

**Town of Garfield
TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
December 9, 2025 – 7:00 P.M.
405 W California St.**

ROLL CALL: Mayor Jarrod Pfaff, **Council Members:** Andrea Mills, Craig Mitzimberg, Roni Mundell, and Connie Schaut. **Staff: Clerk/Treasurer:** DonNell Ellsworth **Public Works: Absent:** Jason Bankus **Guest:** Cody Lord

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

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

2026 FINAL BUDGET HEARING:

Mayor Pfaff opened the public hearing for the **2026 Final Budget at 7:01 p.m.** Mayor Pfaff noted a correction to the **Current Expense Fund Expenditures** on the printable summary, clarifying that the amounts should be shown in green rather than red to reflect a **gain instead of a loss.**

Mayor Pfaff further explained that **liability insurance** costs are projected to **decrease by 11%, while employee health insurance costs are projected to increase by 11.1%.** Employee wages for the upcoming year have been included in the budget, along with the **Life Flight benefit.**

Mayor Pfaff asked if there were any questions or if further explanation was needed. All council members stated that the budget looked good.

Connie Schaut **MOVED** to approve and adopt the 2026 Final Budget as written and presented. Craig Mitzimberg **seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

Mayor Pfaff closed the 2026 Final Budget Hearing at 7:05 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Connie Schaut **MOVED** to approve the minutes for the **Regular Council Meeting** on November 15, 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 the council that he and Walt have been preparing and sludge from the wastewater treatment plant to be hauled off and taken to Barr-Tech.

WATER/SEWER

Monty updated the council that there is currently a water leak on Monroe Street between South 3rd and South 4th Streets. Monty and Walt need to purchase the proper materials to complete repairs to the broken pipe.

Monty also reported a leak in the alley between the Garfield Meat Shop and the Bishop Law Office, which supplies water to the California Street apartments. Repairs are scheduled for Thursday, December 11.

Andrea asked if there were any additional leaks in town. Monty responded that there are two minor leaks and two major leaks currently identified.

PARK/GARBAGE/STREET

Monty reported that he took the plow out to test how the roads would hold up to snow plowing and stated that the roads appear to be holding up well.

OLD BUSINESS:

FIRE STATION LAND PURCHASE:

Jason Bankus stated that he would like to readdress the potential purchase of land on the north side of town for a future fire station.

Craig Mitzimberg stated that he has spoken with multiple residents in town who agree that the town needs to move forward with this purchase.

Roni Mundell stated that the property has not been fully vetted and that the town does not know exactly how much land would be purchased.

Mayor Pfaff stated that the property has not yet been surveyed, but the seller is willing to work with the town regarding the size of the parcel. He also noted that the state highway easement is 88 feet from the centerline.

Roni further stated that, aside from Jarrod, the fire department has not put work into this proposal.

Andrea asked what the rush was in moving forward.

Connie Schaut stated that the decision has been pushed down the road repeatedly and that it is time to move forward. Jason Bankus agreed that the town needs to proceed.

Jason Bankus **MOVED** to purchase land on the north side of town for a future fire station. Craig Mitzimberg **seconded the motion**. Connie Schaut voted yes.

Further discussion ensued, and Roni Mundell requested that Mayor Pfaff ask each council member to speak directly to the motion.

Mayor Pfaff asked each council member to state their reasoning for or against the motion to proceed with purchasing land on the north side of town for the future site of a new fire station.

Roni Mundell spoke against the motion, stating that she would like the town to delay the vote and hold discussions at Garfield Town Hall. She noted that the expense has not been budgeted, the town does not know the exact amount of land being purchased, it is unclear whether the fire department would fit on the site, the total cost is unknown, and the town needs more information and planning before making such a significant purchase.

Andrea spoke against the motion for the same reasons raised by Roni. She added that a survey should be completed first and that the town should not make such a large purchase with so little information. Andrea stated that the council does not currently have sufficient information and felt the decision should be delayed until 2026, which was the original plan.

Jason Bankus stated that he had nothing against the motion.

Connie Schaut stated that he had nothing against the motion.

Craig Mitzimberg stated that he had nothing against the motion.

Mayor Pfaff then asked each council member to state their vote.

Jason Bankus voted yes, Connie Schaut voted yes, Craig Mitzimberg voted yes, Andrea Mills voted no, and Roni Mundell voted no.

Mayor Pfaff stated that the motion to proceed with purchasing land on the north side of town for the future fire station passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE 502: AMENDING THE 2025 ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET:

Roni Mundell **MOVED** to approve and adopt Ordinance 502: Amending the 2025 Annual Operating Budget: Jason Bankus **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.**

ORDINANCE 503: 2026 OPERATING BUDGET:

Jason Bankus **MOVED** to approve and adopt Ordinance 503: 2026 Annual Operating Budget. Connie Schaut **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.**

RESOLUTION 2025-07: SETTING SALARY SCHEDULE FOR 2026: Andrea Mills **MOVED** to approve and adopt Resolution 2025-07: Setting Salary Schedules for 2026. Jason Bankus **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.**

Cody Lord asked the town council and Mayor Pfaff to address the property at 208 S. 3rd Street and asked if the mayor would send a letter to the property owner regarding the potential setback violations.

Cody Lord also thanked Mayor Pfaff for his years of service as the Mayor of Garfield.

FINANCIAL:

Approval of Checks
Town of Garfield

December 9, 2025

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

Payroll:

Checks: 16961-16967 & AWC, DOR, EFTPS, HRA VEBA

Total = \$13,106.53

Claims:

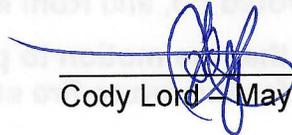
Checks: 16968-16986 & EFT DOR

Total = \$677,000.27

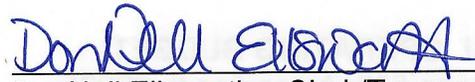
Total Claims and Payroll = \$690,106.80

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 7:32 P.M.


Cody Lord - Mayor

ATTEST:


Donnell Ellsworth - Clerk/Treasurer