

Town of Garfield
TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
November 5, 2025 – 7:00 P.M.
405 W California St.

ROLL CALL: Mayor Jarrod Pfaff, **Council Members:** Jason Bankus, Andrea Mills, Roni Mundell, and Connie Schaut. **Staff: Clerk/Treasurer:** Donnell Ellsworth **Public Works:** Monty Rojas **Absent:** Craig Mitzimberg **GUEST:** Greg Partch

REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

GREG PARTCH:

Greg Partch attended the meeting to discuss with Mayor Pfaff and the Town Council the 13-star flag that was previously displayed in the Garfield American Legion. The American Legion has agreed to loan the flag to the Garfield-Elberton Museum (GEM), which Greg owns and manages.

Greg shared that he is in the process of forming a non-profit organization and a committee called “**Rally Around the Flag.**” He is inviting community members to join the committee and assist in coordinating a **2026 town event** to honor the flag.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Connie Schaut **MOVED** to approve the minutes for the **2026 Preliminary Budget Hearing** and the **Regular Council Meeting** on October 22, 2025. Andrea Mills **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.**

POLICE REPORT:

Marshal Handley was not present at the meeting. There was nothing to report at this time.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

Monty Rojas was present at the meeting.

Monty updated Mayor Pfaff and the town council members that the town’s backhoe had a muffler pipe that was hanging on by only a small piece of metal. The repair has been completed, and the backhoe will be returned to the town on Thursday, October 6.

The town’s Chevy Colorado was taken to Chipman & Taylor in Pullman for an oil change, lubrication, and repair of the heater blower motor. The work is expected to be completed on Thursday or Friday.

WATER/SEWER

There was nothing to report on at this time.

PARK/GARBAGE/STREET

Monty updated Mayor Pfaff and the town council members that the water has been shut off at the town park located at Spokane and 5th Street. He reported that he and Walt had to perform extensive cleaning in the park restroom before closing it for the season. Someone had placed sticks in the toilet and then continued to use the toilet, causing it to overflow and resulting in waste and water spreading across the floor.

Monty reported that the garbage truck's rear seal is not functioning properly and will need to be replaced. He will be contacting SWS Equipment to order the new seals. In addition, Dustin Kemper will be welding a new lining inside the garbage truck, which is expected to prevent garbage from leaking out and leaving a trail throughout town.

OLD BUSINESS:

There is nothing to report at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

FIRE STATION LAND PURCHASE:

Mayor Pfaff informed the town council members that he and Fire Chief Chris McCully recently measured a potential piece of land for a **future fire station**. The **property is located on the north side of town, just off State Route 27**, near the town limits. He noted that discussions about securing land for a future fire station have been **ongoing for more than ten years**. Multiple locations have been evaluated over the years, but none have met the criteria required for the project.

Mayor Pfaff reported the asking price is **\$50,000** for the property, with the town **responsible for all associated fees**. A discussion followed regarding whether the town should finance the purchase or pay cash if the purchase were to move forward.

After discussion, Mayor Pfaff asked the council if they wished to proceed with the land purchase. Jason Bankus **MOVED** to approve purchasing the property **for \$50,000 plus fees**. Connie Schaut **SECONDED** the motion. Roni Mundell voted **NO**, and Andrea Mills **ABSTAINED**, stating she would like more information. **The motion did not pass.**

Roni requested that the potential land purchase be placed on the agenda for the November 19 town council meeting.

Mayor Pfaff reminded the town council members that it is nearly time to **finalize the 2026 budget**. He asked for their input on whether the town should provide a **Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA)** to employees for the upcoming year, noting that the

maximum percentage allowed by ordinance is **3%**. He requested that council members consider the issue and bring their ideas to the November 19 town council meeting.

Mayor Pfaff informed the town council members that the town received notice that **Kohlee Kush** intends to **renew** its **Washington Liquor and Cannabis license**. He asked if there were any objections. There were **no objections** from the town council members.

FINANCIAL:

Approval of Checks

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

Payroll:

Checks: 16914-16921, AWC, DRS, EFTPS, & HRA VEBA

Total = \$12,372.22

Claims:

Checks: 16922-16926- Voided for printing error.

Checks: 16927-16937, & EFT WA DOR

Total = \$15,375.13

Total Claims and Payroll = \$27,747.35

ADJOURN:

Connie Schaut **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. Andrea Mills **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.** The council meeting was adjourned at 8:05 P.M.



Jarrod Pfaff – Mayor

ATTEST:



Donnell Ellsworth – Clerk/Treasurer