

Town of Garfield
TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
May 13, 2026 – 7:00 P.M.
Garfield Town Hall
405 W. California St., Garfield

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Cody Lord

ROLL CALL: Council Members: Andrea Mills, Roni Mundell, Jody Opheim Absent: Jason Bankus, and Connie Schaut

Clerk-Treasurer: Donnell Ellsworth **Public Works:** Matt Roper

Guest: Eugene Kobzar

REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING: The regular meeting was called to order at 7:02 P.M.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: There were no comments.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Jody Opheim **MOVED** to approve the minutes for the Regular Town Council meeting on April 22, 2026. Andrea Mills **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.**

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

Matt Roper was present at the meeting.

The John Deere zero turn mower has gone in for repairs and will be delivered on Thursday, May 14.

WATER/SEWER:

Matt updated the town council members that he and Walt are all caught up with the cleaning and day-to-day maintenance at the wastewater treatment plant. He also informed everyone that they now have a weekly schedule to keep them on track, and that they have been using the new scheduling for two weeks, and it seems to be going well.

PARK/GARBAGE/STREET:

The town had two volunteers who showed up for the town clean-up. The park looks really good. Matt has swept the streets to get ready for May Day.

OLD BUSINESS:

TRIGGS AFFIDAVIT: Mayor Lord explained to the town council that this is the recommended affidavit by Eric Hanson. This affidavit will always stay with the property even if the property sales. The mayor asked the council if they will approve of the mayor signing.

Roni Mundell **MOVED** of the mayor signing the affidavit with approval from the interim town attorney Stephen Bishop. Andrea Mills **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.**

GARBAGE DEPARTMENT-CONTRACTOR SELECTION: Mayor Lord notified the town council that Empire Disposal had sent an email stating that they asked the WUTC for a 7% increase, which was approved; Pullman Disposal asked the WUTC for a 1.5% increase, which was also approved.

The council deliberated on who they felt would be a better choice for the third-party garbage contractor. During the discussion, three key points were brought up: first, Pullman would give a 90-day opt-out, which Empire could not accommodate; second, Pullman's rates are slightly less than Empire's; and finally, Empire would now be increasing rates another 7%, whereas Pullman would only be increasing them by 1.5% at this time. The mayor asked the council if they are ready to vote.

Roni Mundell **MOVED** to select Pullman Disposal as the third-party contractor that Garfield will be selecting to provide garbage service. Andrea Mills **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.**

Mayor Lord also reminded everyone that the town will need to change its Garbage Ordinance and fee resolution. The council will also need to start thinking about what they want to do with the garbage truck once the 90 days are up. He also reminded everyone that the town still has the police cruiser to surplus. Roni stated that she would ask Matt to report his observations on how he thinks garbage collection is going before the timeframe is up.

EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK: Mayor Lord stated that DonNell will send out the final version via email.

MAY DAY UPDATES: Mayor Lord informed everyone that the Association of Washington Cities Risk Management Service Agency (AWC/RMSA) suggested that the town have the Community of Garfield Association (CGA) add the town as an additional insured party. The town will pay the \$100 fee to add the town to CGA's event policy as an additional insured. The council was in favor of this action. Additionally, Inland Fiber Internet will install a router downtown to provide free internet access to guests during the May Day Celebration.

TOWN VOLUNTEER DAY: Mayor Lord announced and thanked Tom Bronson, Melody Jones, Andrea Mills, Casey Elders, and staff for all the time and labor to clean-up the park, picnic tables, and the Methodist Church. He also thanked Janna Roper of Grumpy's Tavern for providing lunch for the volunteers.

NEW BUSINESS:

TOWN ASSETS MAINTENANCE & IMPROVEMENTS: Mayor Lord stated that Palouse Contracting donated 35 gallons of paint for improvements at the park. He also shared that Greg Partch received a donation to repair the awning on the restaurant, and Ed-Ka Manufacturing is

completing this project in preparation for May Day. Additionally, the mayor recommended that the town consider using more reserve funds to repair the two pumps at the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP).

