

Town of Garfield
TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
June 24th, 2026, at 7:00 P.M.
Town Hall
405 W. California

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Cody Lord

Regular Town Council Meeting: the regular meeting was called to order at 7pm.

ROLL CALL: Council members: Jody Opheim, Roni Mundell and Andrea Mills. Clerk-Treasurer: Rebecca Pfaff and Public Works: Matt Roper

Guests:

Alan and Mary Lewis read a letter on behalf of Noah and Lydia Hutton regarding the alley right-of-way off of Jefferson St. Ronnie Mundell read an update regarding the details of the alley and Jefferson St. Mayor Lord stated that they are currently in process of getting the estate deed from the homeowner with the gate that has been in question on this street/alley.

JUB Engineering presented action items pertaining to the possibility of a mixing zone and collecting data for analysis for said zone. The changing limits that are impacted will be ammonia and temperature. Ronnie Mundell was concerned with the cost of implementation versus repairs overtime, and she requested an evaluation of the plant. Mayor Lord asked about the possibility of a public hearing for JUB to present to the citizens of Garfield.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: June 10th, 2026, Regular Town Council Meeting. Andrea Mills **MOVED** to approve June 10th, 2026, Regular Town Council meeting minutes. Roni Mundell **seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.**

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

Water: The telemetry system went down while we were scheduling for well# 4 to be repaired. The clay valve is now repaired and serviced and operating as intended. This needs to be done every 5 years going forward. Public works is also fixing water leaks at restaurant, and in the bathroom, there will be some dry wall repairs needed.

Sewer: Fixed sewer plug on 4th St, some additional fill and compaction is needed before the fence can go back up. Water and sewer hook-ups on Adams are finished. Matt gave his opinion on sewer plant and he wants to order the two additional pumps that are needed. Mayor Lord agreed and said at the August meeting he would like to talk about ordering these pumps.

Garbage: Last garbage route will be on Monday and Pullman Disposal will take over garbage service on Tuesday June 30th.

Streets: A repair on the mini excavator track is needed, the second one broke, Matt is working on this quote.

Park: The park will be fully serviced for the July 4th potluck.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Resolution 2026-09 Revised Pay Resolution**

Mayor Lord suggested a Clerk-Treasurer rate of pay of \$3,750.00 a month for 32 hours in office. This would equate to a \$45,000 annual salary. Mayor Lord has confidence that this rate is fair to both the town and the Clerk-Treasurer. Mayor Lord presented data on wages around the state in comparison. Jody Opheim works with PRWA and says there is a shortage of experienced clerk-treasurers throughout the state and rural communities, and this seems like a reasonable rate for the position. Another town she had spoken with on the westside had 25 applicants, 2 had limited experience and their starting rate of pay was \$33 to \$34 an hour. Andrea Mills **MOVED** to approve Resolution 2026-09 adopting the pay scale for the Clerk-Treasurer position. Roni Mundell **seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.**

- **Water Department Issues, Clay Valve on Well #4 Repair, Telemetry System Issues.** Mayor Lord states that the main clay valve is now in working condition. Maintenance will be scheduled every 5 years to get on rotation with the smaller valves. This isolation should take care of the system overload and system re-pressurization issues. KME recommends standpipes with pressure reliefs that would assist in hammering and air in the system. The telemetry system is outdated and KME will put the public works department in contact with ControlFreak of Spokane and they will continue to look for other options. This updating will be costly, last time was around \$5,000 just to reprogram the components that were in the system.
- The garbage rate ordinance will be drafted and ready for the next council meeting. Stephen Bishop reviewed everything needed for the operational side the garbage department changes and we are set for Pullman Disposal to conduct their first collection on June 30th. The notification for the rate change went out to all residents and businesses on June 11th, so the required notification time needed for the customers has been fulfilled.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Whitman County has completed their 5-year comprehensive solid waste plan. The town has an interlocal agreement with Whitman County landfill to conduct

the solid waste plan every 5 years and we follow their plan. Once Pullman Disposal takes place, they will also work within the Whitman County comprehensive solid waste plan. Council was in support of the mayor signing the interlocal agreement with Whitman County. Roni Mundell **MOVED** to authorize the mayor to sign the Whitman County Interlocal Agreement, management of their solid waste plan 2025-2030. Andrea Mills **seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.**

