

Town of Garfield
TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
June 10th, 2020 - 7:00 PM
405 W California

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

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

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST: Marti Masten, Penny Martinez, Greg Holbrook, Connie Schaut

Greg Holbrook and Penny Martinez are here to talk about grading the lot at the Legion Hall so water properly runs off the property to the ditches. Greg talked about the specifics of their grading plans and said they will be having a civil engineer at the property on Thursday to provide input. There is some concern about the lot lines and Greg and Penny wanted to make sure whatever changes were made, the town would be good with them. Shon Clark suggested digging the ditch out and grading towards the east or possibly using a catch basin to collect the water and run it across the street to the ditch. Neal Leon said there is already a culvert that was across the road. There has been some standing water here in the past, but Shon said it would be the town that needs to address the drainage issue there.

Shon suggested using a catch basin with a 6 inch pipe across the street to the other ditch. Greg said he was told an 8 inch pipe was necessary and Shon said a 6 inch would be plenty for the area they are looking to drain. Mayor Pfaff asked if their grant was going to also cover the cost of the sidewalk and Greg responded no. The civil engineer will be there just to tell them if they are heading in the right direction. At this time, the Legion won't be doing a site survey as the cost of that will likely be about \$1,200. Shon will be in training on Thursday, but Mark Phillips could swing down around to see what the recommendations of the civil engineer are and provide any input needed from the town side. Penny offered to share the information received from the civil engineer for town review once they receive it.

Connie Schaut is attending council to talk about the possibility of supporting a motorcycle poker run. The Legion asked to table the matter the last time she brought it up, but Connie will be starting this conversation again to see if the interest is there to support the event. She would like to know if the town would have any issue with her hosting such an event in downtown. The first stop on the poker run would be at her store. Cande Hasenoehrl asked what kind of turnout they were expecting, Connie said at this time they did not know. Likely the street would not need to be closed and they would just use the street parking. The date of this event would be Saturday, July 25th.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Cande Hasenoehr **MOVED** to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting on May 27th, 2020. Neal Leon seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

POLICE REPORT:

Marshal Handley is present for the council meeting and submitted a written report to the council members. Marshal Handley said he has nothing beyond what was written in the report to discuss.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: Shon Clark for Public Works

Water

The telemetry system has been updated and appears to be working fine at this time.

Sewer

The sewer line on the south end of town has been lined. They jetted a sewer line on Cleveland Street which will also need a camera ran down it soon as the jetter still seems to be hitting something. Shon has been attending Operator I training online and will prepare for WWTP Operator license. Thursday will be the last day of the sewer class. Tom Tevlin asked what happens after the class is completed. Shon will get scheduled to test for a Sewer Plant Operator I license.

Garbage

The garbage truck kingpins have been replaced.

Streets

Everything operating as normal.

Park

The park is being mowed and the bathrooms sanitized.

Shon reminds everyone the Fishing Derby is Saturday at 9 am.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Fire commissioner Tim Southern has put his resignation in. Cande said this position is filled on the district side so they don't have to worry about finding a replacement.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Ordinance 473-N Amending the 2020 Operating Budget.

Mayor Pfaff said a budget amendment is needed for the purchase of the 1-Ton truck and the police cruiser. Cande remembers they had discussed the distribution of the expenses in prior meetings and just wants to make sure this budget amendment reflects those discussions. Mayor Pfaff said the police cruiser was coming out of the Current Expense and Police Capital Projects funds and the 1-Ton purchase was taken from the Current Expense Reserve Fund and the Utilities Equipment Reserve Fund. Tom Tevlin **MOVED** to approve Ordinance 473-N amending the 2020 operating budget. Neal Leon seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Pfaff said a discussion was needed to talk about the option of public employees being able to opt-out of the health insurance benefits. The council needs to discuss whether or not the town would allow it and if they would compensate for that unused benefit. Some municipalities allow this and offer varying programs to their employees. Some offer a percentage of that benefit to the employee and put it into program such as a deferred comp or VEBA program or add that percentage to the employee's payroll, however that would be taxed. The county puts 50% of the unused benefit into a VEBA account for their employees. Cande asked what does the town currently do? Mayor Pfaff said currently the town does nothing. Cande said she was inclined to keep it the way it is.

Mayor Pfaff said he would encourage council to call around and see what other towns do and then see what the thoughts are. Terri Linderman wanted to know of the current employees, who was not on the insurance plan. Mayor Pfaff said everyone had health insurance, except for Cody and Marshal Handley, who isn't currently eligible for health insurance through the town. Marshal Handley offered that his wife has insurance through the school and because it is exceptional insurance he elects to insure under her program. This is a cost to him and a savings for the town since he doesn't have insurance through the town. Marshal Handley said in the future if he was eligible for health insurance through the town, he would like to see some percentage of the opt-out benefit go into a VEBA account which is tax free and can be used for eligible medical expenses. Cande say she feels this is something they should research and continue to discuss.

Palouse is doing away with their opting out and VEBA contribution, Colfax allows up to \$390 a month. The county puts half the cost of insurance into a VEBA account monthly. Cody explains the town pays \$680 a month in health insurance, he has premium insurance through the company he works for in Austin, TX. Since Cody is not using his benefit, it is saving the town \$680 a month. Shon added if an employee has the ability to have better insurance elsewhere and they opt-out of the coverage it only saves the town money. He explains this can also be a way to attract future employees to the area. Tom Tevlin asked if the money would be federally taxed and this would only happen if the benefit was given directly on the employee's paycheck, then the employee and the town would be taxed. More research will be done on this matter.

Neal said he would like to address the grading issue at the Legion a little more and explains when he graded that lot, he had a very difficult time grading the lot away from the building and also away from Mitzimberg's lot. Neal said he would encourage placing maybe a couple v's in the lot for the water to drain out. Shon said the idea of taking the water from that facility and making it someone else's issue is a problem and they really need to handle this situation appropriately the Legion should have to maintain their own run off. The town has pipe that can be used for this project. Mayor Pfaff said he is in favor of one or two catch basins and running the water towards the ditch.

FINANCIAL: Approval of checks

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

Claims: Checks 14286 & 14287	Total = \$2,263.25
Payroll: Checks 14300-14304 EFTs AWC & DRS	Total = \$10,779.58
Claims: Checks 14305-14323	Total = \$19,398.75

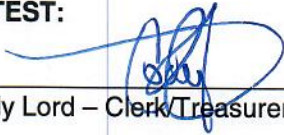
Total of Payroll & Claims = \$32,441.58

ADJOURN: Neal Leon **Moved** to adjourn the meeting. Cande Hasenoehrl seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. The council meeting was adjourned at 7:37 pm.



Jarrod Pfaff – Mayor

ATTEST:



Cody Lord – Clerk/Treasurer