

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

**March 24th, 2021 - 7:00 PM
405 W California**

Public Phone in Option: 1-559-931-2675 PIN: 751 431 283#

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: Josh and Kyra Hightree, Eric and Andrea Mills, Christopher and Joyce Marshall, Eugene Kobazar, Marti Masten, Connie Schaut, Carol King, and Paul Hixson.

Mayor Pfaff acknowledged that most of the audience tonight is here to partake in the Hightree's animal issue. Josh Hightree provided a handout for the council members showing which neighbors were in support of their current plan. Mayor Pfaff said the residents identified as F on the map have changed their minds and are no longer in support of the proposed plan. Josh understands the town's concern for pigs and hoped the town would consider a variance for their property stating what they are attempting to do would not have bearing on much of the town. Cande Hasenoehrl said that they cannot speak for the rest of town and Mayor Pfaff agreed that when looking at the proposal, they must also consider those who may be opposed for various reasons.

Mayor Pfaff explained that if they are to change the rules, they could not just do that for their property, it would need to be a change that would affect the whole town and as soon as that change was made, he knows that at least two other residents would be down immediately to ask to increase their animal densities. Mayor Pfaff also explained the difference between a variance and ordinance and stated this is not a variance matter, there would be several ordinances that would need to be changed and many of them haven't been changed ever because these rules were put into place based on the desires of the majority of the town people many years ago.

Kyra Hightree said when they came in with their original numbers for animals, they were asking on the high side hoping for the best but the numbers could be altered to accommodate the wishes of town. She said they had two pigs on the farm and 100 chickens and no one has ever complained. Kyra says there are other properties within town limits that have above the approved amounts of animals, so she thinks there is a need to make changes to the current rules so that these residents can be able to provide for their family members. Guest Carol King asked how many animals the Hightrees were hoping to have on their family farm, and they responded two batches of 500 broilers, some milking cows, and hopefully 20 pigs within an acre pin. Carol said she was raised on a farm and 20 pigs will stink out the town and she thinks 200 hundred

chickens and maybe 2 pigs would be appropriate, but it will still smell from time to time and the stink will blow whichever direction the wind is blowing.

Other members from the community provided input, new resident Eugene Kobzar has about 2 acres in town and misread the language for the chickens as per household limit and currently has 40 chickens. He is working to reduce this amount to come into compliance but thinks that the town should revise the ordinance to allow a per person limit since specifically chickens are much smaller and require less space to keep than a hooved animal. The Marshall family, also new to town, would like the thought of being able to raise their own food and says this is a growing trend and likely not going away anytime soon. They asked the council, what was permissible on an acre lot within town limits? Paul Hixson, also a new resident to Garfield, said they currently have 4 chickens on their ¼ acre lot and expressed interest in being able to have more than 10 chickens if allowed.

Eric Mills said the Hightrees would be able to consume over 100 chickens a year by only feeding their family of 7. Eric said he understands the hog concern, but no one complained when he went to the Hightrees and butchered the pig they already had. Eric thinks the town should allow a trial time and see how it goes, put capacities in place and then if everything goes well, move the capacity up some. Carol said the year trial would not be a favorable idea because if they are granted to try something for a year and the complaints start coming from the people in town, what would be the recourse if it was already permitted? Andrea Mills explains we live in the country and there are going to be county smells, it comes with the territory. She has run by the agricultural/commercial business in town and smelt ammonia, it is part of the industry in this area, and she is fine with that. She believes that since they are in the agricultural zone, that they should be permitted to do this. Mayor Pfaff said, his family, the Millions, Paines, Wrides, Loves, Grossmans, Honcoops and several others are part of the agricultural zone and if the density is changed the town could potentially be surrounded by families wanting to do the same thing.

John Keen said that he is in support of a trial and if complaints come the permits are pulled. If they can show they can farm with zero complaints at a certain volume, then the next year move the limit up some. Marti Masten said he believes this sounds like a logical idea. Mayor Pfaff thanked everyone for the input and said the council could now take this input and make a voting decision. He expressed he does not get to vote but he believes that no one should be able to move to town and ask for 6 rules to be changed to accommodate their needs. These should have been known rules and restrictions when you decided to purchase a property within town limits.

Mayor Pfaff also said it would be reckless to allow certain usage with conditions and when the complaints come, then have those privileges removed, that is playing with the Hightree's money and success. Mayor Pfaff has been around town and chatted with many people that are not depicted on the Hightrees map and gathered their feedback, most say they are not in support of it and express this is the difference between what should be allowed in town and what should be taken to county where this would be permissible. Mayor Pfaff asked the council if they would like to alter the densities of any of the animals and if so, what would the proposed new limits be?

