

Town of Garfield
TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
June 8, 2011

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Jarrod Pfaff called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

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

GUESTS: Cher Curtis, Alan Lewis (7:14 pm) Cathie May, and Chuck Petras.

1. Water leaks – Cathie May addressed council regarding water leaks in town. She calculated the water leak at her house equated to 8 ounces of water being used every 6 seconds. In a month that equals 1,000 gallons and that's cost a lot of money to keep going. She asked if there were any plans to work on this in the near future. Mayor Pfaff explained the town is getting to them in the order of severity of the leak. He said there were 3 more leaks to be fixed and estimated Cathie would be the next or 2nd one to be fixed. She said it's been frustrating to watch the water go into the storm drain and that this leak has been there a couple of years. Mayor Pfaff said the town was not happy at how long it was taking too, but the ground needs to be dry first.

2. Public Works hours/projects – Cher Curtis asked about the hours that the public works crew is working. Bill Bowman indicated they work 10 hours days. She noted it's discouraging to see the work that needs to be done and that they are off at 2 pm. They often start at 4 am. She felt people needed to see them and at that time nobody sees them, and things are not getting done. Mayor Pfaff explained the town decided to go to 4-10s because they could get more done during the week, such as water leaks that take a longer time to get fixed. He said he realized they were not as visible. Bill starts his day at the WWTP and Perry does the water and works on equipment at the shop when he starts. Perry has been busying mowing lately. Mayor Pfaff noted the WWTP has been taking lots of time as there were things in various degrees of disrepair. He also said he felt like the crew was getting more done. They have been asked to do more work in-house, such as asphalt patching, grading streets, etc. He would like to see everything done in-house. Cher noticed the cardboard has not been kept up. Bill confirmed yesterday he finished all the recycling inside the building and now had room for working on the stuff outside. Cher asked about supervision. Mayor Pfaff confirmed he checked in with the crew 2 or 3 times a week and that Larry Hunt and Tim Southern also keep an eye out as to how things are going. Tim Southern noted this was the time to consider running for council or coming down to council meetings regularly. Larry Hunt asked about the timecards and if the crew kept track of the work they were doing. It was clarified they record total hours worked in a day.

3. Joint Meeting Town Council and Rural Fire District Commissioners – Firefighter Chuck Petras proposed the idea of the Town Council and the Rural Fire District Commissioners meeting jointly for a planning session. He suggested at 6 pm the 2nd meeting of the month, not necessarily this month. Council was agreeable and proposed 6 PM, Wednesday July 27th at the community center. It was noted Fire Chief McCully has taken a new position and works 4 weeks on and 2 weeks off. He is working out of town.

4. 10th Street Grading - Alan Lewis addressed council regarding his displeasure with the recent grading of 10th Street. He said at one time they owned 10th Street, now they don't own it and that it hasn't been plowed in 20 years. He doesn't want to have to clean it up now after the grading. He said there were piles of dirt in his driveway. Bill Bowman confirmed he was not done yet and would be back up there. He said nothing was left blocking the driveway. Mayor Pfaff confirmed once the grading is done, it will be fixed. Alan Lewis left the meeting.

POLICE REPORT: Police Chief Neumann submitted the Activity Log. He said things have picked up with the weather. Cher Curtis asked about picking up the junk cars around town. It was agreed with springtime junk cars would need to be rounded up. Chief Neumann said this is an on-going, constant thing. He noted

the junk vehicle ordinance addresses things like running, registration, insurance, signs of operability. Mayor Pfaff asked if they were having any trouble at the park. Chief Neumann indicated no and that school was still in session. He asked if the park rule signs could be installed soon. They need those signs up before they can take enforcement action. He suggested one be placed near the bathroom and one on the other side of the park. Daymon Marple asked about the animal control situation and the alleged rabies. Officer Dentler did follow up and the cat was quarantined for 10 days. It was believed there was no case of rabies and the cat lived. It was also noted there was recent activity and improvement on the public nuisance case, with lots of garbage removed.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

1. Street Sweeping – the streets have been swept so now the sand is off. Now there's a ton a ton of grass to be swept off.

2. Water Leaks – the Neal water leak has been fixed. Bill is still watching to see what happens there as it's a very low soft spot in yard.

3. Compost pile – Bill is getting prices to get the branches hauled away. It's a matter of deciding if that's what the town is going to do. Larry Hunt said he sees Palouse using the town's chipper more than the town does. If the town isn't going to use it, it needs to be sold. He said the compost pile needs to be visited once a week with the backhoe, maybe garbage day and then again late Thursday or Friday. With all the weekend use in the spring, it needs to be checked on Mondays and the pile stirred and the road cleared. Mayor Pfaff talked about getting a price to haul off this year's chips. Last year's stash has dirt in it. Mayor Pfaff would like a price to take the brush unchipped too. Bill said one company has a tub grinder. He will get a price on them chipping too. Larry Hunt said they needed to get on the compost pile ASAP. Bill confirmed Perry had moved the grass pile at the compost pile yesterday.

