

*Town of Garfield*  
**TOWN COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
*November 13, 2024 – 7:00 PM*  
*405 W California St.*

**ROLL CALL:** Mayor Pfaff, Council Members: Jason Bankus, Connie Schaut, and Andrea Mills. Roni Mundell arrived at 7:17 p.m. Staff: Clerk/Treasurer's: DonNell Ellsworth and Cody Lord. Public Works: Monty Rojas. Marshal Jow Handley. Absent: Craig Mitzimberg.

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

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:**

**LACEN WORKMAN AND GREG PARTCH:** Lacen Workman and Greg Partch attended the meeting and updated the council about the Innovia Heart and Soul Grant, that the Community of Garfield Association received in the amount of \$30,000. Lacen let everyone know that this is a two-year program. With the hope of strengthening the town and getting more people involved. There is the launch party, November 14, at 5:00 p.m., at the Garfield Community Center, everyone is encouraged to attend. Lacen said that this is a four-part process. Starting with a budget being created, coaches being brought in to guide the CGA on everything from community involvement to advertising, social media, and getting the word out. Greg also wanted to thank Cody for his years of service with the town as the clerk-treasurer and welcome DonNell.

A resident in the audience is wondering what is being done about the suspicious activity downtown. She stated that there has been a lot of concerning behavior. Mayor Pfaff stated that everyone needs to reach out to the Marshal's office and town hall, otherwise no one knows what is going on. The resident stated that she called the Whitman County Sheriff's non-emergency number but has not heard anything back. Mayor Pfaff explained that Marshal Handley only works ten hours a week. Marshal Handley is in town at all random times and days. This is so that people don't get used to the schedule.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:**

Connie Schaut **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the 2025 Preliminary Budget Hearing and the Regular Council Meeting on October 23rd, 2024. Jason Bankus **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.**

**POLICE REPORT:**

Marshal Handley was present at the meeting.

Marshal Handley updated the council that he has responded to four calls since the last meeting on October 23<sup>rd</sup> and given out one ticket regarding dogs at large. Marshal Handley is also working currently on two felony cases. He has not received any calls about suspicious activity in the alley. Marshal Handley is unsure if anyone has challenged any tickets. Marshal Handley would like the council to go over the Chronic Nuisance Ordinance.

#### **PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:**

Monty Rojas was present at the meeting.

#### **Water and Sewer**

Monty Rojas updated the council that the forklift at sewer plant has quit working. Currently, they are using a rental lift. Public Works has taken a load of deactivated sludge to Bar-tech and will take another load on Friday, November 15, to get caught up. The towns discharge monitoring report will be completed on Thursday, November 14.

#### **Garbage**

Compost and metal recycling are being moved out constantly and they are starting to make a dent in the piles.

#### **Street/Park**

Public Works has fixed Cleveland Street where the hydrant was installed.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Nothing was discussed at this meeting.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Connie Schaut **MOVED** to approve Resolution 2024-10 setting the second November meeting for November 20, and the December meetings for December 11, and 18, at 7:00 p.m. **Andrea Mills seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.**

Andrea Mills **MOVED** to approve Ordinance 496-N setting the 2025 1% property tax increase. Connie Schaut **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.**

Andrea Mills updated the council on what was discussed during the Fire Department Board Meeting. They would like to up the amount paid for the point system. Points are given if they go to training or on a call. Mayor Pfaff said that they need to give the town some numbers. They are also still wanting to get the PSTrax system. They haven't been tracking since 2010. It is \$2,500 for the set-up and then \$1,800 per year.

Connie Schaut called for an Executive Session to discuss employee qualifications, to last for 20 minutes, starting at 7:35 and end at 7:55 p.m.

Andrea Milles **MOVED** to set the new pay rate for Public Works 1 at \$57,000 starting January 1, 2025, and Public Works 2 at \$54,000, after the six-month probationary period is up on April 14, 2025, also setting a rate increase of \$4,500 for the certification

of Sewer Group 2, \$2,500 for the certification of Water Class 1 (water cross-connection), and \$1,500 for the CDL certification. Rate increases will take affect after the mandated six-month probationary period is met for all new employees. Roni Mundell **seconded the motion, Jason Bankus voted OPPOSED, and the motion was carried.**

Mayor Pfaff stated that we will hold the 2025 Final Budget hearing on December 11, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., at the regular council meeting. Mayor Pfaff asked DonNell to publish and post the notice.

**FINANCIAL: Approval of Checks**

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

Payroll: Checks 16371-16379 Plus EFTPS, EFT AWC, DRS	Total =\$15,849.23
Claims: Checks 16376-16407	Total =\$48,429.79

Total Claims and Payroll: \$64,279.02

**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 7:59 p.m.



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Jarrod Pfaff – Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
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DonNell Ellsworth – Clerk/Treasurer