Tom Tevlin said he feels they can address the chickens at a different meeting and possibly it would be more appropriate to base chicken densities on the size of the lot a person has. As far as the hogs go, he is not comfortable making any changes to the current restriction. Cande Hasenoehrl said placing a density on lot size becomes a whole other issue of what the limits are per lot size and who will be enforcing the fluctuating numbers depending on lot size throughout town? Cande is in support of leaving the densities as they are currently written and not allowing any number of pigs. Tom is not too concerned about the 13 cows on his property and giving it a shot to see if the town has an issue with smell, once they prove that they are able to operate fine at that level, maybe then council takes up looking at an elevated amount on that property. Tom said that he just cannot support the pigs.

Neal Leon said that if they change the ordinances to accommodate what the Hightrees are hoping to do on this property, then this puts every other ordinance in a position to be requested to be changed if it does not fit the needs of the resident. Neal said he is in favor of leaving the ordinances the way they are currently written. Jesse Parkins said he is with Tom; he thinks the chicken density could be re-evaluated later and does not have an issue with cows but pigs he does not support making a change. He suggested that Josh and Kyra reach out to some farmers that have low lying wetlands that is unusable for them and see if they could put their pigs there.

Mike Olsen said he supports not changing the ordinances at this time and suggests leaving the densities what they currently are. He thinks that it would be unfair to others within town to make such a drastic change. Mayor Pfaff said that based on the feedback that is given, there is no need to act as it appears that everyone is in favor of keeping the animal ordinance with animal densities as they currently are written. If the council elects to take up the chicken densities based on the size of lots, this can be a matter for a later date. John Keen asked if there would be any value in taking up a petition to change the current chicken ordinance? Possibly they could ask residents of Garfield what they would support, and Mayor Pfaff said they could go around town and see what the community thought on chickens, noting that roosters will still be not permissible within town limits.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Cande Hasenoehrl **MOVED** to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting March 10th, 2021. Tom Tevlin **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.**

POLICE REPORT: Marshal Handley

Marshal Handley has been going back and forth with the Humane Society and Kyle Dixson from Palouse to try and put together a spay and neuter contract with the two towns. The contract is still being negotiated with the number of cats that they will spay and neuter for the town annually and the cost split for Palouse and Garfield. More details and a final contract will be provided at the next meeting. Marshal Handley asked if council would like to continue to receive the bi-weekly updates from the police department and the mayor and council said yes, they would like this to continue. Marshal Handley was thanked for his hours spent taking care of Garfield issues. Cande said she was shocked by the amount of traffic that comes through Garfield that Marshal Handley is pulling over and addressing and thanked him for his efforts.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: Shon Clark for Public Works

Water

Everything operating as normal. Water leak on 8th and Union

Sewer

Everything operating as normal.

Garbage

Everything operating as normal.

Streets

They are starting to work on the roads and the street sweeper has been out once and worked great. Shon also cleaned the school basketball court area.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **RESOLUTION 2021-06** Authorizing the Mayor to execute a grant agreement with CDBG.

Mayor Pfaff said this resolution is to authorize him to execute the CDBG grant for the I&I issues. The project is fully granted at this time and there is no cost to the town for taking this grant. Tom Tevlin **MOVED** to approve Resolution 2021-06 authorizing the mayor to execute the CDBG grant on behalf of the Town of Garfield. Jesse Parkins **seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.**

FINANCIAL: Approval of checks

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

Claims: EFT Dept of Revenue

Total = \$1,983.66

Payroll: Checks 14675-14679 PLUS EFTPS

Total = \$11,930.81

Claims: EFT ESD PFML

Total = \$302.47

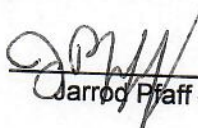
Claims: Checks 14680-14687

Total = \$30,188.04

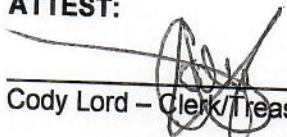
Total of Payroll & Claims = \$44,404.98

ADJOURN:

Cande Hasenoehrl **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. Neal Leon seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. The council meeting was adjourned at 7:44 pm.


Jarrod Pfaff – Mayor

ATTEST:


Cody Lord – Clerk/Treasurer