

Town of Garfield
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
December 12, 2008

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Jarrod Pfaff called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Jarrod Pfaff, Andrew Flodin, Larry Hunt, John Kuehner, and Tim Southern. Staff - Public Works Assistant Perry Brown, Police Chief Jerry Neumann, Clerk/Treasurer Annie Pillers. Public present: Cher Curtis, Debra Rose (7:15) and Michael Rose (7:15). Absent: Rob Watkins.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Tim Southern **MOVED** the minutes of November 24, 2008, be approved as written. Andrew Flodin seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Police Chief Jerry Neumann provided council with the bi-monthly activity log. He presented the new typed activity log starting with the month of November 2008. Larry Hunt asked about the recent bank alarms. Chief Neumann said the bank thought it was a technical issue and they were addressing the problem. Chief Neumann reconfirmed if a citizen needs an immediate response from an officer, they can call 509-332-2521. Chief Neumann left the meeting at 7:06 PM.

PUBLIC WORKS: Perry Brown reported:

1. Recycle Building – getting the building prepared for winter.
2. Well #3 – The chlorine pump is not functioning adequately and they have tried 3 times to repair it. A new chlorine pump would be about \$700. The well can't be used without it. He noted they were going to try once more, pulling out the magnet and motor assembly before replacing it. It was bought used over 10 years ago. Council consensus was to get a new pump to be purchased in 2009.
3. Orange Truck Ready to Haul Snow - The vehicles are undergoing annual winter maintenance - filters, oil, etc.
4. Flow Meter Arrived – the software has been installed on the computer and ready for reads.
5. Manholes Spot Checked – During the spot check a problem was found with one manhole. It was plugged half full and since cleaned out with the jetter.
6. Fire Truck Maintenance and Repair 312 – The RFD truck 312 is at Jones Truck & Implement getting repairs on the wheel seals, power steering, having the oil changed, a new air cleaner, etc.
7. Plow Routes – Mayor Pfaff confirmed with the failure of the street levy, snow plowing could only be done on a minimal basis and for the most critical routes. Starting in 2009 the routes to be plowed would include the clinic, post office, California Street downtown to the highway, the school bus routes, and to the police officer's residence.
8. Christmas Decorations – After discussion of the annual utilities cost to operate the Christmas Decorations, council consensus was to hang the Christmas Decorations this year. Perry noted, because of the height of the trees, they would not be able to put up lights. He noted no lights were put on the trees last year either.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Ordinance No. 361N – Establishing a Utilities Reserve Fund and Closing the Sewer Reserve Fund with transfer of funds into Utilities Reserve Fund. Mayor Pfaff explained the new utilities reserve fund would fold in the existing sewer reserve fund and the water fund investment.

These funds would come out of beginning balance for 2009 and there would be 1 reserve fund for all 3 utilities.

2. Ordinance No. 362N – Amending the 2009 Water Rates. Mayor Pfaff related the basic rate was going up by \$4, a new tiered usage rate would be implemented (\$.75 beyond 5,000 gals to 30,000 gals, \$1 beyond 30,000 gals to 70,000 gals, and \$1.25 over 70,000 gals), with a 3% per year inflation factor, billed every 2 years.

3. Ordinance No. 363N – Amending the 2009 Sewer Rates. Mayor Pfaff noted basic sewer was being raised by \$3 with a 2% per year inflation factor, billed every 2 years.

4. Ordinance No. 364N – Amending the 2009 Garbage Rates. Mayor Pfaff indicated basic garbage service was going up \$3, dumpsters by \$10, and extra cans by \$1, with 3% per year inflation factor, billed every 2 years.

5. Ordinance No. 365N – Setting Revenues for Utilities Equipment Reserve Fund. Mayor Pfaff reported that Ordinance 365 sets the reserve amount coming from each of the utilities to the Utilities Reserve Fund (Water \$5.50, Sewer \$2.80, Garbage \$1) and the Utilities Equipment Reserve Fund (Water \$.70, Sewer \$.75, Garbage \$.80).

It was noted the basic rate increase is \$13 a month. John Kuehner asked about the water rates for the school and cemetery. Mayor Pfaff confirmed the school facilities base fee would go up by the \$4.00 for 60,000 gallons. The rate would be \$1 beyond 60,000 gallons to 70,000 gallons and \$1.25 beyond 70,000 gallons. It was noted the school facilities generally only go beyond the 60,000 one month a year. The Mayor estimated their high usage month bill would go from \$200 to \$215. Council discussed cemetery usage. Perry Brown believed with the consistency of a timer for watering, their usage would drop in half.

