

Town of Garfield
TOWN COUNCIL
Public Hearing Revenue Sources
Preliminary Budget Hearing
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
October 25, 2023 – 7:00 PM
405 W California St.

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

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

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST:

Sue Hinz is here to represent the League of Women Voters. She provided some historical information on voting rights and women sitting in elected official positions. They gathered a list of women in elected positions for the Town of Garfield prior to 2020 and some names will be missing during the 2021, 2022 and 2023 years and will be updated over time. Sue provided the town with a plaque detailing the women in elected positions during the last 100 years.

Mayor Pfaff opened the **Public Hearing for Revenue Sources and Preliminary Budget** at 7:02.

Ordinance 489-N is the 1% property tax levy increase for collection in 2024. It will allow the town to collect an estimated \$69,776.81 in regular levy funds. The excess levy for the street fund will be on the general election ballot and is seeking \$68,500. Connie Schaut **MOVED** to approve Ordinance 489-N, supporting the 1% increase of \$690.86 for the regular levy. Craig Mitzimberg **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.**

Mayor Pfaff said not much has been done for the preliminary budget, the rate for the general levy collection will be changed and unless there are any other numbers requested to be changed at this moment, then as we get closer to the end of the year and more numbers are coming in for 2024, the mayor will start to allocate more time to putting together a 2024 operating budget. Craig Mitzimberg **MOVED** to approve the preliminary budget as proposed. Roni Mundell **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.**

Some items the mayor asked council to think about is the COLA which council is approved to go up to 3%. Craig asked if the staff would be putting together a list of ideas for incentives in the coming financial year. Mayor Pfaff asked the staff to think over these and the final budget could be expected in December.

Since the holiday season is right around the corner, the council will need to look at their schedules and move a couple of the meeting dates, so they don't conflict with those traveling out of town and holiday festivities. The first meeting in November will be the 8th and the second meeting on the 22nd. Mayor Pfaff asked the council if they would like to move the second meeting in November and they agreed to have the meetings on November 8th and 15th. The December meetings are currently scheduled for December 13th and 27th. Council agreed to meet in December on the 13th and the 20th. The December 20th meeting would be subject to cancellation if all the town's business for the year was completed by the December 13th meeting. Mayor Pfaff said a resolution with these date changes will be made available for signatures at the next meeting.

The **Public Hearing for Revenue Sources and Preliminary Budget** was closed at 7:08.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Connie Schaut **MOVED** to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting October 11, 2023. Craig Mitzimberg **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.**

POLICE REPORT:

Marshal Handley assisted the county with a local Garfield resident DUI. A citation was issued to another resident for junk cars. A letter was sent, and the resident has until November 12th to address the situation. The council might expect to hear from this resident at the second council meeting in November. New tires have been installed on the patrol car. Neal Leon asked about a call in Colfax on Highway 26 and Marshal Handley said he was assisting a warrant arrest. Connie asked how the new ordinance changes are coming along. 3 proposals for ordinance changes have been submitted for review and changes with the town's attorney. The resident who was growing medical cannabis in town has reduced the number of plants to an amount that fits within the law. Eric Hanson will be deciding how to address some parking issues and cannabis issues in town with new ordinances. Marshal Handley has been active with orchard traffic the last couple of weekends, people lost or going up the wrong direction on Adams St.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

Water

Everything is operating as normal. A water leak at the Tate residence has been repaired. There is a chance this is a line crossing her property that services the town hall building. They may need to reroute the water or take it off Well #4 and Mayor Pfaff said if that is done, to make sure there is a backflow valve since it is so close to the source.

Sewer

Everything is operating as normal. The clean outs on the main line have been installed in the alley between 1st and 3rd streets and Union and Spokane streets. Monty is training for the WWTP Operator I in Seattle this week.

Garbage

Everything is operating as normal.

Streets/Park

Street patching has been completed. The RV Park and park sprinkler systems are winterized. The park restrooms will remain open until just after Halloween.

NEW BUSINESS:

Connie Schaut **MOVED** to appoint Andrea Mills to council position #5. Roni Mundell **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.** Council signed the appointment document which will be taken to the election office at Whitman County.

Andrea Mills **MOVED** to approve payment of bills. Neal Leon **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.**

Payroll: Checks 15892-15896 Plus EFT DRS, EFTPS	Total =\$9,875.38
Claims: Check 15897-15890	Total =\$3,413.26

Total Claims and Payroll: \$13,288.64

ADJOURN:

Craig Mitzimberg **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. Connie Schaut **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.** The council meeting was adjourned at 7:21pm.


Jarrod Pfaff – Mayor

ATTEST:


Cody Lord – Clerk/Treasurer