

Town of Garfield
TOWN COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING Preliminary Budget Hearing
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
October 26, 2022 - 7:00 PM
405 W California

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

ROLL CALL: Mayor Pfaff, Council Members: Neal Leon, Roni Mundell, Connie Schaut and Tom Tevlin. Staff: Clerk/Treasurer: Cody Lord, Public Works: Shon Clark Absent: Craig Mitzimberg

PUBLIC HEARING: Mayor Pfaff opened the Public Hearing for the 2023 Preliminary Budget and Revenue Sources

- **2023 Preliminary Budget Hearing**

Mayor Pfaff said the main thing to figure out on the preliminary budget are the employee payroll items. The state COLA will be about 7% and the Fed COLA will be about 4.6%. The town can allow for COLAs anywhere between 0-3%. At 3% that will increase employee salaries about \$2,000 annually and it would be split amongst the appropriate funds. Some other items that were proposed for employee incentives for 2023 would be an annual membership to Lifeflight, adding \$100 a month to a health savings account (HRA/VEBA), and/or an additional 5 paid days off. This wouldn't be permanent, just for the 2023 employment cycle.

Mayor Pfaff said he would suggest the 3% COLA and the additional 5 days off and the annual membership to Lifeflight. Roni Mundell asked what the employees thought of the Lifeflight option, Marshal Handley, Shon Clark and Cody Lord all agreed that is a good benefit to have in case something goes wrong. Shon said he has had to use it several times for his family which has been very handy. Flights for emergencies can be quite expensive. The option of annual versus lifetime was discussed.

Tom Tevlin believes the 3% COLA is kind of standard and would be in support of this COLA percentage. Neal Leon said he would be in support of the 3% COLA and yearly Lifeflight. Roni Mundell said since the town is unable to keep up with the rate of inflation, offering the employees an additional 5 days off is a creative way to combat this. Connie Schaut said she would be good with the 3% COLA and asked the employees which would be more important to them, the Veba benefit or the Lifeflight. It was determined for a much smaller cost, the Lifeflight could potentially be a much larger benefit it was to ever be used. Connie Schaut **MOVED** to approve a COLA of 3%, the addition of 5 extra days off in 2023 and

an annual membership to Lifelight. Tom Tevlin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

- **2023 Revenue Sources**

Mayor Pfaff said the Levy Certification and the 1% Levy increase are on the table. Ordinance 486-N allows the town to ask for the additional \$684.02 or 1% in property taxes to be collected in 2023. If the town doesn't elect to take it then it will not be something that can be captured at a later date. Tom Tevlin **MOVED** to approve Ordinance 486-N allowing the town to increase the property taxes collected in 2022 by 1% or \$684.02. Connie Schaut seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Pfaff asked if there were any other budget items that the council would like to go over, and there were no further questions.

The public hearing portion of the meeting was closed at 7:27 pm.

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST: No guests were in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Tom Tevlin **MOVED** to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting October 12, 2022. Roni Mundell **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.**

POLICE REPORT:

Marshal Handley is present and had 9 calls of service last week. Marshal Handley is working one investigation that will be closed out in the coming weeks. He will be assisting with Haunted Palouse. He will be sitting on the Washington State police retirement board advisory committee so he will be attending a couple of those meetings soon. Connie asked about the resident on Adams Street that has been causing so many issues and Marshal Handley said he has been pretty quiet lately but continues to rack up fines.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: Shon Clark

Water

Everything operating as normal.

Sewer

Everything operating as normal. Evergreen Rural Water was here. Also, Andy O'Neil was out to learn more about the plant chemistry. They have been hauling a lot of sludge because they have been wasting more. There is another storm drain leaking into the sewer system from the Methodist church, but this will be a difficult repair to make.

Garbage

Everything operating as normal.

Streets/Park

The RV Park is marked off so the driving and parking spaces are now visible. Neal said the markings look very nice and help to make it more visual.

Shon will be taking a two-week hunting vacation in November. Connie asked who will be on standby while Shon was on vacation and Shon said he would see if Austin Cloninger might be able to assist if needed. Shon presented to council the estimated prices to fix the water line in the field between 4th street and the sewer treatment plant. Mayor Pfaff asked Shon to get the specs together and have it posted in the paper for official bids since it will end up being a pricey project. Connie asked if the project would have to be completed in the spring and Neal said no, it would simply be messier this time of year.

NEW BUSINESS:

Jody Opheim works for a grant writing company and thinks she has a good lead on a CDBG grant that would work for converting the Methodist Church space into a community space for use by the public. In order to move the possibility forward, the town will need to acquire bids for roofing and re-pointing the bricks. Connie asked if some screening could be put up in the bell tower to keep the bats out?

Mayor Pfaff said they should select the meeting dates for the November and December meetings so they can get them posted in the Gazette. He suggests the 22nd of November and the 14th and 21st of December. Council was in support of the date changes. Neal Leon **MOVED** to change the council meeting dates in November and December to November 22nd at 7:00pm and December 14th and 21st at 7:00 pm.

FINANCIAL: Approval of checks

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

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| Payroll: Checks EFT Dept of Retirement | Total =\$3,225.36 |
| Payroll: Checks 15440-15444 Plus EFT DRS & EFTPS | Total =\$9,679.07 |
| Claims: Checks 15445-15448 Plus EFT DOR | Total =\$15,794.45 |

Total Claims and Payroll: \$28,698.88

ADJOURN:

Connie Schaut **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. Roni Mundell **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.** The council meeting was adjourned at 7:41 pm.


Jarrod Pfaff – Mayor

ATTEST:


Cody Lord – Clerk/Treasurer