MANHOLES: Mayor Lord stated that Matt and Walt have started to locate the leaky manholes. Matt has found one close to the creek which is some of the I&I issues. They will start on a plan to get them repaired.

FINANCIAL:

Approval of Checks:

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

Payroll:

Checks: 17166-17171, AWC, DRS, EFTPS, & HRA-VEBA **Total = \$15,230.58**

Claims:

Checks: 17172-17197 **Total = \$46,161.43**

Total Claims and Payroll = \$61,392.01

MAYORS' COMMENTS:

JUB MEETING: Mayor Lord updated the council regarding his meeting with Steven Schramm, noting that funding for the facility planning has been completely exhausted. The meeting with the Department of Ecology (DOE) failed to provide any additional information regarding future discharge limits. This lack of future direction makes it difficult for our engineers to complete the facility plan. The mayor reminded the council that the town's discharge permit has been expired for the last eleven years, and not knowing what the future limits will be makes designing a new facility nearly impossible.

CONGRESSMAN BAUMGARTNER: Mayor Lord reported that his recent meeting went well. However, Congressman Baumgartner noted that there is no federal money is available at this time due to the national deficit. He suggested reaching out to Senator Murray and Cantwell's offices for assistance with support in talking regulatory limits with the Department of Ecology. Furthermore, the mayor emphasized that Matt and Walt need to invest more time in the Wastewater Treatment Plant to extend its operational lifespan. Dedicating more time will also provide the opportunity needed to repair the aeration basin. The mayor has already followed up with the Baumgartner's office.

PORT OF WHITMAN: Mayor Lord reached out to the port regarding assisting with the meeting with DOE and the port has connected us with Carlson consulting. Carlson Consulting has sent over the capital budget playbook on working with our legislature. Which will help the town get familiar

with the legislature process.

FARM METER: Mayor Lord stated that while Brett, with JUB, was here to meet with Congressman Baumgartner he noticed that our farm meter has a backflow preventor, but it is not the correct type of meter. HD Fowler gave the bid of \$1,000+.

NUISANCE LETTERS: Mayor Lord stated that the town has sent out two letters. One property owner was asked to move their vehicles back onto their property and out of the right-a-way. The other property owner was asked to start removing all the dead grass, weeds, and other fire hazards as well as being asked to clean up the trash that is along one side of his property.

GMA PUG: Mayor Lord stated that all three deliverables have been completed and sent in and that the town has already received the funds.

AWC/RMSA: Mayor Lord stated that a representative from AWC/RMSA will be coming to town hall on May 28th or 29th to walk around and access the town properties.

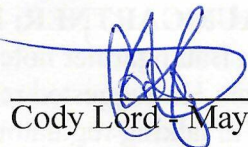
TOWN RESTAURANT: Mayor Lord stated that Greg Partch has found someone that wants to put a non-profit soup kitchen for the elderly, disabled. They either want to lease the building or possibly purchase. They have been asked to come and give a brief presentation to the council.

GRUMPYS TAVERN: Mayor Lord stated that Grumpy's Tavern is renewing their liquor license and needs council's approval. Andrea Mills **MOVED** to approve allowing the liquor license for Grumpy's Tavern. Jody Opheim **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.**

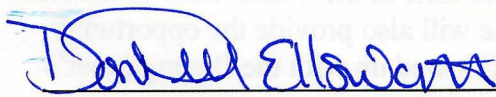
CANNIBIS LICENSE: Mayor Lord notified the council that the legal cannabis license in town has been sold and is no longer operating within Garfield.

ADJOURN:

Jody Opheim **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. Andrea Mills **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.** The council meeting was adjourned at **7:45 P.M.**


Cody Lord Mayor

ATTEST:


Donnell Ellsworth - Clerk-Treasurer