

**Town of Garfield**  
**TOWN COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – 7:00 PM**  
**405 W California St.**

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

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

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Abel Rushing and Josh Hightree.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:**

Connie Schaut **MOVED** to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Jason Bankus **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.**

**POLICE REPORT:**

Marshal Handley is present for the meeting and said that things have been relatively quiet lately. He handled a DUI today and sent several code violations, one of which was a \$900 ticket. 2 additional warning letters were mailed. Mr. Brown is now in compliance with all the cited issues.

**PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:**

Monty is at training this week so no public works report.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Cody talked about the details of the TextMyGov program where residents of Garfield could opt into a text messaging line and receive important messages from the town from time to time. This would be a good way for the town to notify if there are emergencies, delays, or events the residents of Garfield need to know about. This would help to get the messages out further in a timely manner. This will also be a way residents can send in texts and responses will be sent directing residents to the correct area to locate their information.

Roni said she thinks this will be a great way to solve one of the issues she has heard from residents of Garfield. This will help to keep people informed and hopefully community engagement will increase. The cost is \$1,975 for the first year and then \$1,600 annually after that. The contract would require a 60 day notice to terminate. Connie Schaut **MOVED** to go into contract with TextMyGov for public notifications. Craig Mitzimberg **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.**

Mayor Pfaff said there were several electrical issues with the garbage truck last week and what it is looking like is that it is likely time to start shopping for another garbage truck. This current one was bought in 2013 and was intended to be used for 10 years. The packer is also continuing to have issues, causing some of the hydraulic fluid to leak. This is a topic for the council to start thinking about as a replacement truck will be needed before too long.

Craig will be working in town, so he won't be available to mow the park in the future. Larry Hunt has offered to mow for \$130 a mow if using the town's equipment. The council was in support of hiring Larry Hunt for the park mowing. Larry has also submitted his usual bid to weed control and lawn care for the year and it is about the same amount as it was last year. Jason Bankus **MOVED** to approve the bid for weed control for 2024. Connie Schaut **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.**

There are two different bids for the church roof. The first one is a fix it for a couple of years option and the second one is to fix it permanently. The two different amounts are \$5,400 for the short-term fix and \$15,000 for the long-term fix. Roni Mundell asked how long the short-term fix could be expected to hold back the leaks and it is thought it will be good for 3-5 years. Jason said if they do decide to sell the space, he would be in support of the short-term repair. Craig was also in support of the short-term repair. Roni said that one of them needs to be done to protect the structural integrity of the building. Craig Mitzimberg **MOVED** to approve the short-term fix bid for \$5,400. Connie Schaut **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.**

Mayor Pfaff has talked with John at State Bank Northwest to see if there was a possibility of the town taking out a loan to cover some of the most recent expenses. The first part of the year has seen numerous unexpected expenses in the public works department and there are several things that were not completed last year that will need to be done this year. The mayor feels it would be better to use their funds rather than tie up the town's resources. If the plan is to sell the church, then the funds from that sale would go to paying back the loan. Roni Mundell **MOVED** to authorize the mayor to seek an additional \$60,000 in a bank loan from SBNW if it is needed. Craig Mitzimberg **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.**

There is a liquor license renewal on the table for the Cider House and Mayor Pfaff questioned if anyone had any objections to allowing the license to renew, no objections were heard.

JUB Engineers were in town last week to conduct GIS training and mapping. They have been reviewing manholes and taking photos of manhole flows. There are some with high flows around the park but nothing alarming yet. The pool remodel has begun.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Marshal Joe Handley said he purchased a home on East Main Street and got a dumpster for cleanup on the property which also triggered the water and sewer services however, the water and sewer services haven't been in use because the home was being remodeled and vacant. He is asking for leniency on the bill and to have the water and sewer charges reversed. There have been requests of this nature made in the past but the main difference here is the property was not occupied and no water or sewer

services were being used. Craig said he believes it to be a fair request and thinks the water and sewer should be credited. Roni asked if someone is heading south for the winter, and they don't use water or sewer what would be the difference? Mayor Pfaff said they pay the water/sewer rate because they are still part of the infrastructure that facilitates the water and sewer regardless of them being in town or not. Roni would like to make sure whatever the decision is that everyone is treated the same. Connie said since no one was living there and no services were being interrupted, or activated, she thinks that a credit is also valid. Craig Mitzimberg **MOVED** to credit the water and sewer charges customer Handley and continue to bill for garbage services. Jason Bankus seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Roni Mundell abstained from the vote.

Craig asked if there was a way the RV park could be promoted to bring about awareness, possibly signs could be placed at the ends of town. Mayor Pfaff said he would leave it up to the council to decide on how to handle the signage. The online reservation system should be up before the season starts.

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

Payroll: Checks 16093-16096 PLUS EFT DRS & EFTPS	Total =\$8,914.14
Claims: Checks 16097-16101 EFT DOR	Total =\$30,103.54

Total Claims and Payroll: \$39,017.68

**ADJOURN:**

Connie Schaut **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. Jason Bankus **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.** The council meeting was adjourned at 7:31 pm.

ATTEST:

  
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Cody Lord – Clerk/Treasurer

  
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Jarrod Pfaff – Mayor