Tim Southern **MOVED** to adopt Ordinance No 361N-Establishing a Utilities Reserve Fund and Closing Sewer Reserve Fund; Ordinance No 362N-Amending the 2009 Water Rates; Ordinance No 363N-Amending the 2009 Sewer Rates; Ordinance No 364N-Amending the 2009 Garbage Rates; Ordinance No 365N-Setting revenues for the Utilities Reserve Fund and the Utilities Equipment Reserve Fund. Larry Hunt seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

6. Ordinance No. 366N – Adopting 2009 Budget. Mayor Pfaff briefly reviewed the 2009 budget. He noted if all goes well, Current Expense (CE) will have \$4,000 extra, but the catch is City Assistance which is likely to be lower. AWC estimated a 6% decrease for 2009. The mayor noted even for 2008, likely City Assistance would be down as low as \$14,000 to \$22,000 from the budget of \$24,000. If only \$14,000 is received it will cut into reserves. He noted \$2,000 from CE was put into reserve for the audit. He said with the street levy failure \$28,000 is coming out of street reserves for street operating and only wages, lights and plowing could be done. The Park/Gazebo fund is budgeted to spend all its funds for construction in 2009. The sewer fund still loses between \$2,000 to \$3,000, lab fees went up. No more interfund transfers will come from water/sewer/garbage, instead a direct portion of the monthly rate goes into the new reserve fund. The hope is that the new utilities reserve fund will have \$192,000 at end 2009. The Library fund has one more year of payment, as the annexation does not take effect until 2010. Firefighters are now salaried rather than clothing allowance and the dollar amount of \$2,300 remains the same. The point system will change. Larry Hunt **MOVED** to adopt Ordinance No 366N - Adopting the 2009 Budget. Andrew Flodin seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

7. Resolution 2008-24. Mayor Pfaff read resolution 2008-24 noting salaries of \$2,856/mo.

Public Works Superintendent, \$2,357/mo. Public Works Assistance, \$9.50/hour for Public Works Relief/Part-time Position, \$2,694/mo. Clerk-Treasurer, \$50/mo. Fire Chief, \$75/mo Mayor and \$50/mo Council Members. Employee medical and dental premiums for the full-time position would continue to be paid by the town. Larry Hunt **MOVED** to adopt Resolution No 2008-24 Setting the Salary Schedule for 2009. John Kuehner seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

8. Mayor and Legislative Wages. Mayor Pfaff announced that he would not take his wages for 2009. Andrew Flodin, John Kuehner, Larry Hunt, and Tim Southern individually stated they would not be taking any wages in 2009.

APPROVAL OF CHECKS:

Tim Southern **MOVED** to approve the following bills presented to council for payment. Larry Hunt seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Check Register: #8814-8859. Claims: \$19,709.59, Payroll: \$7,108.06 TOTAL: \$26,817.65

PUBLIC REQUEST:

Debra and Rose Mike Rose addressed the council regarding two matters -

1. Water in basement. Mike indicated his mother Debra bought the Fred Timm house this past October. At the time of the sale, Mr. Timm indicated there were problems with water in the basement, especially during a good rain or snow pack melt, but in the last year it was more of a constant stream of water. Perry Brown said in about February of 2008 water appeared in the area. During a recent leak detection inspection it was confirmed there was not a leak there. At one point the water line was shut down for 3 weeks and the water continued. He said it was likely a spring. Mike was advised to snake his tile line to see if the tile line was blocked. Perry said when further leak detection was scheduled in December, they will look around the rock ledge area.
2. Garbage Bill Credit. Mike explained his mother bought the house in early October from Mr. Timm. At that time Mr. Timm left a couple of bags of garbage the final weekend he moved out. His mother, Debra has not been living in the home and has not used any garbage service in October or November. Mike did some clean up and used his trailer to haul off garbage. Mike and Debra asked for a credit of the balance of October and all of November. Mike noted his mother had spoken with Annie and she had indicated a request for a one month credit would be presented to council tonight, based upon the belief some garbage service had been used. Annie clarified she had spoken with Stephen Bishop about garbage service and he confirmed, whenever water and sewer are provided to a residence, garbage must be charged. She further noted she had misinterpreted this and when a property was sold and the person did not move into town for an extended period of time or when a person was gone for an extended period of time she had not charged. She said she now understood this and would apply charges correctly in 2009. She further agreed to research existing customers to make sure charges were being billed accordingly and report back to council. Tim Southern **MOVED** to allow, on this one-time basis, a credit for October and November for Debra Rose. Larry Hunt seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT: Larry Hunt **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Tim Southern seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Jarrod Pfaff, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Annie Pillers, Clerk/Treasurer