

September 10th, 2019- Public Forum to discuss the financing of a City Water Storage Tank

Mayor Blackburn prior to opening the meeting; started with the Pledge of Allegiance, and a moment of silent reflection and/or prayer.

Mayor Blackburn presented the details of why the City called for a Public Forum. Mayor stated the City of Garfield's current tank is out of commission due to Arkansas Department of Health mandating the City to take it offline. Therefore, the City is now feeding directly off of the Benton Washington Regional Public Water Authority's 880,000-gallon tank. The BWRPWA will cease to use their 880,000-gallon tank in about a year to a year and a half, once BWRPWA's New storage tank is built. At some point the City of Garfield's water system is going to have to detach from the direct feed on BWRPWA's old tank. The State of Arkansas requires municipalities to have an X number of hours of storage capacity, primarily for Fire Fighting services. Feeding off the BWRPWA's tank is not an option. They cannot accept that liability for the City of Garfield. There is no time limit at this point, but the sooner we get off of their tank, the better due to both party's liabilities. Financing options must be discussed on how the City will pay for this expense, which could run anywhere from \$350,000 - \$400,000 dollars. Currently the water system does not have that kind of money, therefore the City would have to take out a loan, or the General fund could loan the money to the water fund. The council needs input from the community so they can make the decision going forwards as to what the best option for the City would be in paying for this process. Mayor Blackburn said there will be two more public input sessions, after that the Council will decide. Then, whatever decision is made, it will become effective in January 2020.

Guest Speakers: Planning Commission Chairman; Jeff Dodson asked what the City's Three options were that Mayor Blackburn spoke of early on. Mayor Blackburn stated 1. rehabilitate the existing tank 2. tear down the existing 40,000-gallon tank and replace it with a 60,000 tank, 3. purchase the BWRPWAs existing tank. Not sure what the purchase amount would be for the BWRPWA's tank until their Board members meet to decide that amount, but he had been told that just the maintenance per year on their old tank was \$19,200.00. ESI engineering said it could be around \$351,000.00 for the rehab and just to get the BWRPWA's old tank up and running for the needs of Garfield. The City of Garfield Water department needs a 60,000-gallon tank and the old BWRPWA tank is 880,000 gallons, meaning we would then also have to pay for the extra maintenance of a larger than our needs tank. Therefore, Mayor Blackburn recommends an Engineer come to speak at the next Public Input meeting. **Mr. Jason Connolly** asked if the 60,000-gallon tank recommendation took into consideration future growth, Mayor Blackburn said it does. Mr. Connolly suggested the City borrow the money from the City of Garfield General fund.

Council Member Edwards moved, seconded by Council Member Wassman to close this part of the meeting at 6:05 and Segway right into the Regular scheduled Council Meeting. All in favor motion passed.

Passed and approved this 25 day of September 2019.

Signed Mayor Gary Blackburn: Gary Blackburn

Attested Recorder-Treasurer Teresa Vining: Teresa D. Vining