

***Town of Garfield***  
***TOWN COUNCIL***  
***PUBLIC HEARING~GARBAGE DEPARTMENT***  
***REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING***  
***April 8, 2026 – 7:00 P.M.***  
***Garfield Community Center***  
***109 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Garfield***

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Cody Lord

**ROLL CALL: Council Members:** Andrea Mills, Roni Mundell, Jody Opheim, Connie Schaut

**Absent:** Jason Bankus

**Clerk-Treasurer:** DonNell Ellsworth **Public Works:** Walt Fealy & Matt Roper

**Guest:** Jim Akins, Nathan Arganbright, Shon Clark, Debbie & Jeff Gilbertson, Kathie Griner, Brian Kriebel, Connie Kriebel, Neal Leon, James MacNaughton, Kelsey Merrill, Eric Mills, Bonnie Riebold, Robbie & Annie Riedinger, Stephanie Rohrbaugh, Michael Slavish, Sue Ulrick, Harley Wicks

**PUBLIC HEARING:** The public hearing was called to order at 7:00 P.M.

**POTENTIAL CHANGES TO THE GARBAGE DEPARTMENT:**

Mayor Lord called the public hearing to order and opened with a PowerPoint presentation, noting that anyone interested in a copy should reach out to DonNell at Garfield Town Hall.

After the PowerPoint presentation, Mayor Lord then introduced TJ Davis with Empire Disposal, who shared their plan for weekly pickups will be on Thursdays starting around 5:00 A.M. To keep things running smoothly, they would have several trucks in the area to prevent delays or missed stops. The weather can occasionally cause issues; TJ noted these instances are rare and they would work closely with the town hall to keep all residents informed. Their rates are set by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission and usually go up about 2–3% a year. The town would continue to handle the billing, receiving a 12% discount to cover administrative costs, while still charging a 6% utility tax on garbage services. One change to note is that because Empire uses rear-load trucks, they would slowly swap out our current cans and dumpsters for their own, while working with customers who own their dumpsters. Switching out what the town currently has will give residents more options for different sizes.

One resident had a question regarding the excise taxes and who would pay that and what does that would look like for the town. TJ was unable to answer the question and would have to get back to the town on that.

Next, Mayor Lord introduced Darrell Mosley with Pullman Disposal to discuss their proposal. They suggested a Tuesday morning pickup schedule, starting between 9 and 10 A.M. He highlighted that their trucks are front-load and will work with the town's existing dumpsters and cans. Their pricing includes an every-other-week option for dumpster customers and a \$6 discount for those who own their own dumpsters. Like Empire, their rates are regulated by WUTC and typically see a 1–2% yearly increase, though they do use a small monthly fuel surcharge when gas prices spike. Darrell explained that they weigh dumpsters on the spot; if one goes over the limit, it's charged at the standard county landfill rate of \$137 per ton or a fraction thereof based on the weight. They also offer the town the same 12% administrative discount.

There was a question asked what this means for town staff salaries. Mayor Lord clarified that salaries currently tied to garbage would simply shift to other funds where the work is being done. Such as the Current Expense, Water, Sewer, and Street Funds.

Mayor Lord also spoke about the town's current situation, explaining that the town is facing a lot of future debt for a much-needed new wastewater treatment plant, so buying a garbage truck might not be the best move right now. He also stated that the town can contract out garbage services, we cannot contract out someone providing our other services, such as water and wastewater. He mentioned how stressful it's been dealing with our aging truck on Monday mornings and noted that outsourcing would mean the town only needs a CDL driver for hauling solid waste to Sprague. Mayor Lord wrapped up by thanking everyone for their great questions and for being so supportive, noting that the town council members have to make a big decision.

Mayor Lord closed the public hearing at 8:16 P.M.

**REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING:** The regular meeting was called to order at 8:17 P.M.

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:**

Mayor Lord stated that if no one else wanted to speak about anything else he would close guest comments at 8:18 P.M.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:**

Andrea Mills **MOVED** to approve the minutes for the Regular Town Council meeting on March 25, 2026. Connie Schaut **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.**

**FIRE REPORT:**

There was nothing to present for the fire department update.

**PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:**

Walt Fealy and Matt Roper were present at the meeting.

