

**Town of Garfield**  
**TOWN COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**August 14<sup>th</sup>, 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, Ryan Lindhorst Absent:

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

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Shane Monroy with Wifiber and resident Ethan Fiore. Shane is here to introduce the franchise agreement that Wifiber is seeking with the Town of Garfield. It basically lays out what to expect from working with Wifiber and the guidelines they work under when they come to town. They have used that same contract with Lamont and the town's attorney has been sent a copy for review. Andrea asked about building in vacant lots or specific areas, will Wifiber be the only company that a person has to choose from. Shane explained that the Port and Ziply are capped on their current build plans and likely they would be the company to service these locations if the town permits them to do so. This is a non-exclusive contract to service those people in unbuilt areas, and grant access to good internet. Transmission lines will stay on poles above ground. Currently the contract is under review with the town's attorney and his opinion will be provided as soon as he can fully review it.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:**

Connie Schaut **MOVED** to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting, July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Andrea Mills **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.**

**POLICE REPORT:**

Marshal Handley said there have been a couple of calls for service in the last couple of weeks. A resident has moved back to town which is currently on probation and is residing in a trailer on a relative's property, so Marshal Handley will have to start dealing with this matter. There will be a more proactive approach in dealing with overgrown yards and abuse of RVs in town. Also, there is a resident that keeps grading the town road without authorization and has been issued a \$5,000 ticket.

**PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:**

**Water**

The chlorine injector on Well #4 is down. Monty said there is a repair kit in the shop and Mayor Pfaff said to get it repaired and order another back up one.

**Sewer**

Ryan reported there was a sewer backup on the main sewer line on the road to Elberton. A jetting company was called and jetted the line to get it moving again.

**Garbage**

Everything is operating normally.

**Street/Park**

The street sweeper has been sent in for repair and it should be done in a couple of days.

Andrea Mills questioned the sewer backup and what happened. Ryan said the sewer main had backed up to 3<sup>rd</sup> and Jefferson. The flows were high and it did result in some spikes at the sewer plant. Andrea asked if the reason for the backup is known? Ryan said he was unsure, possibly it was a grease issue or a gravel issue coming off south hill that created the plug. Roni asked if there was gravel in the line. Ryan said there was, but it wasn't evident if that was already in the system and a result of the backup or if it was secondary to the back up but it was a minor incident.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

The department would like to add an AED to the command vehicle. Marshal Handley said there is an extra one in the ambulance shed that the department can have, and it just needs D cell batteries. On the last fire call, one of the vehicles got a ruined tire and wheel. They will likely need to replace all four now and have the brakes checked. Andrea talked about the exhaust system for the fire building, and they believe that this money would be better spent on a new building. JUB engineers will be out to have a look at the structural engineering on the fire building and see if there is an opportunity for a retrofit there. Roni added that Chuck will be coming to a town meeting to talk about resurrecting the fire department association which would be non-profit.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Andrea asked about the progress at the sewer plant. Mayor Pfaff talked about the current permitting limits and how the process of the I&I and Facility Plan needs to be improved and completed before any future changes are made to the plant. There are items that can be improved while this is happening like a better screening system to handle larger flows, but the engineering team are working through these details as quickly as possible to make sure the system is moving in the right direction. Once the rainy season starts again, JUB will be able to start investigating more on the I&I problem causing the high flows at the plant.

Connie Schaut asked about the sprinkler bids and wonders if Monty has been able to gather others. A second one has been secured and they are waiting for the third bid to come in.

Palouse Hills excavation has provided a bid to put the road back to where it was before the resident on California St. dug it and altered it. The resident received a \$5,000 ticket due to the unauthorized disruption to the road. Mayor Pfaff said that this resident is also still on an old water meter and asked Monty to make accommodations to have the meter changed out.

Mayor Pfaff said just as a heads up, David Tysz wants to spend a little more time at the plant so he can assist the guys with preparing for their testing, so the town will need to pay a little more for his time and fuel. Roni asked Ryan if he is transferring his sewer license? Ryan responded he is working on it but unsure how much longer that will take.



Roni said she would like to see some time made for Monty to prepare for his sewer test. Mayor Pfaff said David will have some revised contract cost and hours he will spend at the plant for the next meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Andrea said there appears to be a broken water line where Renstrom's property goes down to the pasture. It seems very green and suspect. Mayor Pfaff asked the public works guys to put it on their to do list. That line was recently replaced and there is some sort of neck down in size on the line.

**FINANCIAL: Approval of Checks**

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

Payroll: Quarterly Payroll EFT L&I, ESD, LTC & PFML	Total =\$2,580.35
Payroll: Checks 16251-16255, EFT AWC, EFTPS, DRS	Total =\$14,043.86
Claims: Checks 16256-16278	Total =\$29,181.85

Total Claims and Payroll: \$45,806.06

**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 7:34 pm.

**ATTEST:**

  
Cody Lord – Clerk/Treasurer

  
Jarrod Pfaff – Mayor