

**Town of Garfield
TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

**April 14, 2021 - 7:00 PM
405 W California**

Public Phone in Option: 1-574-404-7893 PIN: 132 008 784#

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Pfaff called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

ROLL CALL: Mayor Pfaff, Council Members: Neal Leon, Jesse Parkins, Mike Olsen, Cande Hasenoehrl and Tom Tevlin, Staff: Clerk/Treasurer: Cody Lord, Public Works: Shon Clark, Marshal's Office: Joe Handley Absent:

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST: Eugene Kobzar and Connie Schaut

Eugene Kobzar would like to talk with town council about the limits on chickens. He is new in town and has just over two acres and would like to have more chickens than the 10 that are allowed. He stated that his chickens would be at least 220 feet from any of his neighbors. He is hoping council will consider changing the ordinance pertaining to how much land a property owner has and possibly switch to a per resident limit on chickens. He said for a household of 6 they really should have closer to 20 chickens. Council has said they will be looking over the details of the chicken ordinance in the future and see if it makes sense to tie a chicken limit to size of property or to leave it as written. Tom Tevlin and Jesse Parkins were both in favor of looking over the ordinance again and maybe making alterations to it. Mike Olsen said he is conflicted and about 50/50 but thinks the town should continue with what is written at this time. Cande Hasenoehrl and Neal Leon both support using the ordinance that is currently in place.

Tom thought maybe animal amounts allowed per resident could be a case by case scenario and if a person had the property and made the request to have more than 10 chickens, the town could provide the variance to accommodate. Marshal Handley said they are getting into a very grey zone and if the animal amount is case by case, then anytime he needed to warn or ticket a person about their density of animals, they would likely come to town hall and make a request to be allowed to increase their amounts instead of taking care of the matter. This same scenario would likely happen with other animals. This is a good example, Marshal Handley got a compliant that Eugene had 30 chickens, now he is here at town hall asking to be able to have more chickens. Eugene said he is here because it says to seek council permission within the ordinance. Council will continue to look over the ordinance and see if there are ways to appropriately make changes to the ordinance on behalf of all citizens of the town.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Cande Hasenoehrl **MOVED** to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting March 24th, 2021. Tom Tevlin **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.**

POLICE REPORT: Marshal Handley

Marshal Handley said the Humane Society will be coming to town on Friday to set out some traps to catch stray cats. The cats can have their ears snipped showing they are spayed or neutered. Per the new contract with the Humane Society, the town will be eligible for another spay and neuter clinic this year and then Garfield will alternate 1 per year and 2 per year in a rotation with Palouse. Cande said this is happening rather fast with short notice, Marshal Handley responded in the future they will schedule these events a month ahead of time.

All town clean-up will be happening on April 21st, several properties have received notice that they need to take full advantage of the cleanup or they will likely be facing nuisance issues in the near future. Roger Roper has been asked to get rid of the burnt-out motorhome that is sitting downtown. Steve Lund is doing a decent job of moving vehicles around at the shop downtown and keeping them as tidy as possible.

Mayor Pfaff said he would need a motion to approve or deny the Humane Society contract to address animal control issues within town limits. Cande Hasenoehrl **MOVED** to approve the \$600 annual contract with the Whitman County Humane Society. Jesse Parkins **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.**

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: Shon Clark absent for the evening, Mayor Pfaff reported that all systems were operating as normal.

Water

Operating as normal.

Sewer

Operating as normal.

Garbage

Operating as normal.

Streets

Operating as normal.

NEW BUSINESS:

• **RESOLUTION 2021-07 Street Levy**

Mayor Pfaff said the street levy in the past has been \$62,000 and he would suggest to raise it to \$65,000 to help keep up with inflation on all street related materials. The new cost per thousand would be \$2.67 compared to last year at \$2.59. Neal Leon suggested putting out some kind of notification of what the funds are used for. He has heard residents of Garfield in the past ask why they are paying a street tax and not getting a paved street in return. He thinks they may be unaware that the street levy is just enough to maintain the current streets with repairs and upkeep as well as things like operating streetlights, maintaining and running street equipment, snow removal and other various day to day operational needs of the street department. Cande said each year she would prefer to see one small project tackled in the street department (ideally in downtown where it is noticeable) and also, she would like to see the weeds growing through the cracks in the pavement sprayed out. Neal Leon **MOVED** to approve Resolution 2021-07 authorizing the town to place a levy on the primary ballot in the amount of \$65,000. Cande Hasenoehrl **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.** There is a new Washington State law saying the town needs to form a

committee to write a one paragraph for and against statement to be placed in the voter pamphlet that will be distributed at future elections.

FINANCIAL: Approval of checks

Tom Tevlin **MOVED** to approve payment of bills. Mike Olsen **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.**

Payroll: Checks 14688-14694 & 14722 EFT's AWC / DRS	Total =\$13,513.18
Claims: Checks 14695-14716	Total =\$19,456.95

Total of Payroll & Claims =\$32,970.13

Trans 316 was moved from EFT to Check # 14722 no value difference.

Mayor Pfaff said Dan Gladwill has put in his resignation letter and he will be moving to Florida at the end of June, 2021. The council will have to start the process of looking for a new building inspector for the town. Mayor Pfaff is looking for some options to get the process started.

Neal made a list of ideas that he distributed to the council members and mayor concerning the restaurant space. Neal adds this is a starting point and he hopes that this will get some conversation rolling. There was a vinyl sign made that will be hung in the window of the restaurant soon saying the space is available for lease. Keith Rawls is running some rough numbers for the town so the council can have an idea of what it costs to run a business and what would be left over for the new tenants after operating costs. Tom said he would be in favor of keeping the rent number very low but would expect the tenant to pay all utilities. Cande reminds council the furnace needs to be replaced in the space and thinks she remembers the last big coming in around \$15,000 for replacement. The last appraisal on the building was \$55,000.

Cande said at Palouse's council meeting, they were expressing how hard it is to find pool workers, managers and maintenance help. If anyone knows someone that would be interested in working for the pool, please send them to Cande. Even if they are starting the summer in phase II, they would be able to open within certain parameters. Pool workers would need to be certified and they have to be 15 years of age or older. There was no fire board meeting this evening.

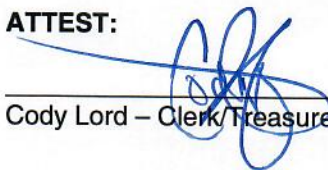
ADJOURN:

Mike Olsen **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. Tom Tevlin seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. The council meeting was adjourned at 7:39 pm.



Jarrod Pfaff – Mayor

ATTEST:



Cody Lord – Clerk/Treasurer