- Resolution 2026-12 The resolution is the town adopting the solid waste management place with Whitman County. Jody Opheim **MOVED** to approve Resolution 2026-12 to approve the Whitman County solid waste plan 2025-2030. Andrea Mills **seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.**

- **Resolution 2026-11 Inter-agency Police Cruiser Surplus**

The resolution is to declare the police cruiser as surplus and designate another municipality as the agency interested in purchasing the police cruiser. The City of Colfax will pay \$9,000 and provide two influent well vacuums within the next year. Andrea Mills **MOVED** to approve Resolution 2026-11 authoring to surplus the town's police cruiser to the City of Colfax for \$9,000. Roni Mundell **seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.**

- Mayor Pro-tem, Mayor Lord thanked Andrea Mills for acting Mayor Pro-tem for the last 6 months. We need to nominate a new council member to step into this role and add their name to the bank signature card. Mayor Lord would like to nominate Roni Mundell. Motion needed for banking purposes. Responsibility will commence July 9th after the minutes are signed. Andrea Mills **MOVED** to nominate Council Member Roni Mundell to be Mayor Pro-tem for the next 6 months. Jody Opheim **seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.**

Andrea Mills addressed the grant for safety signage being used for a reduced speed zone north of Garfield. Public works will look to see how the situation can be improved.

The library will be closed the week of Aug 3rd to 7th. Andrea Mills requested to have carpets cleaned in Library, as well as in community center.

FINANCIAL: Approval of bills to be paid

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: 17240-17244

Total = \$9,395.63

Claims:

Checks: 17245-17250

Total = \$6,097.38

Total Claims and Payroll = \$15,493.01

MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

Whitman County is seeking a Letter of Support for the Fairground electrical updates and water infrastructure. They are seeking \$776,000 in grants and the grounds generate about \$7.25 million in annual revenue. Council was in support of Mayor Lord drafting a letter to send.

Fire Department has requested they be able to add lines outside the doors of the fire station for better guidance. Especially when the sun is behind them it makes it harder to line the trucks up with the tight entrance and roll back without hitting anything. Mayor Lord will get more details about the location and pattern they are wanting to paint.

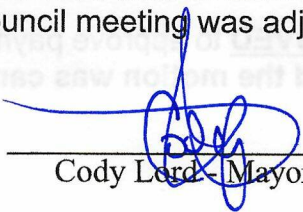
Mayor Lord inquired whether any 4th of July restrictions needed to be put into place? Council elected to enforce Washington State laws for fireworks and place the 400 foot no firework radius around Ladow Court. The public will be notified of these recommendations. There will be a 4th of July potluck in the park from 1-5 pm. Bring a side dish and a BBQ. Roni suggests asking the community citizens about their ideas for the 4th of July in the future.

The AWC Safety Grant for \$2,100.00 for improved signage in town has been approved. If there are street signs you see that need replaced, or if there are signs that can be added to improve safety, please let us know which ones. We have until August to spend the funds and get reimbursed.

Council will go into Executive Session RCW 42.30.110 (g) to review the performance of a public employee. 5 minutes needed and the meeting will commence after the 5 mins has expired. Everyone but the mayor and council exit the meeting and the Executive Session started at 8:40 pm. The mayor notified the public and clerk that an additional 5 minutes was needed and extended to 8:50 pm.

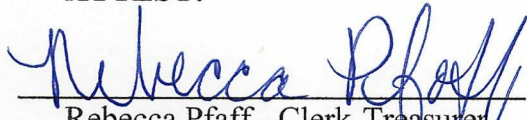
ADJOURN:

Jody Opheim **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. Andrea Mills **seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.** The council meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.



Cody Lord - Mayor

ATTEST:


Rebecca Pfaff - Clerk-Treasurer