

**Town of Garfield
TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
July 8th, 2020 - 7:00 PM
405 W California
Public Phone in Option: 1 (510)937-0157 PIN: 231 324 366#**

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

ROLL CALL: Mayor Pfaff, Neal Leon, Josh Kelnhofer, Terri Linderman, Cande Hasenoehrl and Tom Tevlin Staff: Cody Lord – Clerk/Treasurer, Public Works: Shon Clark and Mark Phillips Absent:

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST: Marti Masten

Marti said that on August 22nd there will be adult teens with challenges in town which is an adult rehab group. There will be four guys available for four hours of work on that Saturday. If there some weeding, painting or something else that could contribute towards enhancing the community, then it would be great to use these guys to accomplish it. Marti would also like to use the park for a church event and will let the town know the date soon.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Cande Hasenoehrl **MOVED** to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting on June 24th, 2020. Terri Linderman seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

POLICE REPORT:

Marshal Handley has provided a written report for police activity since the last meeting. Things have been relatively quiet the last couple of weeks.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: Shon Clark for Public Works

Water

Parts were ordered to make the repairs on Well #3. The Consumer Confidence Report and Water Use Efficiency Reports are completed and will be mailed shortly.

Sewer

The UV system for the treatment plant is currently being worked on. Also, there is one pump having some issues and they are working to repair it. Mark Phillips said water is currently running through the UV system, and it is wired. Mayor Pfaff asked if it appeared the system was going to work well and Mark replied yes.

Garbage

Garbage collection has been occurring on time and operating smoothly. All the town's dumpsters are out at this time.

Streets

Street oiling bids are underway and the oiling will be conducted soon.

Park

There is a water leak that they have been working on.

Mayor Pfaff said the 2019 budget did not reflect the fire pumper purchase from 2017 so it looked as if there was more money in the Fire Reserve Fund 310 than there actually is. There was \$3,000 that was not transferred from the current expense fund 001 to Fund 310 in 2019. There is another \$3,000 that is to be transferred from 001 to 310 this year as well. Of the funds that were left over from the fire budget in 2019 and the interfund transfers that weren't conducted in 2019 and haven't taken place yet in 2020, there is approximately \$16,520 available for Fund 310.

If the fire department elects to purchase the SCBA breathing apparatuses, there will be nothing left in Fund 310 Fire Reserve fund. Cande Hasenoehrl said they talked about this issue at the fire board meeting and there was a request to resubmit the bids for the equipment needed. The department did inquire what the town was willing to do. Cande requested a new set of numbers from them for their needs. Marshall Handley asked what price they were paying and how many units they were getting for that price and stated Palouse got eight units for \$60,000. Currently they are looking into additional granting opportunities. Cody will get the fund balances to Cande.

Mayor Pfaff advised the State Auditor Office was preparing for the exit conference. He will have to write a response to their findings. Mayor Pfaff said he knows there is room for improvement but there are also items he doesn't agree with. Neal Leon wondered why they were having to deal with the issues of the two previous clerks when they are no longer employed for the town. Most of the issues were identified and addressed since this time frame and since those clerks left office. Mayor Pfaff said that the audit doesn't attach to personnel but rather the business conducted during that audit time frame which covers 2016, 2017 and 2018.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Medical Opt-out VEBA Account Creation

Mayor Pfaff said he wanted to continue the conversation about whether or not the town was going to elect to offer a health insurance opt-out option and if the town would fund some portion of a VEBA to compensate for this unused employee benefit. Cande said she had Cody look into this matter and a good amount of literature was provided to explain the program in more detail. It was discovered there is no cost to the town to set up such a program. Cande provided a spreadsheet with some calculations and different percentages if the town elected to compensate for unused health insurance. Tom Tevlin asked what the current monthly cost was for an employee's health insurance and that cost is roughly \$680 a month and Mayor Pfaff said a 50% allowance would come to about \$340 a month. Cande said she was looking at about the 35% mark which would be about \$240 a month or roughly about \$2,900 a year. Mayor Pfaff said the town can elect to do whatever percentage they wanted.

VEBA funds can only be used for medical expenses and is not a taxed item for the town or employee. Cande explained when she retired her unused sick bank was transferred

into a health savings account because the state is unable to straight pay for that unused sick time. Neal questioned why a person would elect to opt-out of the town's insurance and if they opt out why would they expect to be compensated for this benefit. Shon Clark explained it his wife had access to better insurance, he may elect to go on her plan and use the money from the VEBA to pay towards the premium he would then have to pay on her policy.

Not many towns in the area currently offer such a plan but the county, Pullman and Palouse do offer an opt-out medical VEBA plan. Marshal Handley said Colfax and Uniontown also have a 50% VEBA policy in place. Terri Linderman said she was in favor of a 50% VEBA opt-out medical plan. Cande asked if Cody was the only employee that would be using the plan and Tom said this would be a policy that is in place for all employees and more of a long-term commitment based on future hires and their needs. This will make it easier if the town needed to draw employees from the county or other towns that offer this program as they could compete with what that community has in place. Tom said he was in favor of 50% VEBA and Josh Kelnhofer said he was also in favor of a 50% VEBA. Cande Hasenoehrl **MOVED** to approve a 50% medical opt-out VEBA program for the employees of the Town of Garfield. Tom Tevlin seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Resolution 2020-11 Excess Levy for General Election

Mayor Pfaff explains this is the exact same levy that will be run in the primary but in order to have a backup resolution in place with the county for the general election in case the levy fails in the primary, they must have this approved and to the county by August 4th. If the levy passes in the primary then Cody will call the county and ask them to cancel this backup resolution for the general election. If the levy doesn't pass, this will allow it to be on the general election as a second attempt to have it pass. Cande Hasenoehrl **MOVED** to approve Resolution 2020-11 Excess Levy for the General Election. Terri Linderman seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Pfaff said the letters had been sent to the residents on 4th Street asking them to take care of the vegetation that was blocking the sidewalk. A 30-day grace period will be allowed and then a secondary letter will follow.

FINANCIAL: Approval of checks

Terri Linderman **MOVED** to approve payment of bills. Cande Hasenoehrl seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Claims: EFT Dept. of Revenue	Total = \$2,148.55
Payroll: Checks 14335-14339 PLUS EFT AWC/DRS	Total = \$11,139.95
Claims: Checks 14340-14356	Total = \$14,299.98

Total of Payroll & Claims = \$27,588.48

ADJOURN:

Cande Hasenoehr **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. Terri Linderman seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. The council meeting was adjourned at 7:33 pm.


Jarrod Pfaff – Mayor

ATTEST:


Cody Lord – Clerk/Treasurer