

Town of Garfield
TOWN COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING I&I PROJECT CLOSEOUT
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
November 22, 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, Connie Schaut, and Tom Tevlin on conference line. Staff: Clerk/Treasurer: Cody Lord, Public Works: Shon Clark Absent:

PUBLIC HEARING:

Mayor Pfaff called the Public Hearing to order at 7:00. Steve Nelson with Century West is present to discuss the closeout of the I&I Project. The project entailed lining the sewer main to cut down on the I&I problem and lessen the flows going to the wastewater treatment plant. Steve says the project has done some good, but clearly there is more work to be done. They have continued to camera the system to determine which stretches of pipe are having the increased flows. Steve is confident by this next spring, they will have a good idea of where other problems exists.

There is still funding available to put towards addressing the manholes. Additional manholes will be needed in the 2nd street alley between Union and Spokane. Steve asked the council and audience if there were any questions. No questions were asked, Mayor Pfaff closed the public hearing at 7:03.

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST:

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Connie Schaut **MOVED** to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting November 9, 2022. Craig Mitzimberg **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.**

POLICE REPORT: Marshal Handley was out of town and a written report was furnished.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

Water

Everything operating as normal.

Sewer

Everything operating as normal.

Garbage

Everything operating as normal.

Streets/Park

Shon Clark is just returning from a 2-week vacation and said that everything remained in pretty good shape. They will be starting a water leak soon. All the plows are mounted and ready for the winter weather. Mayor Pfaff said since they are reviewing the budget, he would like to talk about the public works relief position and the wage for this position. The minimum wage is going up to \$15.74 an hour on January 1st, 2023. Right now, the range for a relief worker pay is \$15.00 to \$19.00 an hour. Craig Mitzimberg said he believes moving the rate up to \$20 an hour would be fine. Shon agreed that if a person is using their own equipment, they should be paid \$20 an hour. Council was in support of the \$15.74 to \$20.00 an hour range for the public works relief.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mayor Pfaff asked if everyone had a chance to look over the preliminary budget. The final budget review will be at the next council meeting on December 14th, and it will need to be approved at this meeting. Discussions took place about a fuel surcharge for the garbage truck since the cost of fuel is climbing higher. There was concern that if a rate increase was implemented to make up for the cost of high fuel, what would happen if the cost of fuel were to come back down. Would the rate decrease in correlation to fuel costs?

Mayor Pfaff talked about some specifics in the budget with the council members. The biggest change on the preliminary budget, was the cost of insurance. The largest increase was due to having a full-time police department and the hours that reflect this full-time status. Also, property liability insurance has increased due to the rising cost of building materials and assessed values. The cost of the garbage truck and purchase of a used town truck are not reflected in this budget yet, but will come out of the reserve accounts. Expenditures for the year are in good shape. Ideally the rate increase in the garbage fund will be below \$2.00 to cover the rising cost of fuel.

2023 is the scheduled year for the 6% biennium rate increase. The rate increase is to keep pace with rising costs and inflation. Connie Schaut said the town's utilities seemed high and Mayor Pfaff explained this is because all utility expenses are rising. Tom Tevlin asked some questions about the potential new garbage truck purchase and the rising cost of diesel. Mayor Pfaff also pointed out the tipping fees that will be increasing at the Whitman County Landfill.

Some additional things to keep in mind are that the town will be getting new surveillance cameras sometime late 2022 or early 2023. There is still work to be completed at the RV park, edging, rock, grass seed and purchasing of items like, picnic tables, privacy fences and other final things before opening. Harrison completed the electrical at the RV park for \$21,600.

NEW BUSINESS:

The next council meeting will be December 14th. Mayor Pfaff will email out the excel version of the proposed final budget the Friday before the December 14th meeting.

FINANCIAL: Approval of checks

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

Payroll: Checks 15470-15474 PLUS EFT DRS, EFTPS
Claims: Checks 15475-15482

Total =\$9,431.44
Total =\$37,099.40

Total Claims and Payroll: \$46,530.84

ADJOURN:

Craig Mitzimberg **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. Connie Schaut **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.** The council meeting was adjourned at 7:24 pm.



Jarrod Praff – Mayor

ATTEST:



Cody Lord – Clerk/Treasurer