



**P.O. BOX 131  
Garfield, AR 72732**

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**STATE OF THE CITY, GARFIELD ARKANSAS, 2016**

**January** – The City Council amended the 2015 budget, approved the 2013 – 2014 Legislative Joint Audit, and appointed Mr. Robert White as the cities representative to the BWRWA, & tabled discussion of a water system study performed by the Arkansas Rural Water Association.

**February** – A major water leak on Ford Road was repaired. The council took no action on a proposed water rate increase. A proposed 100% Community Development Block Grant, for sidewalk leading to Garfield Elementary School, was discussed.

**March** – Five resolutions were passed. Each resolution was necessary for the Community Block Grant Application process. The council scheduled a work session to discuss a proposed water rate increase. A Public Hearing was held on the 8<sup>th</sup>, seeking public input on the AEDC Grant Program.

**April** – At a special council meeting, the council recommended a water rate increase. The minimum charge was increased by \$1.00, and the volume charge was increased \$.30 (thirty cents) per thousand gallons purchased. A second \$1.00 increase in the minimum charge was scheduled for January 2017. At the regular council meeting the council approved the recommended rate increase. A request for funds from FEMA was discussed. The proposed funding would be used to repair damage to specific streets from the December 2016 flood. The council proclaimed National Preservation Month & Arkansas Heritage Month in Garfield.

**May** – The council failed to override the mayor's veto of the water rate increase passed in April. The council accepted with regret the resignation of Alderman Melania Carter.

**June** – The council passed a Resolution incorporating a temporary water rate increase of \$.19 (nineteen cents) per thousand gallons. The increase was necessitated by a rate increase from the cities water supplier.

**July** – Garfield was declared a Purple Heart City. The council approved the Agreed Upon Procedure Report, prepared by Berry & Associates, concerning 2015 operations of the water department.

**August** – Mrs. Judith Champion asked the council to reconsider charges for expenses related to a code violation on her North Wimpy Jones Road. Mr. Terry Warren was elected by the council, to serve the unexpired term of Alderman Carter.

**September** – The council approved a Resolution adopting the Benton County Hazard Mitigation Plan. The council agreed to hire Mrs. Keeli Ketcher. Mrs. Ketcher will work part-time, during the unscheduled absence of Recorder – Treasurer Teresa Vining.

**October** – The 2016 Benton County Tax Levy was approved by the council. The council discussed the 2017 road work proposal. A special meeting was held on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Revisions to previous council meeting minutes were discussed, and approved.

**November** – Dr. Suzan Holt made a proposal to the council, about a proposed new city web-page. The council passed an Ordinance Prohibiting Animal Access to City Hall.

**December** – The council approved a budget funding city operations from January 1, 2017 until the January council meeting. The council tabled discussion of hiring a City Attorney.

As of December 31, 2015, Garfield's current assets & liabilities were; assets \$1,975,226.73, current liabilities of \$5,860.50, long term liabilities \$538,364.65, with surplus carryover of \$1,431,001.58, total liabilities and equity \$1,975,226.73.

As of December 31, 2016, Garfield's current assets & liabilities were; assets \$2,033,111.81, current liabilities of \$16,140.66, long term liabilities \$427,667.00, with surplus carryover of \$1,589,304.15, total liabilities and equity \$2,033,111.81.

Respectfully Submitted, March 31, 2017,

  
Gary Blackburn  
Mayor