numbers for the year to get solid figures for the coming year. Mayor Pfaff is considering shifting the rates around a bit between the water, sewer and garbage funds. Not raising the rates but changing the ratios. Mayor Pfaff explains that the sewer plant is costing us money so we don't want to change the sewer rate at this time, but possibly we can shift some of the water proceeds someplace. Council explains once they have more figures in for the 2013 business dealings they can better project revenues and expenditures and get the budget a little tighter for the 2014 year. Tim Southern talks about the decision that council made in the past to run the budget tight and now it is finally starting to catch up and they are starting to see some benefit from the previous re-worked budget. Tim Southern **MOVED** to approve the Preliminary Budget. Mark Young seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Mike and Gerri Nodine are introduced to the council and start by showing the council the letters they have received from their neighbors who don't have a problem with there being horses on their property. The Nodine's are at $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre. The letter from Archie Neal explains that the property is a little larger than stated and has been used as a horse property in the past. They have two alleys that run through the pasture, an east west and north south alley, Mike shows council the map. Mayor Pfaff explains that a previous owner had come down to council to ask permission to pasture horses when he owned the property and it was granted. The council at that time allowed the previous owner to have the horses on the property and everyone who has lived there since has had horses on the same property. Mayor Pfaff explains the ordinance which was written in 1971 made a downtown square and listed the streets you could never have a horse. If you are outside of those areas and meet the zoning ordinance rules or get approval from council otherwise, then you would be eligible to have horses on your property. This ordinance gives the council the ability to do it case by case and approve depending on circumstances. Daymon Marple explains of other properties which have had or currently have horses on them. Larry Hunt talks about the past history and how the Town Council gave them permission. It appears that the Nodines have close to an acre with the alley access. Larry Hunt sees it as history shows there have been horses, and with around an acre he doesn't have a problem with seeing horses there again. Daymon Marple says the ordinance says an acre or 15,000 sq. feet per animal. Mike is planning on using a section that is yard and will convert it to pasture and then add to the size of the current pasture. Mark Young stated that the Nodines never came back to council and asked whether yes or no and just moved forward with placing the horses which he disagrees with. Mark reads the ordinance to the council. Mark also explains that when he bought the house that he was told some of the current pasture is part of his property. From Mark's back door to the pasture is less than 125 feet. Straight across would be more like 100 feet. Mark states that he is very much opposed to this. Mark is going to abstain from the vote since he owns the adjacent property. Mike Nodine apologized for not coming in and asking first. Mike also said that this part of the property has always been pasture and when he bought the property he walked the property with Mark Young and they discussed the lot dividing fence was in the middle of the alley. Mark was told his property is 8 feet further than where the current fence sits. Mayor Pfaff asked if the Nodines move the fence 75 feet off the current property dividing fence line and add more pasture to a different part of the property are you increasing or decreasing the pasture? The Nodines confirmed they would be adding to pasture space and not decreasing it. Gerri said the fence has been there since Bob Pfaff lived there. Lorraine Johnson told the

Nodines that they actually should have that additional 8 feet. Mayor Pfaff again confirmed that the Nodines will have at least $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre and the Nodines said yes. Tim Southern said that this is a unique ordinance in the fact that we can look at it case by case, if it wasn't he doesn't fill like he would be willing to change the whole ordinance to accommodate this one scenario. Mayor Pfaff said he thinks if you can stay within the 200 feet setback from Mark's property, then there should be no problems with allowing. Daymon Marple said that he didn't like that they didn't come back and ask for final permission with the letters before the horse was moved in, he thinks that a fine should be imposed since it wasn't approved before the horses were moved to the property. Nodines apologized again and said they have been very busy with personal matters. Mayor Pfaff asked Joe Merry what a fine would be and Joe Merry said \$25 to \$50.00

Tim Southern feels with how the ordinance is written if the Nodines can keep the pasture 200 feet away from Mark Young's house then this would be allowable. Larry Hunt said that if they move the fence so that they are 200 feet away then he also believes that they should be able to keep the horses. Larry Hunt **MOVED** to let the Nodines keep the horses on the property if they follow the ordinance and keep the pasture 200 feet from the next residence. Tim Southern seconded the motion and the motion carried. Mark Young abstained.

Mayor Pfaff asked how long they need to move the fence. Mike said he will start working on it this weekend. A deadline of December 15th, 2013 was given to have the fence moved. The Nodines exited the meeting.

Roy Weiker is wondering if the Christian Fellowship would be allowed to close Union Street hill to the park on first snow to allow kids to sled. Rudy Fisher has a tarp that he would like to put around the old gazebo and then provide hot chocolate in there for the kids. They would like to close the road for ideally 4 to 6 hours to allow the sledding. The Pickrons and Hanson's would be the main houses that would be affected; Pickrons would be able to use 7th street until we are able to re-open the road and plow the street for access. It is determined we are talking about daylight hours. Mayor Pfaff said bring letters from Delzer's residents and the Pickrons and make sure they are fine with it, then the council would be fine with it. Jerry Neumann said that there is no problem as long as the barricades are put up and marked properly. Barricades would be put on Union and 8th, 7th and Union and 6th and Union. Mayor Pfaff and the council said that letters can be dropped off to Cody in the office and coordinate the barricades with Robby. Roy left the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Larry Hunt **MOVED** the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of October 23, 2013 and Special Council Meetings of November 1st and November 6th be approved as written. Mark Young seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Jerry Neumann presented for the police department. Officer Joe Merry is going to give us an update. Vehicle and dump items are getting about 95% cleaned up at the property heading out of town. Building Inspector Dan Gladwill needs the council's approval to red tag some buildings since none were approved to start with on this property. The concern is if water rises and the structure goes down river then the city is liable. Once he red tags then it goes to Attorney Stephen Bishop. Tim Southern **MOVED** to red tag the buildings in question. Mark Young seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. Council is approving to move forward with red tagging.