Mayor Lord introduced Matthew (Matt) Roper as the town's new Public Works Supervisor.

**WATER/SEWER:**

Walt notified everyone that Well #4's motor is in and operational, KME also installed a backflow preventor. He sent a bacteria test to Anatek Labs that has come back clean. Walt and Matt will be working with Abel and the rest of the fire department to flush the water line in the next couple of weeks to clear the air and any sentiment.

The wastewater treatment plant is running fine. There are still some pumps that need to be installed. Matt has taken a load of bio-solid waste to Barr-Tech, and they will continue to waste.

**PARK/GARBAGE/STREET:**

The garbage truck is back up and running. Tuesday, April 14, is the All-Town Spring Clean-Up. We are hoping people will get out and clean up their trash. No electronics, mattresses, big furniture. There are flyers at town hall and around town.

The park bathrooms are open, and the mowing is being handled weekly.

Larry, with Palouse Hills Lawn and Shrub has done the spraying in anticipation of the May Day Celebration.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**FINANCIAL AND PROCEDURAL POLICIES:** Mayor Lord notified the town council members that the Financial and Procedural Policy is complete and that DonNell has emailed it to the council. We will have the resolution ready for the April 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

**PULLMAN DISPOSAL PROPOSAL:** Mayor Lord wanted to double check with everyone that they received a copy of the proposal from Pullman Disposal. Everyone stated that they have.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**VOLUNTEER DAY AT TOWN PARK:** Mayor Lord is asking for volunteers to help out with cleaning up and refreshing the park. He would like to arrange volunteers to work with the town employees on painting the buildings, the basketball poles, and cleaning up the playground area. Mayor Lord will address this again at the April 22 meeting to discuss and set the date.

**RESOLUTION 2026-07: PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISOR CREDIT CARD**

**AUTHORIZATION AND CREDIT LIMIT:** Andrea Mills **MOVED** to approve and adopt Resolution 2026-07 approving the Public Works Supervisor's credit card, with a \$5,000 credit limit. Roni Mundell **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.**

**FUEL CARD FOR PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISOR-MATTHEW ROPER:** Connie Schaut **MOVED** approved Matthew (Matt) Roper to get a fuel card through Coleman Oil. Jody Opheim **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.**

**FINANCIAL:**

Approval of Checks

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

**Payroll:**

Checks: 17124-17131, AWC, L&I, DOR, EFTPS, **Total = \$13,011.12**  
LTC, PMFL, & ESD

**Claims:**

Checks: 17133-17152 **Total = \$31,232.86**

**Total Claims and Payroll = \$44,243.98**

**MAYORS' COMMENTS:**

**NEW TOWN ENTRANCE SIGNS:** Mayor Lord informed the town council members that the new vinyl signs have been ordered and will be here soon. The town will need to prep and prime the boards for application.

**WELL #4 UPDATE:** Mayor Lord confirmed what Walt stated and added that KME thinks the lining of the well looks good. There is a vacant pipe running on the exterior and secured to the main line so electrical for a well readout to be digitally displayed in town hall, can be added with ease in the future.

**DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY APRIL MEETING:** Mayor Lord informed the town council members that the town is having a meeting on April 21, at 10 A.M., with the Department of Ecology, JUB, and the town. He would like two council members to attend. DOE will be in attendance virtually. We will also have a guest arranged by the Port of Whitman as well. Connie can be present; Roni can alternate if no one else can attend. We will reach out to Jason to see if he can be present as well.

**ALL TOWN SPRING CLEAN-UP:** Mayor Lord just reminded everyone to get out their extra garbage for Spring Clean-up pick up on April 14.

**LOSS PREVENTION GRANT:** Mayor Lord let everyone know that he has applied for a \$2,000 loss prevention grant to cover replacing signs throughout town. This grant is through our insurance AWC/RMSA.

**NEW ADDRESS:** Mayor Lord notified the town council members that a property owner is subdividing their property and installing a new manufactured home. The new address will be: 509 N. 10<sup>th</sup> Street.

**ADJOURN:**


Connie Schaut **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. Jody Opheim **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.** The council meeting was adjourned at **8:35 P.M.**



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Cody Lord - Mayor

**ATTEST:**



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DonNell Ellsworth - Clerk-Treasurer