

Town of Garfield
TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
September 9th, 2026, at 7:00 P.M.
Town Hall
405 W. California

CALL TO ORDER: the regular meeting was called to order at 7pm

ROLL CALL: Council members: Jody Opheim, Roni Mundell (phone in), Bruce Roper and Michael Slavish. Clerk-Treasurer: Rebecca Pfaff with guest Clerk/Treasurer Barb Dial-Flomer Excused Absence: Andrea Mills

Guests: Betty Walden & Abel Rushing

Betty Walden Presented the following needs of the GCA regarding Harvest Festival Sept. 26th, 2026

The committee will need the following from the town:

- 6 picnic tables
 - 4 garbage cans
 - 6 blue barrels for water and the beer garden
 - Orange fencing
 - Yellow barricades for street closures
- The street will be shut off near the café, by the Fellowship Church & by LaDaw Court. Also, fire trucks will block the highway for the event.
 - If it rains, the band will perform at the fire station.
 - Event insurance has been obtained.

GCA Scheduled Christmas Party for **December 5, 2026**, at the school.

REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING:

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: August 26th, 2026, Regular Town Council Meeting Michael Slavish **MOVED** to approve minutes
Roni Mundell **seconded the motion**

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

Grant

- A **\$2,100 LOSS prevention grant from AWC** was received for signs, barricades, cones, and other useful safety items.

Water

- Chlorinators at the well have been repaired.
- **Well #3** had a power issue today; the meter base was melted. The repair estimate is approximately **\$2,000**. One additional quote is needed.
- **10th Street, culvert, and water leak repairs** will begin next week.
- **35 feet of water line** was replaced at Warner's house; the work is expected to be finalized tomorrow.

Sewer

- The sewer backed up last week and again today. Matt will jet the sewer line.

Streets

- Cardboard and scrap-metal bins are back and will be emptied this week.
- The snowplow will be taken to **EdKa's** for a repair quote.
- The town is working to get the compost cleaned out and keep the steel bins emptied regularly.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Bike Helmets

Michael Slavish provided an update on bike helmets, stating that he expects to know by October 27 whether Walmart will donate helmets. He also noted that Washington currently does not have a statewide bicycle helmet law and expressed his opinion that a helmet law is needed. Sherriff Meyers will support whatever council decides regarding the helmet law.

- Update on Electrical Boxes at the Fire Station

We are currently in a holding pattern until the next meeting, when complete information and estimates from Avista are expected to be available.

- Verizon Tower Update

We have received a bid from Verizon regarding payment for use of the town's property. The proposed lease is estimated to generate between **\$1,800 and \$2,200 in monthly income**.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Budget workshop at town hall, open to the public 9/16 at 7 pm.

A budget workshop will be held at Town Hall on **September 16 at 7:00 PM** and will be open to the public. Council members **Jody, Michael, and Bruce** have all agreed to attend the meeting.

- Preliminary Budget Hearing 9/23/26 at 7 pm.

A preliminary budget hearing will be held on **September 23 at 7:00 PM**. The purpose of the hearing will be to review a preliminary budget that is as accurate and close to the final figures as possible.

- Cloud Migration for Springbrook Accounting Software

Our software services are currently stored on our systems, however Springbrook will no longer service the existing storage system and requires a migration to a cloud-based system. The current cost is approximately **\$5,886 per year**, which will increase to approximately **\$11,100 in 2027**. If the town switches to the cloud system now, the cost will be prorated for the remainder of the year. Jody suggested looking into **grant funding** to help cover the cost of the cloud migration.

Jody Opheim **MOVED** to approve upgrade for Springbrook Michael Slavish **seconded the motion**

- 8th Month Garfield Task/Project update

***See Attachment**

FINANCIAL: Approval of bills to be paid

CLAIMS: Checks 17330-17342	\$32,907.69
PAYROLL: Checks 17326-17329	\$3,146.03
EFT's: AWC, EFTPS and DRS	<u>\$8,331.76</u>
	\$44,385.48

Michael Slavish **MOVED** to approve bills Jody Opheim **seconded the motion**

MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

Code Violation Letters sent

- ***RV Violation on 8th and California***
- ***Trailer Nuisance on 5th and Main***
- ***Weeds overgrown and Line of Sight Issues Hwy and Spokane***
- ***Weeds Overgrown at 5th and Main and 3rd and Adams***
- ***Retaining Wall Dreis on Hwy and Adams***

Property owners were given until the end of September to address the identified issues before a second notice is issued.

DOE Conversation/Visited with Fairfield at their Lagoons/Scheduling a meeting with Andy O'Neil

Matt, and Cody will discuss with Andy O'Neill (DOE Technical Advisor) the possibility of using lagoons for the sewer project. This option could provide significant cost savings, with an estimated cost of approximately **\$5 million compared to \$25 million** for the alternative.

IACC Conference is coming up in October in Wenatchee.

Mayor Cody Lord will be attending along with Matt Roper PW Supervisor and encourages any council member wanting to attend to please let us know so we can get registration completed.

Periodic Updates Grant

The second half of the scope of work for the Department of Commerce grant is ready to commence, and the council was asked if there were any concerns with moving forward

to complete the plan. SCJ Alliance will conduct the work, and the council can discuss whether additional work is needed, including consideration of data center moratoriums or restrictions.

Ballot for General Election

The Garfield general election ballot includes one town proposition for a **street levy**. However, the ballot is causing confusion among citizens because the Parks and Recreation District and Cemetery District also have propositions. It was clarified that these are separate entities and their propositions are not affiliated with the Town of Garfield.

ADJOURN: Jody Opheim **MOVED** to adjourn Bruce Roper **seconded the motion**
Meeting closed at 8:30pm

ATTEST:

Cody Lord – Mayor

Rebecca Pfaff - Clerk-Treasurer