

Town of Garfield
TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
July 8th, 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: Jodi Opheim, Jason Bankus, Roni Mundell, Connie Schaut and Andrea Mills. Clerk-Treasurer: Rebecca Pfaff and Public Works: Matt Roper

Guests: Tiffany Fiore and daughter, Michael Slavish

JUB Engineering

A review and informational tour of the Garfield WWTP with Andrea Mills and Roni Mundell was held July 8th, 2026 with JUB. Mayor Lord, Rebecca Pfaff and Matt Roper were also present. JUB engineers offered explanations of the plant issues and how WWTP functions. Hoping to offer clarification on several WWTP questions, the tour assisted with informed decision making moving forward. Mayor Lord says we have until the end of the year to decide on facility plan.

JUB presented 3 draft proposals, with aerial views, of WWTP alternatives for the Town of Garfield. Council members, Mayor Lord and town Public Works supervisor Matt Roper had many questions aimed towards cost and efficiency of each proposed facility plan. In partnership, the Town of Garfield, with JUB, proposed a workshop to further clarify and inform Garfield residents of upcoming WWTP needs and changes.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: June 24th, 2026, Regular Town Council Meeting. Andrea Mills **MOVED** to approve June 24th, 2026, Regular Town Council meeting minutes. Connie Schaut **seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.**

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: Matt Roper was present.

Water: There was a new water line issue for hookup on California Street which needed a retro fit. The connection was difficult to deal with, but the connection is made.

Andrea Mills asked why there is so much water in the park, why it so wet? Matt will turn sprinklers down and regulate them for better application.

Sewer: JUB has pulled the flow meters to work on a diff solution. Matt will be ordering 3 temp gauges to track temp and effluent flow from the pond. 7th & Spokane sewer clog is jetted and fixed on the town side. Trying to catch get back up at WWTP with the biosolids. The screen room needs some update and alarms for hydrogen sulfide, look at venting for future safety requirements.

Garbage: Recycling update, no current updates, the county is still working on the problem, as well as Pullman Disposal putting some thought into the situation.

Streets: The mini excavator has broken another track, possibly found a dealer in Moscow that can save the town about \$600 on the track. Matt has ordered the equipment for tracing storm drains and sewer lines. Will assist in getting mapping updated to be more accurate on locating.

Park: Flags were put up, the park was cleaned for 4th. Park lighting issue, might need more lights in park says Mayor Lord. Will look at creative lighting, while Jody Opheim says there might be some grant funding for the cause.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Pullman Disposal Updates** Mayor Lord reported that everything is going smoothly with transition to Pullman Disposal Service. All cart and dumpster updates are being completed, with PDS being super attentive to the account changes. Routes are going very smoothly for them. Clerk-Treasurer Rebecca Pfaff and Mayor Lord will visit Jerott Dixon with PDS next week to work through the billing details. Making sure the current billing system and billing timeline will work with the town's billing timeline is essential. This will be the final hurdle in this two-step process.

8th and California street, regarding the tenant at this property. The resident was asked to purchase building permit, for 6-month grace period, to be on property in current condition. The resident did not purchase said permit. There have been verbal complaints at city hall, Mayor Lord has taken all written and verbal complaints into consideration and has visited with the residents. Council suggested being proactive in this situation and will view the property in question before the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Resolution 2026-13 Street Levy Resolution**

Mayor Lord asks the council if they would like to run the same figure for the Street Levy in the 2026 General Election. Last year was \$72,000, which equates to an estimated \$2.24 per thousand for the tax paying citizens of Garfield. This money is used for street repair and maintenance, to power streets lights, purchase supplies, labor and mechanical and repair for vehicles. Connie Schaut **MOVED** to adopt Resolution 2026-13 setting the Street Levy amount to be placed on the General

Election Ballot in November. Andrea Mills **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.**

- **Ordinance 506 Garbage Rate Setting Ordinance** All council members read the contents of the ordinance. Mayor Lord explains this is the final action to start garage rates changing for the next billing cycle. Jody Opheim **MOVED** to adopt Ordinance 506 setting the rates for Pullman Disposal to conduct garbage collection. Connie Schaut **seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.**
- **July 4th celebration** at the park, Andrea Mills provided an update and said almost 90 people attended the event. There was a great response for the citizens and a great start to improve on each year. Mayor Lord thanked Andrea for hosting the event.

FINANCIAL: Approval of bills to be paid

Approval of Checks:

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

Payroll:

Checks: 17251-17255 + EFTPS, AWC

Total = \$13,939.23

Claims:

Checks: 17256-17273

Total = \$27,178.41

Total Claims and Payroll = \$41,117.64

MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

- **DOE Meeting** The Dept. Of Ecology conducted a site visit at 9 am and the visit went very well. They were happy with how the improvements are being made to the operation and cleanliness of the plant and encouraged to hear about an engaged council for the future changes to the plant. Likely, the next site visit will not need to be conducted until the update to the sewer permit in 2.5 years time.

Mayor Lord stated there is a new process to begin reporting sewage spills from all domestic wastewater facility and these issues will be public facing on the DOE website.

- Palouse Hills and Slocum are submitting bids for RV Park and North of town site for possible building sites for the fire department. Connie Schaut asked if we have a list of all town owned parcels? Mayor Lord replied yes that he will get that information to her. Jody Opheim questioned how much is left on the RV park loan and the clerk/treasurer will get this figure for her at the next meeting. Mayor Lord said he will get together a presentation of available build site options and costs to retrofit properties to make sure a sound decision is made with public funds before committing to more debt.
- **DOH Water Survey Deadline Violation.** There was a report that was due by November of last year, correcting actions the DOH found issue with on their inspection. The corrections were made immediately after the visit; however, the information was not passed back to DOH. This information is now updated with them and compliance has been granted.
- **SAM.gov was never renewed.** The Federal and State Grants are issued through verification that is done on the Sam.gov portal. Town hall received notice this wasn't completed and expired. The clerk will change over her contact details and update the appropriate information.

Council will go into Executive Session RCW 42.30.110 (g) to review the performance of a public employee. 10 minutes needed and the meeting will commence after the 10 mins has expired. Everyone but the mayor and council will exit the meeting and the Executive Session started at 8:35 pm. Executive Session ended at 8:45pm.

ADJOURN:

Jason Bankus **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. Roni Mundell **seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.** The council meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

ATTEST:

Cody Lord – Mayor

Rebecca Pfaff - Clerk-Treasure