

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

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

REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING: Regular Meeting was opened at 7:02 pm.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: Eric Mills and Abel Rushing

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

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

POLICE REPORT:

Marshal Handley is present for the meeting and said the last couple of weeks have been just calls for minor service. He has been writing a lot of tickets with people going 45 mph through town and is averaging about 5-6 stops a day. There are some kids riding scooters and crossing the highway in an unsafe manner with no helmets on. Roni asked Marshal Handley if he could have a talk with their parents to see if an issue could be avoided.

Mayor Pfaff said Marshal Handley is accepting a position with the Whitman County Sheriff's Office. Starting May 1st, he will be reducing his hours as the Garfield Marshal to 10 hours a week and working with the county 40 hours a week. The county will be dealing with in progress emergency calls and Marshal Handley will still be handling code violations/enforcement and other local issues for the town. The county is not opposed to covering some of the calls if it doesn't become excessive. The town to still contribute \$2,000 annually to Marshal Handley's future training.

There will be a reduction in costs for the town since there will no longer be the cost of retirement, medical insurance, and the town's insurance to cover the police department will be reduced. Mayor Pfaff said the question becomes, does the town still want a full-time officer or will the town be alright with the county handling some issues and Marshal Handley handling the other things when he is here 10 hours a week? Marshal Handley said the town will still get the same level of service, but it may be the county showing up from time to time. If Marshal Handley is not on shift or out in the county, it would be the closest deputy showing up to handle the dispatch. Andrea Mills asked about the unused portion of the police fund and what happens with these funds? Mayor Pfaff said they remain in the budget for now.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

Water

KME has repaired well #4 and the switch that operates the calling for chlorine. When the power goes out, the well stops pumping and should no longer be calling for chlorine. This safety bypass is repaired and should be working as intended now. A new fire hydrant has arrived for south hill and installation will be scheduled.

Sewer

Flow meters have been installed at both ends of the park to monitor the I&I in that area. Roni questioned when they were installed, and Monty said it was a week ago.

Garbage

They are still waiting on a bid from SWS and Rule Steele for new dumpsters. SWS has also been notified the garbage truck needs to get scheduled for the compaction repair but they haven't called with a schedule yet. All town cleanup went fine with not a lot left out for pickup.

Street/Park

Larry has started mowing at the park. The church yard, the sewer plant and the entrances to town have been mowed as well. The sprinklers in the park seem to be operating well. Monty will have the timers switched from afternoon watering to early morning watering. The RV Park water is on. Larry will be spraying all town property for weeds. The park bathrooms are cleaned and stocked, and open signs hung.

Mayor Pfaff said they will need to have a discussion about the dumpster rates. He explains the route dumpsters are eligible for pickup every Monday however, the rental dumpsters only get emptied when requested by the customer and charged each time they are dumped. Possibly a review of the route dumpster rate is necessary. Right now rental dumpsters are in short supply due to the route dumpsters being so popular. Also, there is a rule that if a person has a rental dumpster, it has to be dumped at least once a month or it is brought back and put into inventory for others to rent.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution 2024-03 Excess Street Levy seeking \$72,000 which is \$2.50 per thousand dollars of assessed value for collection in 2025. Connie Schaut **MOVED** to adopt Resolution 2024-03 to ask the community for support of a \$72,000 Excess Street Levy. Andrea Mills **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.**

Mayor Pfaff said that a contract from Gem Valley Appraisal has been received and it is estimated at \$4,000 for the commercial appraisal. Since it is a contract, Mayor Pfaff will be signing to get the appraisal underway.

Mayor Pfaff said that David Tysz has been hired to be the contract operator at the sewer plant and a resolution is needed stating such. Resolution 2024-04 states that David Tysz will be Garfield's contract operator. Andrea Mills **MOVED** to adopt Resolution 2024-04 designating David Tysz as the sewer plant operator. Craig Mitzimberg **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.**

Connie said there are pot holes on California between 2nd and 3rd street in front of the hotel, one in front of the post office, and across from the California apartments, and they are in need of repair. Monty said they will take care of the one in front of the hotel first and then make a schedule to get the others patched.

Guest Eric Mills questioned the car that is left at the metal recycling yard. This was a vehicle that was used for extraction training, and it is waiting to be hauled away by Mr. Lund. It was donated to the fire department for training, and it just needs a junk vehicle affidavit so that it can be removed.

FINANCIAL: Approval of Checks

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

Payroll: Checks 16127-16130 PLUS EFT DRS & EFTPS	Total =\$8,987.53
Payroll: Quarterly Taxes EFT L&I, ESD, PFML, and LTC	Total =\$3,274.11
Claims: Checks 16131-16140	Total =\$43,121.69

Total Claims and Payroll: \$55,383.33

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 7:30 pm.



Jarrod Pfaff – Mayor

ATTEST:



Cody Lord – Clerk/Treasurer