

Town of Garfield
TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
January 24th, 2024 – 7:00 PM
405 W California St.

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

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

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST: Abel Rushing

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Connie Schaut **MOVED** to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting, January 10th, 2024. Andrea Mills **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.**

POLICE REPORT:

Marshal Handley present and said the last couple of weeks have been slow. He did have to go to Superior Court, there was a mental health issue, served some divorce papers and dealt with an animal situation.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

Water

Everything is operating as normal. There was a water line that froze in the Methodist Church and Servpro has been contacted for bids to dry out and repair.

Sewer

With the cold weather, the sewer plant froze and malfunctioned. DOE has been informed and had one of their reps out to review the issue. The plant has since thawed and is now operating appropriately again. Due to the freezing, the plant will be under emergency sampling until good numbers are being reported at the plant again. Roni Mundell asked how long the emergency sampling will need to take place and Shon said until good treatment is taking place, and the testing comes back to normal thresholds, they will need to continue more frequent testing per DOE requirements.

Garbage

Everything is operating as normal.

Streets/Park

Snow removal has been going as planned.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Ordinance 493-N Densities of Chickens within town limits.

The details of the densities with chickens have already been approved at a regular town council meeting. The details of the changes made to the densities just need to be codified now for the town municipal code. Roni Mundell **MOVED** to approve Ordinance 493-N approving the new restrictions on chickens within the Town of Garfield. Connie Schaut **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.**

- Resolution 2024-01 Policy for Written Public Comment Submitted to the Town

Mayor Pfaff asked if everyone had a chance to review the resolution. The new policy will be that written public comments should be submitted to the Town 3 days before the next regularly scheduled meeting and shall not be read out loud. Andrea asked when a public comment can be read to which it was determined if a person from the public was to attend the meeting, they could read their own statement, there should be no anonymous statements read any further. Andrea was also concerned that if a record is brought to town hall and not read, does it become public comment somewhere and the mayor confirmed it would be treated as a public record. Andrea also wondered if this would affect anyone with ADA status and Marshal Handley said they must proclaim that disability first so that the town can best accommodate, not after the fact. Roni agreed that staff members should not be treated as secretaries at the council meetings and asked to read letters for those with complaints. If a person has a complaint, they should be present to voice that complaint and not rely on someone else. Connie Schaut **MOVED** to adopt Resolution 2024-01 setting new policy for public comment. Andrea Mills **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.**

Mr. Brown was to be on the agenda tonight but was not in attendance. Marshal Hadley will send out a letter asking him to appear at the next scheduled meeting and if he doesn't show, he would then be in default.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Pfaff said he would like to talk more about the Methodist Church. Cody has received an email back from AWC stating insurance will not cover the damage due to the building being vacant and unheated. Also, any future vacant buildings will require notification of the vacant status within 120 days of the change. There will be 30 days to appeal the response from AWC but in the event there is no insurance coverage, Mayor Pfaff would like everyone to start thinking about how to proceed with the building.

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

Payroll: Checks 16007-16011 Plus EFT DRS & EFTPS	Total =\$10,070.41
Claims: Checks 16012-16015 (13 th Month)	Total = \$3,380.50
Claims: Checks 16016-16018	Total = \$18,063.47

Total Claims and Payroll: \$31,514.38

Mayor Pfaff asked the council if they would like to go into Executive Session to talk about employment matters. Roni Mundell would like to chat in Executive Session with employee Monty Rojas concerning some employment matters.

Roni Mundell **MOVED** to go into Executive Session per RCW 42.30.110 (g). Andrea Mills **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously**. Executive Session will begin at 7:13 and run for 20 minutes. The executive session was exited at 7:33 pm.

ADJOURN:

Roni Mundell **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. Andrea Mills **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously**. The council meeting was adjourned at 7:33 pm.



Jarrod Pfaff – Mayor

ATTEST:



Cody Lord – Clerk/Treasurer