There is a second property in need of being red tagged on 3rd street. It is the property which has an unpermitted bump out. Dan Gladwill has not red tagged this property yet but is waiting for the council's approval to move forward. Mayor Pfaff said that we have dealt with this residence over and over each year. Tim Southern **MOVED** to give Dan Gladwill permission to red tag at his will on this property. Larry Hunt seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. Council also clarified that this is town wide, if people are not getting their permits then they need to be getting tagged and the council is giving him permission to tag properties that are not following regulations. This tenant is making improvements to the property concerning the nuisance violation however there are other sections of the property that are not being taken care of and the issue keeps lingering. Officer Merry is moving forward with making sure the nuisance tickets are in order and delivered and are being enforced. In the same block there is also

another nuisance violation, Officer Merry needs to address both and make sure they are making headway. Mayor Pfaff asked about Bonnie Riebold's dog. Officer Merry said that he has confronted them and now the next step would be to issue a ticket. After 3 tickets then it becomes an elevated situation. Officer Merry has received multiple complaints in town about the same dog.

Chief Neumann and Office Joe Merry exited the meeting.

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

- WWTP plant. Robby said that David Tysz with Evergreen Rural Water is becoming the overseer of the plant, looking over all of the issues we have at the plant. The electricians have come in and done work and done a great job. 3 pumps don't currently have freq drives and will cost us about \$2,000.00. We still have the direct starts on some of the pumps which is not the best mechanism to engage a pump. Robby explains that the way we connect our pumps to our main drive is out of compliance now. Strom gave us prices on compliance parts. Mayor Pfaff explained the process of how we have been repairing the pump issue to date. To fix that to code will cost us about \$10,000.00. We have most pumps running now so things are looking better. Strom actually has a sewer plant division and has been very helpful with the situation at the WWTP. Tim Southern **MOVED** to get the Aqua Drives on the pumps with starts currently. Daymon Marple seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. Robby needs to camera the top of the bio cell pipe to find out why we can't get water to the bio-cell. Robby explains how the bio cell is constructed and they are trying to figure out how to get the rotating arm disconnected and work on that bio-cell. M.L. Albright sent a quote for the lift station; they are going to be the same price as last time and will be slightly higher on costs for parts, total labor and parts will end up being about \$5,000.00. These guys would be working to get the intake flappers working again. Robby is waiting on a bid to come in from M.L. Albright. Mayor Pfaff said that he talked with Stephen about declaring the WWTP an emergency and then we can go up to \$30,000.00 without having to get multiple bids. Robby said that right now one flapper is stuck open. One pump may need to come out but may not need to remove pumps to get them fixed. Should be able to fix them onsite. Tim Southern **MOVED** to use M.L. Albright if their bid is under \$6,000.00 for fixing the flapper at the WWTP. Daymon Marple seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.
- Park is winterized, leaves have been taken up and it is looking nice.
- Robby went to a street co-op seminar in Moscow and learned a lot.
- Robby explained that Latah Sanitation went to a front load garbage truck, and Robby thinks that the pamphlet they distributed when they made the switch would be good to give to our customers so they know all the changes.
- Mayor Pfaff asked about winter rock and Robby said that he has about 3 loads. Plow is on the truck and ready to go. Larry Hunt brought $\frac{3}{4}$ minus and some chips at about the same amount as last year so we should be good for the year.
- It is stated the current garbage cans would be the same for the garbage route, however dumpsters will be different and we will need to start getting some. Council says that Robby will need to start arranging the garbage route. Larry Hunt suggested that we should change the route as little as possible, once if we can so that people are not greatly affected by the changes.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Surplus Items. Nothing new to report at this time for the surplus items other than they are currently posted and the bidding will commence until 11/20/13 at 4 pm.
2. Garbage Truck Updates. Tim talked about the cost of trucking the used garbage truck up or picking it up from wherever we purchase from and driving it to Garfield. Freightling the garbage truck will also depend on the height of the truck being hauled and if we can make it under overpasses on the highway. Tim said that if we have to drive it back we are going to be fighting the

weather. There may be a third truck that is available we are waiting to hear back from the sale company.

NEW BUSINESS:

FINANCIAL:

1. Approval of Checks: Daymon Marple **MOVED** to approve the following bills presented to council for payment. Tim Southern seconded the motion and the motion carried for the entire financial section. Larry Hunt abstained.

Check Register #11138-11146

Payroll: \$10,745.53 11/5/13

Check Register #11147-11166

Claims: \$13,114.22 Total: \$23859.75

ADJOURNMENT: Daymon Marple **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 PM. Tim Southern seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Jarrold Pfaff, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Cody Lord, Clerk/Treasurer