

Town of Garfield
TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 27, 2011

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Jarrod Pfaff called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Jarrod Pfaff, Andrew Flodin, Larry Hunt, and Tim Southern. Staff – Public Works Superintendent Bill Bowman, Police Chief Jerry Neumann, and Clerk/Treasurer Annie Pillers. Absent: Daymon Marple and Sharon Schnebly.

GUESTS:

Water Leak: Charles Lantzy addressed council about a water leak he had this winter while he was gone for a couple of months. His basement was full of water. Perry Brown had contacted him and confirmed the overage was about \$450.00. Charles explained the leak was from the main to the house, an offshoot to the watering sprinkler – stop and waste. There was a bad spot in the pipe. He had checked and his insurance would not cover the damage as he did not have flood insurance. He asked if council would consider some relief on his bill. Tim Southern **MOVED** to cut the water overage bill in half. Larry Hunt seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. Charles Lantzy left at 7:09 pm.

Postal Service: Rich Landers addressed council in his capacity as a person with a Garfield Address. He gave an update on changes in the postal service since 1972 when it became a quasi governmental agency. Back then the postal service made money for the government but couldn't make a profit. In 2006 the government reorganized the postal service again and made it more business like. They could now make a profit but in return had some requirements placed on them, including prefunding retirees' healthcare benefits. The postal service is now losing money, but if the prefunded requirement was removed, they would be at break even. He confirmed the Garfield Post Office is not being considered for closure at this time. He left council with information on ways the community could contact Congressional representatives.

PDA: Mayor Pfaff asked Rich Landers to give a quick update on the last PDA meeting. Rich confirmed the PDA is seeking ideas from people and gathering information as to what options to consider at the restaurant. Currently some ideas included a café with a co-op selling crafts, vegetables in summer, maybe a bar in the back. Mayor Pfaff said he liked the ideas and approach the PDA was taking with regard to economic development and felt it would benefit the town. He suggested the town support this financially. Larry Hunt **MOVED** the town financially support the economic development efforts of the PDA with \$2,000 from the Current Expense Reserve Fund. Andrew Flodin seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. Rich Landers left the meeting 7:28 pm.

Alternatives to Violence: Laena Huffaker with Alternatives to Violence of the Palouse (ATVP) addressed council about the services ATVP can offer including advocacy services to those who have experienced violence in their lives and a local support group if there was a need. She announced that April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Andrew Flodin **MOVED** the minutes of March 23, 2011 Regular Meeting and April 13, 2011 Regular Meeting be approved as written. Tim Southern seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

POLICE REPORT: Police Chief Jerry Neumann reported the Town Park signs should be in by the end of next week. The correction from the last council meeting was included. The total bill for both signs was \$295.38 through Signs for Success in Spokane. They also make vehicle stickers for town vehicles. Larry Hunt asked about loose dogs at the park when, for example, playing frisbee with the owner. Chief Neumann said as long as they were responsible and cleaned up after the dog, it was not a problem. Council discussed problems with items taken to the gun club for target practice that then get left, such as old TVs, etc. It was suggested a sign be posted next to the shooting bench that states such activity is totally prohibited – any targets/garbage need to be removed.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: Bill Bowman reported:

1. Potholes – the crew got to lots of the dirt roads and filled in potholes.
2. Street Grading – some grading was done before it started to rain, near California and near Johnson Seed. Next they will try to work on the Ed Ka Road. No work was done at the ditch. There appears to be lots of capacity there. Tim Southern noted the culverts near his place aren't very deep.
3. Sewer Camera – not yet done because of other work, gone for training, sick for a couple of days, and meter reads.
4. BarrTech Tour – Perry Brown attended the Barr Tech tour earlier in the day. Bill was unable to attend due to a long doctor's appointment. Perry will get information on the process and how to get the town bags back. It was estimated there was 6 or 7 years of accumulation at the plant. Mayor Pfaff asked that the sludge be removed by the end of May.
5. WWTP – the plant is running fine but the generator is not wanting to work. It has a John Deere fuel pump. The crew replaced the battery and then the new battery died when cranked. The old battery, although greater than 3 years, still appears to hold a charge. Bill thought there was a problem with the fuel delivery and he was going to talk with Chris McCully.
6. Inflow contractors – contact has been made with a number of contractors but so far all have said it not within their scope of work. Bill thought maybe tomorrow he and Perry would go in and disassemble it and pull off the plate to see if it's something they can do easily. Larry Hunt suggested Eric Hasenhoerl be contacted about possible contractors.
7. Dumpsters – 2 yard dumpsters are about \$600 apiece and are 3 months out. Bill would also contact Ed-Ka.
8. Recycle containers – still waiting to hear back from John Williams with Solid Waste.
9. Street Signs – no poles have been ordered yet. Bill said he still had to check the state regulations for restrictions on the highway. He estimated the cost at \$36 a sign post. It was confirmed at a prior council meeting, council approved purchase of 100 caps and crosses. Council authorized the purchase of 30 12 foot sign posts.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Ordinance No. 400N – Port Fiber Optics Franchise: Mayor Pfaff presented Ordinance No. 400N, granting a nonexclusive telecommunications franchise to the Port of Whitman and other matters properly relating thereto to council for the second reading. Larry Hunt **MOVED** to adopt Ordinance No. 400N granting a nonexclusive telecommunications franchise to the Port of Whitman and other matters properly relating thereto. Andrew Flodin seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. Not sure when will start work.

NEW BUSINESS:

Turf/Tree & Bare Ground Program: Mayor Pfaff suggested tabling until next meeting.

2011 Comprehensive Plan: Council was presented with the proposed 2011 Updated Comprehensive Plan completed by the Planning Commission for council consideration. A public hearing on the 2011 Updated Comprehensive Plan was scheduled for Wednesday, May 25, 2011. Mayor Pfaff said he had reviewed the comprehensive plan and that it looks good.

APPROVAL OF CHECKS: Tim Southern **MOVED** the following bills presented to council for payment. Andrew Flodin seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Check Register #9941-#9945 plus EFTPS Payroll: \$5,254.88

Check Register #9946-#9948 plus DOR EFT Claims: \$7,355.35

TOTAL: \$12,610.23

Annie Pillers updated council on recent conversations with State Bank Northwest about CD interest rates. The previous 15 month CD was earning 1.79% and recently went down to .55%. SBNW was offering 1% interest. The checking account currently earns .25% while the Local Government Investment Pool offers .19%. Council was agreeable to the 1% interest rate and was very appreciative of the consideration extended by State Bank Northwest.

DAYCARE: Mayor Pfaff updated council on the daycare project. He had recently met with Stephen Bishop who suggested an even split between the town, school and church of \$15,000 each. Mayor Pfaff confirmed the he would be meeting with the state auditor next Friday to discuss the project. Larry Hunt noted the project benefits the town and community. It's just like other town programs such as recycling, garbage, the PDA - it's in the town's interest as community to have this daycare. Mayor Pfaff confirmed the bank did approve the town for a loan. Other options included an interfund loan from the water fund. The plan is for a self-sustaining program, but no specific date is set yet. A 3-year minimum was suggested to just get it going. The town could assist with \$6,000 a year.

ADJOURNMENT: Larry Hunt **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 pm. Andrew Flodin seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Jarrold Pfaff, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Annie Pillers, Clerk/Treasurer