

Town of Garfield
TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
February 22, 2023 - 7:00 PM
405 W California

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

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

REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING: Regular Meeting was opened at 7:00 pm.

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST:

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Connie Schaut **MOVED** to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting February 8, 2023. Neal Leon **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.**

POLICE REPORT: Marshal Handley present for the meeting.

Marshal Handley said that things have been quiet the past couple months but that it was typical of winter call volumes. There have been 19 calls in the past two months with nothing significant to report.

Neal Leon said a citizen chatted with him and asked him why the police cruiser isn't marked, Town of Garfield. Marshal Handley said there are a few reasons; it isn't legally required, council elected at the time of the vehicle purchase not to pay to have it decal which was about \$800, and it provokes additional questions when the Marshal is outside of Garfield handling business matters.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

Water

Everything operating as normal. Water meters were read and the process of reading the meters is getting smoother all the time.

Sewer

Sewer plant operating as normal.

Garbage

Everything operating as normal. The truck has a broken wheel with a slow leak.

Streets/Park

Mayor Pfaff asked Shon to explain the situation with the Garfield resident having a water issue in their house. Shon explained that Cody got a request from an owner of a vacant property in town to turn on their water services for a final inspection. Cody encouraged the homeowner to make sure someone was present at the house at the time of turning the water on since the house has been vacant over the winter. The realtor was instructed of these details but failed to convey that to public works when they were arranging a turn on. The realtor called the day after the water was turned on to say there was a water leak and needed to be shut off immediately. The situation was turned over to the town's insurance to sort through the details and the insurance has talked to all parties involved. The homeowner said no one in the future is to turn on the water without his explicit authorization and a water key should not be left on the property. The town's insurance denied the claim and the homeowner is discouraged because their deductible is \$10,000. Future town water connections will not take place unless the homeowner is present or they send a written consent to have it turned on without them being present.

Connie Schaut asked about the sewer flow meters and Shon said nothing significant has been discovered but he has been pulling and checking them.

OLD BUSINESS:

A third bid for the sprinkler system in the park/rv park has been turned in from Raindrop and is \$69,000. Mayor Pfaff said that Craig is absent from the meeting, so he won't be able to clarify the scope of the project. It looks like the Raindrop bid is about twice as much as Lealand and Aqua Lawn so possibly some clarification will be needed and can be completed once Craig and Roni are back at the next meeting.

One bid for the F-150 has been received but Mayor Pfaff said it is from a direct family member of a council member so it will not qualify. The surplus truck will be posted in the Gazette for one more publication to see if there is any new interest and the announcement of the sealed bid will take place at the next council meeting March 8th.

Mayor Pfaff said Resolution 2010-04 details the per diem details for meal reimbursement and mileage reimbursement to employees who are attending meetings or trainings on behalf of the town. Currently the mileage reimbursement is .50 a mile and meal allowances are \$7.50 for breakfast or lunch and \$15.00 for dinner. Council discussed thoughts on appropriate limits and agreed that the limit should not exceed \$50 a day for meal reimbursement. Neal Leon **MOVED** to allow a food per diem allotment of \$50 a day with \$10 for breakfast, \$15 for lunch and \$25 for dinner. Tom Tevlin **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously**. The new resolution will be provided at the next meeting. Monty will be traveling in the coming week for sewer operator training. Tom Tevlin **MOVED** to allow the new per diem rates for Monty's upcoming training. Connie Schaut **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously**.

Neal asked for an update on the gate situation on Jefferson Street. Mayor Pfaff said he is waiting on Eric Hanson to return to get specifics on how the town should handle this. There is a utility easement there with utility poles running up the center of the easement making it hard for anyone to navigate easily. There was a prior arrangement for Hasenoehrl to access his shop through this utility easement, however the town does not

maintain this access. There is a gate at the end of Jefferson Street, which is allowable, but the posts placed between the gate and the access may be an issue. Regardless this will be a civil issue that the owners of the property will need to take up with each other to figure out how to move forward.

FINANCIAL: Approval of checks

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

Payroll: Checks 15581-15585 PLUS EFTPS, DRS
Claims: Check 15586-15590

Total =\$9,702.41
Total =\$5,154.13

Total Claims and Payroll: \$14,856.54

ADJOURN:

Neal Leon **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. Connie Schaut **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.** The council meeting was adjourned at 7:27 pm.


Jarrod Pfaff – Mayor

ATTEST:


Cody Lord – Clerk/Treasurer