

Town of Garfield
TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
September 14, 2022 - 7:00 PM
405 W California

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

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

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST: Eric Hanson Bishop Law Office

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Craig Mitzimberg **MOVED** to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting August 24, 2022. Roni Mundell **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.**

POLICE REPORT:

Marshal Handley has been dealing with a domestic violence and armed robbery in town. Individuals were jailed and a gun was seized with one person taken in on a second offense. The brakes on the patrol car are having issues. Mr. Johnson will be served with another chronic nuisance letter and will have until September 22nd, 2022, to come into compliance. Per the town's code, the council will need to ask Mr. Hanson to proceed against him if they choose to do so. The chronic nuisance ordinance needs a little re-working so that tickets can be back dated to the date of the issue. Then Marshal Handley can back date tickets and the town can submit tickets to Whitman County District Court. The question of whether as a chronic abuser, he could be forced to leave the community, Mr. Hanson said due to homestead laws, this is very difficult to execute. Marshal Handley said likely the best option is to continue to ticket at the maximum rate and then proceed with wage garnishment, so the offender no longer has the funds to be able to partake in bad activities.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: Shon Clark

Water

Everything operating as normal. There are issues with the water line from 4th street to the sewer plant and they will eventually need to be addressed. There have been multiple leaks on this line, and it is time to just replace the line. Neal Leon asked if there were leaks in the field and Shon said there have been some. Right now, there is one between the grain tanks and the field. Mayor Pfaff asked Shon to get some costs put together for the new line and thinks at the very least, the field chunk of pipe should be repaired.

Sewer

Everything operating as normal. EPA and DOE will be down next week for an inspection, and they will be eventually updating the town's permit.

Garbage

Everything operating as normal.

Streets/Park

Electricity has been installed at the RV Park. The chips from Spokane Street have been removed and gravel will be going down. Thursday will be asphalt patching. Mayor Pfaff asked if Shon had a crew put together for this project and Shon said he was working on it.

OLD BUSINESS:

Nothing to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS:

There is a request for waiver form that would allow the town to opt out of the election pamphlet for 2023 due to financial hardship. If the council agrees that the additional election cost is a hardship, he encourages them to sign the form so that the town can opt out of the cost and posting in the next election cycles. Council was in agreement that the form and opt out should be requested.

The library would like to have a mural painted on the alley side of the building. There was a post about selling brick space by way of donation to pay for the mural. Mayor Pfaff said that no selling of brick space will be taking place. Mayor Pfaff asked for Sonja to provide a sketch of the abstract representation of the train station picture of the town as an idea for the mural.

Century West would like to start the planning phase of the new plant for DOE. This research and planning will cost \$100,000 and will be 50% grant and 50% loan. Mayor Pfaff said they must do a study so they can tell the town what is needed for the current plant and changes the town should consider making. Shon asked if the town should wait until the I&I project is completed to start the new project. He feels it would be best to see if the I&I problem is being decreased, then they would know if they should move forward with Century West. Shon would like to know which town's have had an I&I issue and what they did to have a successful reduction in I&I. Roni Mundell asked if there is research that the town could also be completing on their own. Shon has ordered flow meters which can soon be placed around town and analyzed. Mayor Pfaff said it sounds like the consensus is to wait a bit and see how the I&I project turns out. Council said yes.

The roof in the lady's room at the community center is leaking and is a result of the old roof mounted air conditioner no longer being there. Mayor Pfaff asked if Shon had been up there yet to assess it and Shon said not yet.

Connie Schaut announced Abel Rushing is the new Volunteer Fire Department training officer. They are having trouble with attendance and things like harvest right now make it extremely difficult for turnout. Mayor Pfaff said until attendance is mandatory, they will have this issue. Marshal Handley said there is a state requirement for how much training a volunteer must meet annually. Training is the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each

month. They suggest saying that a mandatory 10% of the training must be attended to qualify for their pensions.

FINANCIAL: Approval of checks

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

Payroll: Checks 15371-15376 Plus EFT AWC, EFTPS, DRS Total =\$16,142.10
Claims: Checks 15367-15377-15400 Total =\$48,093.37

Total Claims and Payroll: \$64,235.47

ADJOURN:

Connie Schaut **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. Craig Mitzimberg **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.** The council meeting was adjourned at 7:34 pm.


Jarrod Pfaff – Mayor

ATTEST:


Cody Lord – Clerk/Treasurer