

Town of Garfield
TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
May 10, 2023 - 7:00 PM
405 W California St.

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

REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING: Regular Meeting was opened at 6:55 pm.

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST:

Steven Schram and Layne Merritt with JUB Engineering

JUB Engineering is here from the Moscow office to discuss their qualifications and interest in the Engineering contract that the town will be opening. JUB works primarily with small communities and deals a lot with water and sewer rehabilitation programs. They have toured the plant and town to look over some of the facilities. Steve graduated from WSU in 2011 and Layne has been in the industry for 32 years working with communities like Farmington, Latah and Rosalia. They explain that pretty much every small town has I&I issues and he has dealt with a lot of them. Every scenario is different, but they all have similar issues that help to bring down I&I numbers when addressed.

They would prefer to start with a scoping session and then look at what has been gathered already, maps, data, and thoughts about what may be driving the problem. Video and visual observations have been the most helpful in past scenarios. Mayor Pfaff said that the bulk of the issues are weather related and wonders with them not being in the area, how would they handle this. Layne said they typically use Big Sky Industrial to camera the system and they have a history of mobilizing quickly when weather events that may affect the sewer system need to be captured and documented.

Mayor Pfaff said the I&I issues have been occurring in town for 40 years and he would like to get to the bottom of it. Roni Mundell asked if they were prepared to be here in the middle of the night to help the town solve this issue if needed and JUB assured the town they will do whatever it takes to come to a successful conclusion. Steven and Layne exited the meeting after their discussion about qualifications.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Connie Schaut **MOVED** to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting April 26, 2023. Craig Mitzimberg **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.**

POLICE REPORT:

Marshal Handley present. The cat issue has been closed out and taken care of at this time. There are a couple of other nuisance properties that will be receiving letters to take care of their nuisances. Marshal Handley has attended 3 school safety meetings which involve all the local agencies and Superintendents of the schools. This is a uniform way of getting agencies and schools on the same page if there was ever to be an emergency.

A suspicious car was called in around the NW Grain Growers location and Marshal Handley responded. A chase ensued with spike strips being placed in Belmont. Another issue person has been staying at the problem residence on Adams Street and is known to steal vehicles and other items.

Craig asked if the schools are participating in active shooter drills and Marshal Handley said yes in the future the school's rooms will be uniformly numbered and the Intrado emergency management network will be utilized to properly inform all necessary parties.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

Roni Mundell said the training turnout is going well. Mayor Pfaff said a strategic plan is needed from the department, to better help the town understand the funding needs in the near future. Jonelle Olsen will meet with Mayor Pfaff, Chief McCully and Roni in the coming weeks.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

Water

Everything is operating as normal. The tank inspectors were unable to get to the tank earlier in the spring due to wet roads. They will be returning next month for the tank inspection.

Sewer

The sewer plant is operating as normal.

Garbage

Everything is operating as normal.

Streets/Park

Mowing is starting to take off with the better weather. The RV park is unable to get rock just yet due to the wet ground. Picnic tables will be assembled in the coming week. The signage boards have been purchased. Policy matters such as; animal policy, maximum number of nights per stay, price, etc. need to be discussed amongst the council so signage can be ordered.

Crack sealing will be starting on June 5th. The machine will be rented for \$1,600 and the repair material will be about \$2,200. One other person will be needed to help with the project. Mayor Pfaff explained that TIB has committed funds to the project. Chip sealing will likely occur in June as well.

OLD BUSINESS:

There is about \$11,000 left from the Covid Relief Funds. Mayor Pfaff said he would be interested in getting pricing on dye meters to assist with the I&I project. Shon suggested possibly using the funds to extend the concrete pad at the sewer plant so that more sludge drying can take place.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution 2023-03 Authorization of Loan Agreement with DOE.

Cody explained that the resolution is required from the Department of Ecology to permit the mayor to commit to a new loan agreement. This would be a half loan and half grant agreement to complete the Facilities Plan for the Town of Garfield waste water treatment facility. The town’s attorney must also submit a statement saying the town is financially secure enough to undertake a new loan.

Connie Schaut **MOVED** to approve Resolution 2023-03 authorizing the mayor to commit to a 50/50 loan grant arrangement to complete the Facilities Plan. Roni Mundell **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.**

Neal Leon wanted to touch on how nuisance properties were being handled in town. Marshal Handley had said that he made a trip around town to look at properties that were in violation of the nuisance ordinance. Neal questioned if the department was going to be addressing these issues without complaints like has occurred in the past. Marshal Handley stated he would be the person in charge of enforcing ordinance with or without a complaint. At this time, he is preemptively handling some situations that will likely become complaints. Neal would like to make sure the city property is properly taken care of as well. Most of the issues addressed had to deal with trees that are hanging too low and causing potential hazards. Neal wants to make sure that if the town is going to enforce something, that it must enforce it evenly for everyone.

Mayor Pfaff said the school would like to request use of the Methodist Church building in the event of an emergency and a staging area away from the school. Middle schoolers would go to buses, but the elementary students would evacuate to the Methodist Church to be reunited with parents. Council had no issue with authorizing the school to use the space if needed. Cody will arrange for a set of keys to get to the school district.

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

Payroll: Checks 15667-15675 Plus EFTS, EFTPS, DRS, AWC	Total =\$17,282.31
Payroll: Qtrly Payroll EFT PMFL	Total =\$353.91
Claims: Check 15676-15690	Total =\$48,106.93

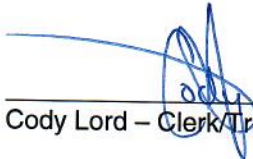
Total Claims and Payroll: \$65,743.15

ADJOURN:

Roni Mundell **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. Connie Schaut **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.** The council meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.


Jarrod Pfaff – Mayor

ATTEST:



Cody Lord – Clerk/Treasurer