

Town of Garfield
TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
May 8, 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 7:00 pm.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: Jenna Brozik, Larry Kruse, Tiffany Fiore, and Tom Tevlin

- Jenna Brozik, Candidate for Whitman County Superior Court Judge is here to introduce herself to the council and citizens of Garfield. Mrs. Brozik provided some background information and why she would be a good fit for the position. She explains her strength is in Family Law which currently makes up 80% of the cases in Whitman County.

Garfield resident Larry Kruse is in attendance to discuss the deteriorating condition of Garfield and lack of pride in some homeowners throughout town. He said there was a large turnout for a funeral service last week and many complaints were heard about the present condition of some of the homes in town, especially ones on the main throughfare. Larry is concerned that some of the properties not taking care of their yards might cause fire hazards for other people in town. He urged the council to stand up and ask people to take better care of their properties. Larry also commented about towns right away, saying they need to be better maintained. Mayor Pfaff said that Larry Hunt just sprayed, and they will be around with a mower soon to take care of some of the ditches.

Tom Tevlin is here to discuss staying at the RV park longer than the allowable 2 weeks. He is here for the summer and needs a place to park the bus. He is willing to act as a park manager while he is here and make sure things are going smoothly over there. Craig Mitzimberg wonders if it would be best to have a contract written up for a situation such as this. Place rules to follow in the contract and if the rules are broken then the town can ask them to vacate without notice. If they don't sign the contract, then they won't be considered for longer term rental. Mayor Pfaff said possibly there could be a couple designated spots for longer term rentals. The council will take up a longer-term rate and get back to Tom.

Resident Tiffany Fiore recently moved here from Virginia and said they have noticed that Garfield is looking a little rough. They are hoping to be good residents and help inspire others to take better care of their surroundings, especially those properties that are so visible on Main Street.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Craig Mitzimberg **MOVED** to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting, April 24, 2024. Connie Schaut **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.**

POLICE REPORT:

Marshal Handley is not present for this meeting but submitted an email update of the current police events. April 30th was Marshal Handley's last full-time day with the town. He began his new shift of 10 hours a week on May 1st.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

Water

There is a water leak at the Meat Shop apartment. A locate was completed in the alley so they can begin repairs on the owner side of the line.

Sewer

The sewer plant is operating well. They have purchased a pressure washer with heat to break down the oils and better work on the screens and help keep the flows down.

Garbage

Compost has been loaded and called in to be hauled away.

Street/Park

South and north hill ditches will be mowed soon. Most of the roads have been swept.

Mayor Pfaff said he would like to see the hydrant on Cleveland Street scheduled for replacement.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mayor Pfaff said the Legion was sold to the Food Pantry and the Legion will still have use of the space in the future. The Methodist Church appraisal has come back at \$228,000 but there is concern that this will be more than it will get at sale. Mayor Pfaff said now that this number is in, the council needs to decide if they would like to spend more money to repair the space or sell it as is. The council was in support of listing as is and not investing more money in this space.

New dumpster bids are in and SWS has bid \$5,600 for 4 two-yard dumpsters. Rule Steele is \$4,200 for 4 two-yard dumpsters but it is a thinner gauge metal and does not have casters. Mayor Pfaff said if it were him, he would go with the SWS bid, even though it is higher because the metal is thicker, and they have casters included. The council was in support of accepting the SWS dumpster bid. Mayor Pfaff said they will likely need to take up dumpster rates and address the route dumpster charge since so many are electing to be on this dumpster class. Connie Schaut **MOVED** to approve the bid from SWS for 4 two-yard dumpsters. Andrea Mills **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.**

Roni Mundell asked about the gun club water use and since the meter has been installed there has only been 200 gallons of consumption. This water is only used at events and in one restroom, so it was anticipated to be a very low consumption.

NEW BUSINESS:

There has been a lot more metal being discarded at the metal recycling yard. Marcus from Wifiber has said if the town trenches to the fenced in metal area and installs a pole, he will install two new surveillance cameras that are more appropriately positioned to view license plates to confirm that only Garfield residents are using it, and that garbage isn't being dropped there any longer. The council thought this was a good idea.

Andrea Mills said at the fire meeting a survey was presented that the town will have to assist in completing. This is from the WSRB for the fire safety rating audit that is coming up in June. Cody acknowledged that an email was received with the information and the town will get their portion of the details filled out and submitted to the department in a timely manner.

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 16141-16146 PLUS EFT AWC, EFTPS & DRS	Total =\$14,674.15
Claims: Checks 16147-16165 PLUS EFT DOR	Total =\$31,239.37

Total Claims and Payroll: \$45,913.52


ADJOURN:

Connie Schaut **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. Craig Mitzimberg **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.** The council meeting was adjourned at 7:34 pm.

ATTEST:



Cody Lord – Clerk/Treasurer



Jarrod Pfaff – Mayor