

Town of Garfield
TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
November 8, 2023 – 7:00 PM
405 W California St.

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

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

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST:

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Neal Leon **MOVED** to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing and Regular Council Meeting October 25, 2023. Roni Mundell **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.**

POLICE REPORT:

Marshal Handley said that a farmer has struck a gas line on Highway 195 shutting down the Williams pipeline resulting in a lot of people being without gas services. This line was struck on private property and was a result of someone not doing a locate. Marshal Handley encouraged anyone with elderly or in need citizens in the outage zone, to contact them and check on their situation. Currently, they are anticipating a 2 to 3-day outage. Marshal Handley said there was a shooting on California Street and read a statement he prepared. The statement was placed with the agenda packet. Also, there are a couple of ordinances to review and those will be talked about in the new business section of the meeting.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

Water

Everything is operating as normal. All the current water leaks have been repaired. A piece from the roof on the water tower blew into the field. It has been repaired and will be reinstalled once the weather permits.

Sewer

Everything is operating as normal. Flow meters are installed and ready for the next rain event.

Garbage

Everything is operating as normal.

Streets/Park

Street patching has been completed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Resolution 2023-05. Mayor Pfaff said this resolution details the council meeting date changes due to the holidays in November and December. It would allow for the moving of the November 22nd meeting to November 15th and the December 27th meeting to December 20th. Council meetings will be scheduled as normal starting January 1, 2024. Roni Mundell **MOVED** to pass Resolution 2023-05. Craig Mitzimberg **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.**

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Pfaff said there are two revised Ordinances to review this evening.

- Ordinance 490-N. Parking Zones within the Town of Garfield.

Marshal Handley said there are some time restriction parking signs in town but none of them are enforceable due to them not being tied to an ordinance. Attorney Eric Hanson has prepared the ordinance so that problematic vehicles can be addressed. It addresses the 10-minute parking on California and 3rd streets, creates a 4-hour parking limit on Spokane street for the electric parking charging station, 10-minute parking zone on westside of 3rd street between 7 am and 3 pm, and a 10-minute parking zone on northside of California street between 2nd and 3rd street. Andrea Mills **MOVED** to approve Ordinance 490-N, setting parking rules within the Town of Garfield. Craig Mitzimberg **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.**

- Ordinance 491-N. This ordinance is to address medical marijuana and illegal cannabis growing within town limits. Section 5 will be added to the Public Nuisance ordinance to create buffer zones for growing, processing, or producing of cannabis for recreational or medical purposes. Section 5 states that “growing, processing, or producing of cannabis for recreational or medicinal purposes within 1,000 feet of any elementary or secondary school, playground, recreation center or facility, childcare center, public park, public transit center, library, or any game or arcade admission to which is not restricted to persons ages 21 years or older”, would be deemed a public nuisance. Craig Mitzimberg **MOVED** to approve Ordinance 491-N. Andrea Mills **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.**

Mayor Pfaff read an email from Steven from JUB Engineering with an update about the I&I investigation. There hasn't been enough precipitation yet for observation. The GIS shape files are being updated and an account for the town will be created so future updates can be added to the maps.

Mayor Pfaff said it was time to talk about the budget. Per ordinance, the Cost-of-Living Adjustment can't go above 3%. The current CPI is 3.8%. Mayor Pfaff said he would be fine with 3% but wants the council's feedback on their thoughts. Neal Leon said he is in favor of a 2% COLA increase. Roni Mundell said she would like to see it keep up with inflation. Marshal Handley reminded the council that in addition to the COLA increase last year, 5 additional vacation days were granted and 1 year of Life Flight membership was paid for each town employee and their immediate family. Roni said she was in favor of keeping everything that was granted last year in addition to the 3% COLA. Cody added that he would appreciate vision added to the medical benefits. Craig Mitzimberg **MOVED** to approve 3% COLA, 5 additional days of vacation, 1 year of Life Flight membership and vision insurance for the employee only. Andrea Mills **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.** Neal Leon was a Nay vote.

Neal said he has some old business that he would like to discuss and asked why the town police cruiser was unmarked. He provided the RCW stating who is and is not exempt from having an unmarked car. There was discussion about how some people like to see the display on the vehicle and some like the vehicle to be more discreet and blend in, but regardless the bumper and light bar would indicate it is a police cruiser. Marshal Handley said he falls in line with the sheriff's office and falls under supervisory and specialty detail and therefore is not required by law to have the car marked. Roni said she doesn't personally see it either way and Andrea believes it allows him to be a little more discreet in observation and she is fine with it being unmarked. Craig also felt if it doesn't have to be marked, then unmarked was fine.

Neal said he also had some new business. He said after the shooting incident downtown, he received a call from someone about the incident and got an anonymous letter taped to his door. Neal provided the letter and asked Cody (clerk) to read the contents of the letter. The letter was read and attached to the agenda packet.

After reading the letter Shon Clark said there were several inaccuracies in the statement. He said a renter of his had a party and that he was in bed at 12:30 and the door to his shop was locked. Marshal Handley questioned why Neal didn't give the letter to the mayor beforehand. As Shon Clark's supervisor, he should have been provided the letter. Neal stated he had received the letter that day. Several council members claimed that a person can't be held accountable for their renters' actions and that from a compliance perspective, the noise violation could have been addressed.

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

Payroll: Qtrly Taxes EFTs L&I, ESD, LTC, PFML	Total =\$2,719.09
Payroll: Checks 15901-15907 Plus EFT AWC, EFTPS, DRS	Total =\$16,735.70
Claims: Check 15908-15924	Total =\$21,230.20

Total Claims and Payroll: \$40,684.99

ADJOURN:

Craig Mitzimberg **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. Roni Mundell **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.** The council meeting was adjourned at 7:38 pm.


Jarrod Pfaff – Mayor

ATTEST:


Cody Lord – Clerk/Treasurer