

Town of Garfield
TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
September 22, 2021 - 7:00 PM
405 W California

Public Phone in Option: 1-218-301-2518 PIN: 382 170 570#

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Pfaff called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

ROLL CALL: Mayor Pfaff, Council Members: Neal Leon, Mike Olsen, Tom Tevlin and Cande Hasenoehrl. Staff: Clerk/Treasurer: Cody Lord, Public Works: Shon Clark
Absent: Jesse Parkins

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST: Connie Schaut, Abel Rushing and Marti Masten

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Cande Hasenoehrl **MOVED** to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting September 8, 2021. Mike Olsen **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.**

POLICE REPORT: Marshal Handley

Marshal Handley submitted a written report. He helped Palouse for a couple of hours during Palouse days and then had a busy day with north and southbound traffic for the WSU game. Marshal Handley stopped a vehicle and after receiving a call from the Moscow PD it was discovered the occupant was responsible for many burglaries in the area. The car was searched and impounded and there will be a bill coming to the town for the tow charges. Another search warrant was issued for a vehicle carrying a quarter pound of meth. Neal Leon wonders how many more arrests will have to be related to this residence for the prosecuting attorney to do something about it? Neal questions being able to seize a residence if this persists. Marshal Handley said this would be a matter between the town and the town's attorney. Likely the ordinances will need to be reviewed again to make sure the town is well protected if that is the direction it heads.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: Shon Clark

Water

The water tower and telemetry system are now working correctly. There will probably be a slightly higher bill for repair since they have been out multiple times to get it operational.

Sewer

Everything operating as normal.

Garbage

Everything operating as normal.

Streets/Parks

Everything operating as normal.

Mayor Pfaff said Shon is out for the evening.

OLD BUSINESS:

- DRS Audit. Mayor Pfaff said that the Department of Retirement Services has conducted an audit of town employees who are currently in state retirement program and council members that have retired from PERS. Cande had retired under the 2008 early retirement provisions and served on council for 2 months before she turned 65. DRS is stating that the town will have to pay for the two months of retirement benefits that Cande drew before her full retirement age was reached. DRS has provided handouts for retired and present DRS PERS personnel to fill out to check their eligibility so the town can avoid this situation in the future. Cody will set an appeal meeting with DRS to see if the town can avoid paying this fee.

NEW BUSINESS:

- The Whitman County Cemetery District #2 has sent a letter to town hall expressing the need to have their utility bill suspended or forgiven due to a hardship from a missed levy. Mayor Pfaff said typically a junior taxing district would need to correspond with the county commissioners to determine if a loan could be taken to bridge the gap until the next levy election and collection. Cande said the pool district did the same thing and they had to take a loan from the local bank until the next levy could be passed. Mike Olsen asked if the town could provide them the same terms as the citizens of the town who are delinquent on their utility bills due to covid? Mayor Pfaff said the town must be cautious about handling matters like this since all customers should be treated equally, so offering the same terms as other customers who are delinquent would be advisable. The only time utility billing forgiveness has happened in the past, was because the town couldn't locate the customer. Tom Tevlin said it appears those are the only two options, prolonged payments or they seek assistance from the county commissioner or the local bank. Mike said this is the time of year when they shut their water off for the season so at this point it is not a huge rush for them to figure out what their next steps are. Mayor Pfaff asks that a letter be drafted to respond to their request.

Tom took a trip past the RV park and said that it was looking good, and it seems to be coming together nicely.

FINANCIAL: Approval of checks

Tom Tevlin **MOVED** to approve payment of bills. Cande Hasenoehrl **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.**

Payroll: Checks 14907-14912 PLUS EFTPS	Total =\$12,398.78
Claims: Checks 14913-14923 PLUS EFT DOR	Total =\$59,775.95

^Total Claims and Payroll: \$72,174.73

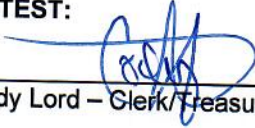
ADJOURN:

Cande Hasenoehrl **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. Tom Tevlin **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously**. The council meeting was adjourned at 7:27 pm.



Jayrod Pfaff – Mayor

ATTEST:



Cody Lord – Clerk/Treasurer