

Town of Garfield
TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Town Hall – August 14, 2013

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Jarrod Pfaff called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Jarrod Pfaff, Larry Hunt, Daymon Marple, and Mark Young. Staff – Police Chief Jerry Neumann and Clerk/Treasurer Annie Pillers. Absent: Sharon Schnebly and Tim Southern.

Guests: Gerri and Mike Nodine 7:03 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mark Young **MOVED** the minutes of the public hearing and regular council meeting of July 24, 2013, be approved as written. Larry Hunt seconded the motion and the carried unanimously.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Police Chief Jerry Neumann addressed council about a property on Cleveland Street that has a terrible smell from the number of cats on the property. It's a violation of town codes and the department is following up on the issue. He noted managing a cat problem is very difficulty and the local Humane Society can't do much. Stephen Bishop will be involved as the department works to correct the problem and issues tickets and fines. Council talked about a feral cat program that was used in that area at one time. Chief Neumann left the meeting at 7:24 pm.

MINIMUM AREA REQUIRED FOR A HORSE: Mike and Gerri Nodine addressed council about keeping a horse on their property. Mike noted they have approximately 25,000 square feet in the fenced in area of their property. The existing ordinance requires a minimum of 1 acre for a horse. Their total property is under 1 acre. Archie Neal's property is on one side, the orchard and the Pfaff field is behind them. The Pfaff field is in between the Neal property. Mark Young noted there is a town easement between the Neal and Pfaff property. Mike confirmed the fence was in prior to them and it encompasses the alley. Mike said they want to be neighborly and the horse would be at least 200 feet from a house in all directions. Council was agreeable to considering a reduced acreage requirement for properties on the edge of town. Stephen Bishop would be contacted to see if this was possible and if the zoning code would need to be changed too. In the meantime, Larry Hunt suggested Mike contact his neighbors to make sure there were no objections. Mike and Gerri Nodine left the meeting at 7:16 PM.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: Mayor Pfaff read the public works report submitted by Robby Johnson:

Compost Facility – The initial compost container from the county was filled and returned. There is a second container on site now that will be filled soon.

Park Maintenance – The mowing has been caught up and mowing will now be back on a regular schedule. There's a problem with broken sprinklers and they will be worked on. The new pea gravel recently purchased will be placed around the playground area soon.

Street Maintenance – the potholes have been marked for saw cut, removal and replacement of asphalt.

Recycling – 3 containers were recently taken to Lewiston and the town collected \$672. Additional recyclables may be taken this week or next. The area around the recycle center has been cleared out of junk dropped off and taken to Whitman County.

L&I Inspection – the major issues were fixed, with the primary issues to be done by Sept 2nd and the secondary at their leisure during winter. Larry Hunt noted there was also minor railing work to be done in the shop.

Water Maintenance – there was a recent glitch with telemetry after 2 weeks of running fine, a phone call a made to the company with follow-up to occur. The cemetery meter was installed. There has not been a functioning meter all season so public works will do an estimate of usage based upon the most recent current usage and bill accordingly.

Weeds - Larry Hunt mentioned the weed problem on the 3rd Street near the railroad tracks. He said the sidewalk is overgrown and so thick you wouldn't see a kid come out in front of a bus. In the past the town used the White mower for weed control. Larry Hunt offered to volunteer his time to do some mowing with his brush mower on a skid steer. He said it was probably a half block at most. His concern was that it was a safety issue with school starting. Mayor Pfaff confirmed he had talked with Stephen Bishop and he said the town should not being doing the work. The property owners are responsible. The town has rights of

way, but the property owner is responsible for the weed maintenance. Larry Hunt agreed to contact both property owners to get their permission and then he would volunteer his time. He suggested sending a letter early next year letting the property owners know their responsibility. Right now the tall grass and Tansy have taken over. He also talked about adding this area into the weed spraying scheduled to avoid this problem. He estimated it would be a 15 minute project about 3 times a year.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Resolution 2013-16 Declaring Certain Property Surplus: Larry Hunt **MOVED** to approve Resolution 2013-16 declaring certain fire department and wastewater treatment equipment unserviceable and surplus. Daymon Marple seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Resolution 2013-17 Uncollectible Delinquent Utility Accounts: Mark Young **MOVED** to approve Resolution 2013-17 authorizing the Clerk-Treasurer to write off certain, delinquent utility accounts as being uncollectible. Larry Hunt seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Meat Shop Too: Larry Hunt discussed a recent sewer line that backed up at the Meat Shop Too. The line was installed in about 1994/1995 but apparently was never hooked up to the sewer line however the contractor's sewer map showed it hooked up. Perry and Larry worked on the problem using a snake and confirmed it was about 1 foot from the main. A saddle was installed, the line hooked up and town gravel put back around it. Palouse Hills backhoe bill was \$309.39. The property owner issued a check for the cost. Larry asked if the town would be responsible for this since it was a town project back then. The engineer was Progressive but it was not known who the contractor was at the time. It was confirmed that Perry had documented the situation and the repair that was required. Council thought maybe the town should find out who the contractor was and go after them. Stephen Bishop would be contacted about sending a letter to the contractor. Larry Hunt agreed to let the property owner know the town was officially looking into it. He noted it went such a long time and was not discovered because no one was in there using sewer.

FINANCIAL:

1. Approval of Checks: Daymon Marple **MOVED** to approve the following bills presented to council for approval. Larry Hunt seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Check Register #11011-#11016

Payroll: \$ 8,077.01

Check Register #11017-#11041 plus DOR-EFT

Claims: \$36,234.17 Total: \$44,311.18

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Daymon Marple **MOVED** the council go into Executive Session for personnel matters {RCW 42.30.110 (g)} reconvening at 8:00 pm with no further business to be acted upon. Mark Young seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. The clerk-treasurer left the meeting. Council went into Executive Session at 7:30 PM.

The council reconvened into regular session at 8:00 PM with no further business conducted.

ADJOURNMENT: Larry Hunt **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM. Mark Young seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Jarrold Pfaff, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Annie Pillers, Clerk/Treasurer