

Town of Garfield
TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – Final
Town Hall – September 25, 2013

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Jarrod Pfaff called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

ROLL CALL: Jarrod Pfaff, Larry Hunt, Tim Southern and Mark Young. Staff – Public Works Assistant Robby Johnson (7:10), Police Chief Jerry Neumann and Clerk/Treasurer Annie Pillers and Clerk Trainee Cody Lord. Absent: Daymon Marple and Sharon Schnebly.

GUESTS: David Jones, Joe Merry, and David Ulrick

Garfield Branch – Whitman County Library: Kelsey Gallegos Garfield Library Branch Manager addressed council. She shared information on the very successful summer reading program and about other Garfield Library programs. She said the library hit a 10 year high for program attendance. She noted how much she and the library staff appreciate the support of the community and noted the cabinet shop is building a new computer counter for them. She said if there were any questions on library policies or hours they could be addressed to Kristie Kirkpatrick, Whitman County Librarian.

Extra Help for Public Works: David Ulrick let the council know he was there if the public works crew needed him. He drove the garbage route earlier this week. Larry Hunt thanked him very much for his help.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Annie Pillers reported one correction to the minutes noting the claims check numbers were from 11055 to 11082 (not 11081 as listed in the minutes) in the amount of \$75,500.79. Larry Hunt **MOVED** the minutes of the regular council meeting of September 11, 2013, be approved as amended. Tim Southern seconded the motion and the carried unanimously.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Police Chief Jerry Neumann said things have been fairly quiet. He and Officer Merry discussed the property with the cat feces problem. The property owner knows he has until October 1st to correct the situation. Officer Merry met with him earlier in the week and had offered some suggestions on clean-up and odor removal. The property owner said he was doing as much as he could. If the situation is not corrected by October 1st he will be issued another letter on exactly what to do (clean-up the urine and feces smell) and get issued a ticket. He has already had two extensions to the October 1st deadline. Chief Neumann said it would be good if he and the mayor went up and looked at the situation to make sure the Mayor was seeing what he and the neighbors were seeing as problems. Then everyone is on same page and can move forward with this. Officer Merry said there is the potential this will go to court. Attorney Bishop could represent the town if he has not represented the property owner in the past. Last time it cost the town \$1700. Chief Neumann said he could represent himself and had done so in a case in Palouse.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: Public Works Assistant Robby Johnson provided the following report:

1. **Labor and Industry Inspection (L&I) Projects:** The crew has all but satisfied the L&I projects that needed to be completed. There is one more left at the sewer plant.

2. **Water -** the Hedlund water leak was fixed with the entire line replaced. He will go back in the next week and cover it up. The Pat Pfaff leak is still not located, but it is likely the towns. It's a slow leak they can't find. He hopes to get the hydrant replaced before the snow flies. Robby attended a water class the last 3 days and would be taking his test in about 2 weeks.

3. **Recyclables** – Robby said he thought the cost to recycle was more than the recycles were worth. The town could take it to the county unsorted and get roughly \$14 a bail. The town would save the time to sort, but would still have the time to haul to and back. He noted aluminum and cardboard still have some value. He noted recyclables are full up right and he needs to do something now. He said there's no money in tin, glass or plastics. He again said sorting out aluminum and cardboard made sense and that newspaper was easy too as it was mostly sorted by the residents. Larry Hunt asked if Hatter Creek might be interested. Robby said they could not meet the town's schedule requirement. Mayor Pfaff said he was willing to try this for a year, going to single stream through the county. Annie Pillers asked about reporting requirements for recyclables tonnage. Robby would follow up on reporting requirements and what the

county recommended. They had talked with Robby about taking some of the items to Spokane.

4. Compost Pile – DOE confirmed the town could go to a drop-off collection site. The town would then load in County containers and take it away. Mayor Pfaff noted if the town does this then it can stay on top of burning. Marni Canatsey at DOE confirmed the town can go from a compost pile to a collection site and avoid the compost permit. This would save the town \$1,200 a year. The town does not have a permit yet this year as the regulations changed mid-year. Mayor Pfaff asked if the grass clippings could also go. Robby would follow up with the county; perhaps they would have to be kept separate.

