

Town of Garfield
TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
November 11th, 2020 - 7:00 PM
405 W California
Public Phone in Option: 1-319-449-0361 PIN: 765 439 259#

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

ROLL CALL: Mayor Pfaff, Neal Leon, Jesse Parkins, Terri Linderman, Cande Hasenoehrl and Tom Tevlin Staff: Cody Lord – Clerk/Treasurer, Public Works: Mark Phillips

Councilmember Cande Hasenoehrl opened the meeting by reading a statement explaining her duties as a council member and how she will fulfill them. She explained she will continue to serve in a non-biased and ethical capacity and will always lead from a place of concern for the citizens of the community.

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST: Sue Dvorak, Kelly Bates and Marti Masten

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Mayor Pfaff asked if anyone would like to approve the minutes from the October 28th meeting. Cande Hasenoehrl said she would like the minutes to be changed to reflect all the conversation at the last meeting, including why Sue Dvorak's written comments weren't read in open council, and why Terri Linderman is still allowed to be on council when not fully residing in Garfield.

Terri Linderman said she would like to respond by saying she cares about the citizens of Garfield and that is why she joined council. She feels there is more to be concerned about in the town than whether or not she is still residing here. Terri says her votes are always for the good of the community and will continue to be as long as she serves on council.

Neal Leon said he would like to second the changes Cande suggested to be reflected in the October, 28th meeting. Mayor Pfaff asked for the vote. Terri Linderman, Jesse Parkins and Tom Tevlin were no votes and thought the minutes appropriately reflected what took place at the last meeting. Cande and Neal voted yes, motion failed. Cande questioned why there was a vote taken on whether or not to make changes to the minutes and Mayor Pfaff explained minutes are voted on and, in the past, have been voted on with changes to be made to reflect a certain matter or for clarification. The minutes are supposed to be a synopsis of the meeting and not meant to be word for word.

Citizen Sue Dvorak stated she is concerned why Terri is allowed to still remain on council when she is no longer a citizen of the community and questions whether her votes would even be legal at this time. Mayor Pfaff explained the RCW is very grey in

this subject and basically it is up to the county to decide whether she is a resident and when she no longer is a representative of the community.

Tom Tevlin **MOVED** to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting and Public Hearing on October 28th, 2020. Terri Linderman seconded the motion and the motion carried.

POLICE REPORT:

Marshal Handley provided the council with a written report.

Marshal Handley was not in attendance.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: Mark Phillips for Public Works

Water

Everything is operating as normal.

Sewer

The UV system at the plant is problem free and reports are coming back at <.18 parts per million. At this time there is no more need for chlorine and it will now become a secondary or standby system. The UV system is rated for 500,000 gallons per day.

Garbage

Everything is operating as normal.

Streets

The new snow plow is working great. Also, the street sweeper is back in Garfield and working nicely. SWS in Spokane did the repairs and Mayor Pfaff said the truck should be operating like intended which is nice since it hasn't worked correctly in a very long time.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Resolution 2020-15 Dept of Retirement System Deferred Compensation
Mayor Pfaff said the Dept of Retirement Systems needs to have this Resolution on file so that the town could compensate Marshal Handley for his prior approved Deferred Compensation. Cande said she doesn't recall having this discussion and Mayor Pfaff reminded council this was the \$2,500 for deferred compensation for the first year of service. Now that Marshal Handley will be moving to full time in January, he will then be part of the LEOFF retirement account instead of Deferred Comp unless he elects to fund on his own behalf. Cande Hasenoehrl **MOVED** to adopt Resolution 2020-15 to activate the Deferred Compensation program for the Town of Garfield. Tom Tevlin **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.**

NEW BUSINESS:

- Resolution 2020-16 Setting Employee Salaries for 2021
Mayor Pfaff explains this resolution is needed at the start of each year to lay out the salaries and wages for all employees and positions for the town. These numbers are reflective of the amounts the council had viewed and approved previously. Neal Leon questioned the \$800 step and its purpose. Mayor Pfaff explained that employees get an automatic raise each anniversary in the amount of \$800 annually. This was to help boost the salaries that were lower than average for the area and to help to keep the town competitive with salaries and for wages to not become stagnant. This can occur

six times annually and then that increase is capped. Neal questioned will an employee get this increase and potentially a COLA increase as well? Mayor Pfaff said the \$800 annual raise is automatic but the COLA increase is evaluated and voted on at the beginning of each year by the council members.

