

Town of Garfield
TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
August 28th, 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: Abel Rushing, Dakota and Hailey Taylor.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Connie Schaut **MOVED** to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting, August 14th, 2024. Andrea Mills **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.**

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

Water

The fire hydrant at 3rd and Cleveland was replaced and now has a shut off valve at the hydrant. This will allow isolation of the hydrant in the future without having to shut off and drain the main line. Roach made a final repair to the water line that was damaged.

Sewer

Roach was out to repair the sewer line that was damaged.

Garbage

The garbage truck has been having some mechanical problems and causing delays to garbage collection.

Street/Park

There is another bid for the irrigation system replacement at the city park on the table.

Andrea Mills asked Monty about the condition of the sewer plant and Monty said it is work in progress, they are working on getting good bugs in the system and have been focusing on dewatering and wasting at the plant.

Mayor Pfaff said the bid to repair the earth moving done at Walter Siding and California ST will be \$16,800. Only contractors with Railroad insurance are authorized to work on the repairs and this company is the only one with this type of insurance. It was confirmed that this repair work was to fix the damage that was done 2 weeks prior by Dakota working in the ditch. Mayor Pfaff said the town will pay the contractor bills to fix the damage that was done to the water and sewer lines, culverts and ditch but Cody has a claim initiated against the homeowner's insurance to collect those damages.

Mayor Pfaff said a declaration of emergency should be discussed since the damage was done and the town needed to get the water and sewer system back up quickly for the residents of the town. Jason Bankus **MOVED** to declare the unauthorized digging at Walter Siding Road, Highway 27 and the railroad an emergency due to the disruption of some of Garfield's residents' water and sewer utilities being severed. Connie Schaut **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.**

OLD BUSINESS:

2 bids have been supplied for the sprinkler system replacement at the town park. The Aqua Lawn bid was \$10,574 and Raindrop was \$28,875. Craig felt the Aqua Lawn bid was good value for the space they would need to complete the installation. The new system will only be about a foot deep and will require seasonal shut off. Jason Bankus **MOVED** to approve the Aqua Lawn bid for the new irrigation system at the town park. Craig Mitzimberg **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.** Andrea asked how long the bid would be good for and Mayor Pfaff said once they have approved the bid, they will be locked in at that price. The installation may happen this fall or next spring and will likely take 2 days to complete.

Able Rushing was here to talk about the fire department and Roni Mundell said she was hoping Chuck or Chris would also be here to talk details about a future station location for the department. She explained that the town's interest is only as much as the departments interest so in the future she hopes the department will show up to represent that interest. Abel talked about 2 station locations, one on highway 27 just north of Manring St. and the second at the Methodist Church lot on 2nd and Union, which is only two city lots and would need to make sure it is out of the FEMA flood plain. Hopefully the building could house the fire department and EMS station with a training spot in the building. Mayor Pfaff and Cody will look over the FEMA maps and see what can be determined.

The town currently can't get a different ambulance because the newer ones are too tall. The current ambulance is rear wheel drive and needs to be able to traverse to Potlatch and Farmington in the winter months. Farmington's ambulance is mid-90s and starting to show some signs of aging. Craig questioned what it would cost to demolish the Methodist church building. Mayor Pfaff said the last time they looked at the lot just north of town, it was \$25,000. He is not sure if the Methodist Church is in the new floodplain designated by FEMA. Roni asked if the church could be put on the market to see if it would sell and if those funds could be applied towards the new station. Mayor Pfaff said that is an option. They will look into the measurements of the Palouse station and Abel said there is also no reason why they couldn't do a second story.

Roni asked Dakota and Hailey if they wanted to discuss anything with the council regarding the digging situation over by their house. Hailey said that no one has asked for their side of the story. They initially called to have the lines located so they could install a fence. They were unaware that some of the land they were looking to have locates done on, was not their land. Hailey said the mayor told them the RR owned a section of the land bordering them and they could mow, spray and maintain the no mans land so they tried to make it looks nicer. Some of the utility marking lines were not present because it was land that was not technically theirs, some owned by the railroad and some that is a non-marked alley to the south of their property.

Hailey stated that when asking the mayor if they could maintain that area, the mayor said get yourself back to a ditch. They were having an issue mowing, and they were trying to get things smooth, so they were able to mow easier. When doing that, they hit a water line which was accidental. Hailey stated that if the line had been marked, then they wouldn't have hit it. Hailey said she appreciated the council hearing them out and they apologized for the issue. They will be moving soon and said that all of it has become too stressful for them.

FINANCIAL: Approval of Checks

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

Payroll: Checks 16279 (misprint) 16280-16283 Plus EFTPS	Total =\$7,445.34
Claims: Checks 16284-16291 Plus EFT DOR	Total =\$38,524.99

Total Claims and Payroll: \$45,970.33

Per RCW 42.30.110 (g), Andrea Mills moved into executive session for employee qualifications to last no longer than 30 minutes from 7:29 pm, Jason Bankus seconded the motion and council moved into executive session. The meeting will conclude immediately after the executive session.

The executive session ended at 7:52 pm.

ADJOURN:

Jason Bankus **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. Craig Mitzimberg **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.** The council meeting was adjourned at 7:53 pm.


Jarrod Pfaff – Mayor

ATTEST:


Cody Lord – Clerk/Treasurer