4. Recycling - surplus WSU recycle containers were picked up for the park. Cathie May noted a garbage needed to be placed back downtown near the hair salon. There is no can down there now and Chris had to bring her can in because people were filling it up. Bill said he could get a can down there tomorrow and also suggested one of the WSU recycle containers be placed there too.

5. WWTP - Carlson Plumbing was putting in the water softener at the plant. Bill is still waiting on the electrician to come back out. He is not sure what they have left to do, maybe one VFD remaining. Bill noted the boiler for the digester at plant is inconsistent and he's waiting on a part. Mayor Pfaff asked about the leads and lags. Bill said this is not done. Last week the winch malfunctioned when working on the project. It needs to be switched around physically. It's wired backwards and crossed over. Daymon Marple complimented Bill for how nice the outside of the plant looks. He was driving by with his wife and she commented how nice it looked. The ponds don't have cattails and thistles in them, the grass is mowed.

6. TIB Street Projects - Bill and Whitman County walked the roads to be repaired under the TIB grant. Whitman County and the Town are on the same page. Whitman County will get it on their schedule the end of this month or next month. Both 3rd Street and 4th Street will be fixed. Bill confirmed they would be doing some cut outs and patch before the seal coat. The county will be doing the seal coating and asphalt and sealing the cracks. The town will buy the asphalt and the county will haul out and lay. Bill will try to catch Eric Hasenoehrl on the 2nd Street schedule. Mayor Pfaff said the project will go curb to curb but there are some drainage issues.

7. Graded Streets – Bill confirmed he had graded some of the dirt roads. He graded the back road going out on 10th Street. Larry Hunt asked who actually owns 10th Street. Mayor Pfaff said last time it came down to that it has to be surveyed. No one knows who owns it. Bill Bowman said there was a common law he knew of before, if a street was allowed to be used as dedicated access, it became one. Larry Hunt said he can't believe for as long as it has been there, it's not a city street. Jerry Neumann left the meeting at 7:33 pm.

8. Fire Siren Repair – the downtown siren has not been looked at by the electrician.

9. Mowing – Larry Hunt asked why the town was still mowing the vacant house/church on California Street and said the town should no longer do this. It is a liability issue and the town does not mow any other private property. He suggested looking into the weed abatement ordinance. He said the owner needs to be notified to take care of it or send her fine. Daymon Marple has a mowing ordinance he has been working on. He will work on it.

10. Public Works Relief Position – Mayor Pfaff suggested with the extra work to be done, that Mike Bridge's work hours be increased until it hits about \$1,000. It was confirmed the Public Works Relief

position earns \$9.50 an hour with no benefits. Larry Hunt suggested an extra 100 hours. Andrew Flodin **MOVED** the Public Works Relief position be authorized for up to 100 hours. Sharon Schnebly seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Ordinance No. 401N – 2011 Comprehensive Plan: Mayor Pfaff

Larry Hunt **MOVED** to adopt Ordinance No. 401N adopting the 2011 Comprehensive Plan. Andrew Flodin seconded the motion and the motion carried.

2. Animal Control: Larry Hunt asked about why not regulating cats and that there needed to be protection from people who live in town that won't take responsibility. Sharon Schnebly said cats coming into the state from out of state must have their vaccinations, but there is no law on current animals in the state having rabies certificates. She thought it was a good idea that the town at least have the license requirement and that it could be voluntary to license a cat. She noted there is a problem too with free range cats and that you get feral cats and who will keep track of those. Larry Hunt said if it was voluntary it was then a waste of the town's time. He said he was just asking questions. He said if the town had an ordinance, he feels it would be necessary to find some way to implement it - an ordinance for dogs and cats that has proof of rabies vaccination. Mayor Pfaff asked about vets calling when an animal has rabies. Sharon Schnebly confirmed a vet does call. Mayor Pfaff said if a vet calls, then it could be enforced. Larry Hunt said that was too late and rabies could have been passed on. He said an ordinance without teeth is no good and suggested 30 days to get proof of vaccination and a fine system - \$100, \$200, \$300 – 3 fines and the cat has to leave. He suggested it be enforced on a complaint basis. Sharon Schnebly agreed. Sharon noted that the Whitman County Humane Society does not take adult cats. Daymon Marple suggested looking into get a low cost vaccination service to come to town.

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

Check Register #9981-#9991 with Spoiled Checks 9981, 9983, 9985 Payroll: \$7,392.66

Check Register #9992-#10013 plus DOR EFT Claims: \$26,402.20 TOTAL: \$33,794.86

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Annie Pillers noted Officer Dentler should be listed in the roll call, not Chief Neumann. Tim Southern **MOVED** the minutes of May 25, 2011, Regular Meeting be approved as corrected. Daymon Marple seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT: Daymon Marple **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm. Sharon Schnebly seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Jarrold Pfaff, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Annie Pillers, Clerk/Treasurer