Community member Kelly Bates said the state gives out a step program over 15 years and each step is a percentage of your salary. Cande explains the only difference is the town doesn't have the same amount of money for salaries as the state does. Mayor Pfaff added that this is an imperfect system and was the best option at the time to bring salaries up to comparable for the area, however a better system could be evaluated at a later time or the council could choose to eliminate it all together and do something else. Cande believes that raises should be given on performance and not automatic but at this time there are no annual reviews for this to be based on. Tom Tevlin **MOVED** to approve Resolution 2020-16 to approve salaries to be paid to public employees for the Town of Garfield in 2021. Terri Linderman **seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.**

Apollo Solutions submitted the estimate to get the 10 oldest water meters in town bench tested and the cost would be somewhere between \$6,000 to \$7,000. Mayor Pfaff said the town already budgets approximately \$5,000 for water meter replacement so the price doesn't vary much to get back the results of these meters and see if it still makes sense to move forward with the replacement of meters with ultrasonic meters. Neal summed up the project by saying they are testing 10 meters to see how much water is being wasted or not charged to the customer and the hope is the recovery of lost revenue will be what pays for the cost of undertaking the project with meters that ultimately look the same but are more efficient. Neal is in favor of not undertaking the full replacement of all meters but instead just budget to swap out 10 meters a year and keep an inventory of those changes.

Cande questioned spending such a large amount of money on this project when other items like vehicle replacement or other large ticket items come up. Also, the Gator was just recently purchased to make the utility meter reading route easier to complete. Tom asked if all the meters are replaced in one year under one project, then say in 20 years when they are all obsolete will they need to replace all of them at once since they were all installed at the same time. Cande suggested having the public works department visit with other towns in the area that have used Apollo and have also done a similar project and see what their outcome was and, in the meantime, she didn't think there was an issue letting them conduct the test to see how much money could be saved. The rest of council were in favor of conducting the 10-meter bench testing.

Mayor Pfaff said they would need to move the December council meeting so the second meeting wouldn't hinder anyone from holiday plans. The December council meetings will be the 9th and the 16th with the meetings moving back to the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month starting in January 2021.

Cande asked if people would like to start hearing the noon whistle again? There was an issue with the whistle and daylight savings time but that should be resolved. Several people said they kind of liked when it blew and have missed it since it has been turned off. Cande will let the fire department know to resume the noon whistle. Cande also

said the joint fire board had asked for \$1,200 for new radios. Mayor Pfaff said if they haven't spent their total budget for 2020 then that money is there for them to spend.

FINANCIAL: Approval of checks

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

Mayor Pfaff said now that Jesse Parkins is on the council and associated with Palouse Hills Excavators, Shon will now need to gather two bids each time he needs something that Jesse can provide. Shon could also ask for bids for product for the year so that he doesn't need to collect the same bid each time he needs a load of rock. This will help to show public funds are being spent appropriately and provide pricing transparency.

Payroll: Checks 14511-14517 EFT AWC & DRS	Total = \$11,511.63
Claims: Checks 14518-14532	Total = \$32,259.82

Total of Payroll & Claims = \$43,771.45

ADJOURN:

Cande Hasenoehrl **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. Tom Tevlin seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. The council meeting was adjourned at 7:48 pm.


Jarrod Pfaff – Mayor

ATTEST:


Cody Lord – Clerk/Treasurer