

Town of Garfield
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
February 13, 2008

I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Jarrod Pfaff called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. **ROLL CALL:** Jarrod Pfaff, Larry Hunt, Clark Johnson, John Kuehner and Rob Watkins. Also present: Public Works Assistant, Perry Brown; Town Marshal, Joe Merry; Clerk/Treasurer Annie Pillers; Justin Gibbs, Daymon Marple, Jana Mathia, Whitman County Gazette, and Lajeanne Proctor.

III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Jana Mathia, reporter with the Whitman County Gazette introduced herself and addressed the council regarding the Gazette's active role in community news. She provided information on the Gazette correspondent program and encouraged the council to have anyone interested in the correspondent program contact Jerry Jones at 397-4333. Jana indicated she would try to make as many council meetings as possible, likely attending once a month.

IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Larry Hunt **MOVED** the minutes of January 23, 2008, be approved as written. Clark Johnson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

V. **TOWN MARSHAL REPORT:** Marshal Joe Merry discussed the \$500 grant from AWC for security at the park. He confirmed a price of \$499 plus shipping and handling for 4 cameras, a 14" monitor and cable. He talked about the system being an EZ-Install design.

VI. **PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:** Perry Brown reported as follows:

A. **Tire Chains:** The necessity for upgrading tire chains for city equipment. He had a price of \$350 plus shipping per set. Council consensus was to purchase the upgraded tire chains at \$350 a piece plus shipping.

B. **Sludge Removal:** The importance of keeping the settling pond clean. He noted the traditional method is by use of a track hoe to dig out and remove the sludge. This is a very expensive option that requires EPA approval for sludge placement after removal. It can also damage the healthy plant life that is part of the filtration system in the settling pond. He discussed another option using "sludge bugs" that would eat away at the sludge. A 5-gallon bucket of sludge bugs would be roughly \$366.75. He said it would be an experiment that might pay off nicely. He confirmed the sludge bugs are good for one season. Council consensus was to try the sludge bugs.

C. **Bridge Inspection:** A recent inspection of the bridge at 3rd Street recommended that 8 feet north along the bridge be dug out and paved. Perry recommended this be looked at when the paving contractor comes to town. It was suggested this work be added to the 6 Year Street Plan and that Public Works get bids.

D. **Snow Removal:** The council thanked the city crew for their hard work plowing city streets considering the tremendous amount of snow in the last few weeks. Perry noted in the past the highest number of truckloads of snow was 258. This year they had 662 truckloads of snow. Council asked that even more effort be given to removal of snow along

California Street. Perry reported at this time they were not considering purchase of the snowplow from Ed-Ka.

VII. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Utility Tax: Lajeane Proctor thanked the council for making the difficult decision to implement a utility tax to generate additional funding for the town.

B. Garbage Bill: Daymon Marple addressed the council regarding the efforts he undertook to clear out the garbage that had piled up at an abandoned house he purchased last year. At that time he spoke with the council about giving him flexibility in paying off the garbage bill. He noted, at that time, the council told him that they would waive the \$10 late fee, giving him time to get the bill paid off, as they appreciated the clean-up he was undertaking. Since that date the \$10 late fee continued to be charged. Mr. Marple indicated if the accumulated late fees could be waived he would be able to pay the bill in full. Larry Hunt **MOVED**, with the understanding that Mr. Marple would be paying his bill in full, that the accumulated \$10 late fees on Mr. Marple's water/sewer/garbage bill be waived. Rob Watkins seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Resolution 2008-06 – Adopting Salary Schedule: Mayor Pfaff noted Resolution 2008-06 updated the salary schedule for 2008, including the new clerk. Larry Hunt **MOVED** adoption of Resolution 2008-06 adopting the 2008 Salary Schedule. John Kuehner seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Sewer Policy: The council reviewed and discussed the current sewer policy and where the line is that delineates city responsibility versus homeowner responsibility for repairs. Discussion centered on whether this line should be at the sewer main or property line. Council felt the property line was the appropriate choice, noting they did not want homeowners tearing up city streets to repair sewer lines. Perry noted the city couldn't run a snake beyond the sewer main. He indicated if the city became responsible to the property line, the city would likely incur significant repair costs and that the city cannot take away business from plumbing contractors. Perry further noted any time a homeowner has to do repair work up to the sewer main the city crew is on-site during the repairs. Council agreed proper wording of the amendment to the policy was critical. Mayor Pfaff would contact city attorney Stephen Bishop to get language drafted to amend the ordinance accordingly.

C. Garfield PDA Appointments: Mayor Pfaff reported on current vacancies on the Garfield PDA and the pending vacancy when Ron Dugan's term expires March 1st. John Kuehner **MOVED** appointment of the following to the Garfield PDA: Immediate: Daymon Marple and Annie Pillers – 4 year terms; Larry Hunt – 2 year term; and effective 3/1/08 Katie Young – 1 year term. Clark Johnson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

D. Dental Coverage: Mayor Pfaff noted the new dental coverage the city was offering employees was an incentive type plan. He said it required a decision on the council's part to start at an 80% incentive or to ask city employees to provide several years worth of proof of dental care through a dentist to determine an incentive level between 70% to 100%. Consensus of council was to offer dental coverage at the 80% level.

E. Clerk/Treasurer Training: Mayor Pfaff announced that Annie was scheduled to attend BIAS training on 2/29 in Spokane. He also discussed the opportunity to have a one-day on-site training with state auditor, Toni Nelson, Small Cities Specialist. She was available on March 3rd and the cost would be \$100. Council consensus was to approve both trainings.

IX. APPROVAL OF WARRANTS/TREASURER'S REPORT: Larry Hunt **MOVED** to approve the bills presented to council for payment. Rob Watkins seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Warrant #8316-#8318, #8322-#8327 Claims: \$195.80 Payroll: \$6,146.31 TOTAL: \$6,342.11
Warrant #8328 - #8347, Claims: \$40,090.26 Payroll: \$3,490.58 TOTAL: \$43,580.84

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION: John Kuehner **MOVED** to go into executive session at 7:30 PM to discuss personnel matters. Rob Watkins seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. No additional city business would be addressed after coming out of executive session. Mayor Pfaff asked that Joe Merry and Annie Pillers remain present for the executive session.

XI. ADJOURNMENT: Rob Watkins **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. Larry Hunt seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Jarrold Pfaff, Mayor

ATTEST:

Annie Pillers, Clerk/Treasurer