

***Town of Garfield***  
**TOWN COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**May 27, 2026 – 7:00 P.M.**  
**Garfield Town Hall**  
**405 W. California St., Garfield**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Cody Lord

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

**Clerk-Treasurer:** Donnell Ellsworth **Public Works:** Walt Fealy

**Guest:** Michael Slavish and Neal Leon

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

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** There were no comments.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:**

Andrea Mills **MOVED** to approve the minutes for the Regular Town Council meeting on May 13, 2026. Roni Mundell **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.**

**PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:**

Walt Fealy was present.

**WATER/SEWER:**

The computer board for Well #4 is malfunctioning, and KME is scheduled to inspect it next week.

The Wastewater Treatment Plant is operating smoothly and has returned to normal, the polishing pond level has risen approximately 6 inches.

A sewer line collapsed between 3rd and 4th Street; Public Works repaired the break, but a blockage remains.

Because the blockage consists mostly of wipes, Walt and Roni Mundell recommended sending a town-wide reminder about what not to flush.

A second sewer line collapse occurred near Larry Warner's house on South 3rd Street, which may involve shared town and property owner responsibility. Roach jetted and camera-inspected the line, and Public Works is investigating further.

Matt has the sewer jetter up and running, but the equipment still needs some additional

maintenance work.

**PARK/GARBAGE/STREET:**

The John Deere lawn mower was returned from the shop, and all repair costs were fully covered under warranty.

No updates were reported for streets or garbage during this session.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**GARBAGE DEPARTMENT-PULLMAN DISPOSAL LETTER:** Mayor Lord asked the town council if the notification letter that is being sent to residents discussing the change to Pullman Disposal should include the approved \$4.24 residential fee. This fee would cover costs associated with metal recycling and compost operations. Mayor Lord then informed the council that Pullman Disposal is scheduled to begin service on either June 30 or July 7. Bishop Law is expected to have the new garbage ordinance ready for the updated billing cycle by June 30. Mayor Lord asked the council if those dates work and everyone agreed.

The council then discussed two cart management options presented by Pullman Disposal: utilizing the town's existing 65-gallon carts or replacing them with Pullman's inventory. If the town chooses to switch to Pullman's carts, the current town carts must be cleaned, and the wheels removed for stacking and storage. Mayor Lord noted that a professional company could wash the carts for over \$4,000, or the town could hire a local individual for the job. Jason Bankus stated that by keeping the town's carts, the town will avoid cost of the cleaning and the burden of storing the old carts. The council agreed upon. Walt suggested including a notice in the letter stating that residents possessing two carts will be billed accordingly moving forward.

Mayor Lord stated that Pullman Disposal plans to conduct an assessment of current customers and will contact each resident individually to determine their specific service needs. Guest Michael Slavish asked if there would be an extra fee for using Pullman's carts. Mayor Lord confirmed that the cart fees are already included in the base utility rates.

**TRIGGS ALLEY:** Mayor Lord reported that the Triggs' retained an attorney to draft an affidavit preserving the town's right of access to the alleyway. The Triggs' attorney previously recorded the original affidavit against the advice of Town Attorney Stephen Bishop. Samantha, at Bishop Law revised the document to include Stephen's recommended changes, and Larry and Pamela Triggs have signed the new version. Mayor Lord asked the council if they reviewed and approved the revised language, noting the document must now be recorded with the Whitman County Auditor's Office.

Mayor Lord asked the council for approval for the town to pay the recording fee for the corrected affidavit. Jason Bankus questioned why the town should absorb this cost. Mayor Lord explained that because the Triggs' paid the initial filing fee and because the revised document reflects the language to fully protect the town, covering the correction fee seemed reasonable, though he could request that the Triggs pay it. Guest Neal Leon raised concerns regarding allowing the Triggs' structure to remain within the town easement. Mayor Lord then asked the council if they were ready to vote on the matter.

Roni Mundell **MOVED** to pass the affidavit and record with the county. Andrea Mills **seconded**

**the motion**, Jason Bankus voted **NO**, Connie Schaut voted **NO**, both asked for more clarification. Jason took issue with the wording: In the event the improvement is found to be located on the right-of-way and not within the Property..... and thinks it should reflect that they **are** located in the right-of way. Mayor Lord explained the language was probably left vague since there is no official town survey and one would need to be completed to make it a definitive statement. Mayor Lord will confirm with Bishop Law Office and provide a statement to councilmembers Schaut and Bankus on the reason for the chosen text.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**PRWA-GRANT MEETING MAY 28, AT 3:00 P.M.:** Mayor Lord notified the town council that he will be having a meeting on Thursday, May 28, at 3:00 P.M., with Staci from Partners of Rural Washington. He invited two council members to attend to not violate the OPMA. This meeting is to discuss current and future infrastructure. Andrea, Connie, and Jason said tentatively they can be there.

**AWC/RMSA:** Mayor Lord also reminded everyone that he is having a meeting on Friday, May 29, with Andrea Luper, with RMSA. Mayor Lord said that the town has some excessive liability coverage on the decommissioned water tower on South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and on the old chemical building at the WWTP which is now just storage. He asked if the council wants to change the coverage on these two items. The town would change the value to either replacement to cash. Mayor Lord will gather information and bring it back to the council.

**OPEN CLERK/TREASURER POSITION:** Mayor Lord stated that DonNell has resigned from her position and he has someone in mind to take the clerk/treasurer position. He asked the council to approve the training wage at \$25 per hour during the training and trial period.

**RESOLUTION 2026-08: SALARY SCHEDULE 2026:** Andrea Mills **MOVED** to approve and adopt Resolution 2026-08, Setting the Salary Schedule. Connie Schaut **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.**

**RECYCLING AND COMPOSTING TRUCK:** Mayor Lord notified everyone that the blue recycling bin is a service paid for by a grant ran through Whitman County Landfill. Unfortunately, their truck has not yet been repaired. Pullman Disposal will start hauling the compost bins as town has a budget for it. Mayor Lord also reminded that the town does not have a budget to haul the recycling and asked if the council would approve that the town pay for Pullman Disposal to haul it.

Andrea Mills **MOVED** to remove the recycling bin, pay the tipping, and hauling fees and hold off bringing the bin back, while also closing the metal and regular recycling until further notice. Roni Mundell **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.**

#### **FINANCIAL:**

##### Approval of Checks:

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

**Payroll:**

Checks: 17198-17201

**Total = \$5,700.36**

**Claims:**

Checks: EFT-DOR, 17202-17213

**Total = \$20,461.89**

**Total Claims and Payroll = \$26,162.25**

**MAYORS' COMMENTS:**


**RESTAURANT MEETING:** Mayor Lord will have a meeting on Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup> with the potential future tenant of the restaurant. They want to discuss possibly leasing or lease to purchase the building. Connie and Jason said that they can meet at 3:30 P.M.


**FACILITY PLAN:** Mayor Lord stated that Steven Schramm with JUB has talked with Diana Washington, with Department of Ecology and she has confirmed the town should be forecasting what is believed to be in the next permit, based on water quality criteria, and evaluating a preferred alternative based on those limits. This may change the preferred alternatives and options for treatment, so JUB will be revising the plan for finalization.

**ADJOURN:**

Connie Schaut **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. Roni Mundell **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.** The council meeting was adjourned at 7:57 P.M.

**ATTEST:**

  
Donnell Ellsworth - Clerk-Treasurer

  
Cody Lord - Mayor