

February 25th, 2020

Second Public Forum meeting to discuss the Proposed ½% Sales Tax increase

The Garfield City Council met in the Alderman Terry Warren meeting room on Tuesday, February 25th, 2020; for a Public Forum to discuss the Proposed ½% Sales Tax increase.

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

Mayor Blackburn called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Mayor Blackburn called a recess at 6:01 to hold comments to allow time for more Council members to show up.

Mayor Blackburn called the meeting back to order at 6:14.

Recorder-Treasurer Teresa Vining called Roll: Council Members David Edwards, Jim Teeselink, and Scott Wassman present and Council Member Kitterman absent. Mayor Gary Blackburn, Recorder-Treasurer Teresa Vining present.

Mayor Blackburn shared more information concerning the ½% increase of local sales and use tax in the City of Garfield. Mayor Blackburn said that if this ballot item passes the Council has noted it will be used for the City's Water system infrastructure and once it is in effect the Council will set down and define infrastructure priorities. If it fails to pass the options are do nothing and see what happens over time, or the city could raise their water rates, or combine Garfield's water system with another water system such as Gateway, Lost Bridge Village or Benton County Water District #1 in Avoca and that is if they would even want to buy our system. The lack of growth in the Garfield water system works against us, we cannot just do nothing, if we want to keep our water system. Where the City of Garfield's water rates are now, we cannot upgrade, improve or replace infrastructure, it would be impossible. Right now, the water system is being subsidized by the General fund and that cannot continue to happen. Therefore, if in the future any more big expenses come up the water does not have the money to cover it, which is the reason for the ½% Sales tax being put on as a special ballot item, which again if this passes will sunset in 24 months. The City would rather this happen, instead of having to merge the City water system with another water system, and/or raise the city's water rates.

Mayor Blackburn encouraged all those who vote to get out and vote and notify their neighbors. It will take our citizens to be informed

Mayor thanked everyone who came to participate and share their voice.

Motion to adjourn was made at 6:45pm by Council Member Teeselink and seconded by Council Member Wassman; all in favor the public forum adjourned at 6:45pm.

Passed and approved this 26th day of February, 2020

Mayor, Gary Blackburn Gary Blackburn Date: 2-26-20

Recorder-Treasurer, Teresa D. Vining Teresa D. Vining Date: 2-26-2020