5. Fall Clean-up – fall clean up is coming up soon.

6. Street Maintenance – it is hoped the crew will still get to some of the potholes this fall.

7. Relief Public Works – Mayor Pfaff confirmed there is a line item in the budget if extra public works employees are needed to go ahead and call them in to help.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Cemetery Water Bill: Joe Merry addressed council regarding the water consumption at the cemetery and the water bill for this year. He noted the meter has not been working and said he provided the town a copy of the water calculations for the sprinklers. He asked about a flat rate for this year, noting a \$2,000 figure they could pay. Mayor Pfaff said he had done the utility billing figures based upon the sprinkler usage calculations provided by Joe and the figure came out to \$1,814.42. Mark Young asked if the meter had been fixed yet. Robby noted it has some rebuild done but it didn't seem to cure the problem. It is a 3" meter. Joe Merry left the meeting at 7:27 pm.

2. Resolution 2013-18: Tim Southern **Moved** to adopt Resolution 2013-18, declaring the shop hoist surplus and no longer useable in the future. Mark Young seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Ordinance 434-N: Council discussed setting the meeting schedule for November and December to avoid a conflict with the holidays. Larry Hunt **Moved** to adopt Ordinance 434-N setting the Regular Meeting Schedule for November and December: Wednesdays November 13th and 20th and Thursdays, December 12th and 19th. Mark Young seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Resolution 2013-19: Mayor Pfaff discussed AWC-Employee Benefits Plan changing from fully insured to self-insured. He said nothing is supposed to change but that will be determined. To leave the plan requires a 6-month notice. Larry Hunt **Moved** to approve Resolution 2013-19 adopting the AWC-Employee Benefits Health Care Program Interlocal Agreement for the AWC Plan becoming self-insured and authorizing the Mayor to sign the interlocal. Tim Southern seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Resolution 2013-20 2014-2017 Police Services Contract: Not yet available.

6. Restaurant Operations: Mark Young asked for an update on the PDA contract talks with the restaurant people. Mayor Pfaff said he had talked with Daymon and it was still up in the air. Neither the PDA nor the restaurant folks had approved the lease. Tim Southern expressed that he would like to say no on the \$5,000 approval. Larry Hunt asked if he meant to hold off now. Tim clarified he meant to absolutely not issue the funds. Larry Hunt did not agree with not issuing the funds at all and said it was not their fault, citing miscommunication, insurance repairs, and equipment thrown out. Tim further said when a business wants to rent a building they are responsible for changes to things. He also talked about no long-term business plan. Larry Hunt said he agreed holding the money for now, but he could not say to never give the funds. It was noted the funds would not be going to the individual party but to the PDA for the building. He would not want to pull out if the project hinges on the funds, but there should be a stipulation it is carried out or the PDA owes the money back. Larry suggested waiting until there's a signed, binding contract, but not say absolutely not give the funds. Mayor Pfaff suggested the council wait until the PDA and restaurant folks iron things out. Mark Young said for the record, he said the town should be careful about what they say one side did or the other did, noting there are two sides to this and a lot under the surface. It was further noted a Spaghetti Feed was planned for this weekend to benefit the restaurant. It was noted, perhaps enough funds would be raised to not need the \$5,000.

FINANCIAL:

1. Approval of Checks: Tim Southern **MOVED** to approve the following bills presented to council for approval. Mark Young seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Check Register #11083-#11090 Plus EFTPS	Payroll: \$ 8,181.70
Check Register #11091-#11093 Plus DOR EFT	Claims: \$1,659.98 Total: \$9,841.68

Annie Pillers noted a recent situation where a landlord had two rentals with no tenants and thought he was not required to pay the garbage portion of the utility bill since there was no usage. She contacted the landlord after the payment was made and confirmed garbage billing was required. Because of this misunderstanding, he was not being charged a late fee because the balance owed was just on garbage and was less than \$29.00. Tim Southern asked about not charging the late fee and Mayor Pfaff explained the clerk was using her judgment on this issue. Council was agreeable.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Larry Hunt **MOVED** the council go into Executive Session for personnel matters {RCW 42.30.110 (g)} reconvening at 7:50 pm with no further business to be acted upon.

Tim Southern seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. The clerk-treasurer, clerk-trainee, the police chief and the public left the meeting. Council went into Executive Session at 7:40 PM.

The council reconvened into regular session at 7:50 pm with no further business conducted.

ADJOURNMENT: Tim Southern **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 PM. Larry Hunt seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Jarrod Pfaff, Mayor

ATTEST:

Annie Pillers, Clerk/Treasurer