

## City of Garfield Council Meeting January 13, 2026

### **Prayer & Pledge of Allegiance**

**Call to Order:** 6:02PM

**Roll Call-** Roll called by Recorder-Treasurer Christal Allen

Council Member Smead- Absent

Council Member Rambo- Present

Council Member Teeselink- Present

Council Member Kitterman- Attending via phone

### **Minutes City Council Meeting December 9, 2025**

Council Member Rambo moved to approve December 9, 2025, council meeting minutes as presented.

Second, by Council Member Teeselink.

All in favor, motion carried.

### **Committee Reports**

**Planning Commission-**December 18, 2025, meeting minutes were presented to the council.

Planning Commissioner Chairperson Patricia Lee addressed the council and answered questions regarding the proposed subdivision ordinance moratorium being presented to the council.

**Water Department-**December 2025 unaccounted water loss 16.7 %. Systems Totals Report and 2025 Sales and Receivables Report were presented to the council.

Wholesale water rate increase went into effect January 1, 2026. Rates increased from \$3.45 to \$3.80 per 1000 gallons.

Mayor Blackburn reported that there are 8 years remaining on the loan with ANRC, balance of \$138,572.00.

Mayor Blackburn advised the council that the wholesale amount charged to NEBCO for the leak that occurred in December 2025 was incorrect.

After discussion, Council Member Rambo moved to allow Mayor Blackburn and the Recorder Treasurer to amend NEBCO's January 2026 water bill to reflect the correct wholesale rate which was \$1,012.08.

Second, by Council Member Teeselink.

Council Member Rambo-yes, Council Member Teeselink-Yes, Council Member Kitterman-Yes

All in favor, motion carried.

**Code Enforcement-**Mayor Blackburn reported issuing a building permit for Dollar General and the state will perform necessary inspections. A building permit for James Jolly on Mountain Drive was issued, and a Fence Permit was issued for Robert Waltz on Old Liberty Rd.

Council Member Teeselink moved to accept committee reports as presented.

Second, by Council Member Rambo.

Council Member Rambo-yes, Council Member Teeselink-Yes, Council Member Kitterman-Yes

All in favor, motion carried.

## **Unfinished Business**

### **Acceptance of Financial Assistance, Project 25-038, Loans 02729-DW-F**

Donnie Chambers with Performance Servies, Inc. answered questions from Mayor Blackburn and the council regarding the loan process and specifics.

After discussion, Council Member Rambo moved to accept financial assistance from the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission for Project 25-038.

Second, by Council Member Teeselink.

Council Member Rambo-yes, Council Member Teeselink-Yes, Council Member Kitterman-Yes  
All in favor, motion carried.

Mayor Blackburn presented and read proposed Resolution 228-Intent of 2026 Water Line Replacement.

Council Member Teeselink moved to adopt Resolution 228 as presented.

Second, by Council Member Rambo.

Council Member Rambo-yes, Council Member Teeselink-Yes, Council Member Kitterman-Yes  
All in favor, motion carried.

Mayor Blackburn read the Notice to Proceed received from Performance Services, Inc. for the Water Main Replacement Project.

Council Member Rambo moved to authorize Mayor Blackburn to sign the Notice to Proceed.

Second, by Council Member Teeselink.

Council Member Rambo-yes, Council Member Teeselink-Yes, Council Member Kitterman-Yes  
All in favor, motion carried.

Mayor Blackburn called the meeting into recess at 6:51PM

Meeting called back to order at 6:56.

### **Proposed Water Regionalization Legal**

Council members were presented with a letter from the law office of Friday, Eldridge and Clark regarding the proposed water regionalization.

Mayor Blackburn stated he spoke with the city attorney, and a teleconference has been scheduled between the city, city attorney and Performance Services, Inc. to ensure the \$7.5 million project has been confirmed prior to proceeding with the potential water regionalization.

Council Member Rambo moved to table discussion on the water regionalization specifically with Friday, Eldridge and Clark's involvement until the February 2026 council meeting.

Second, by Council Member Teeselink.

Council Member Rambo-yes, Council Member Teeselink-Yes, Council Member Kitterman-Yes  
All in favor, motion carried.

### **Proposed Ordinance 225 -Controlling Disposal Dirt & Construction Debris**

Mayor Blackburn reintroduced proposed ordinance 225 and advised he submitted the proposed ordinance to the city attorney who made recommendations and changes that have been included.

Council Member Teeselink moved to read proposed ordinance 225 by title only.

Second, by council Member Rambo.

Council Member Rambo-yes, Council Member Teeselink-Yes, Council Member Kitterman-Yes  
All in favor, motion carried.

Recorder-Treasurer Christal Allen read proposed ordinance 225 by title.

After discussion, Council Member Rambo moved to suspend the rule to read proposed ordinance 225 on three separate occasions.

Second, by council Member Teeselink.

Council Member Rambo-yes, Council Member Teeselink-Yes, Council Member Kitterman-Yes  
All in favor, motion carried.

Council Member Rambo moved to approve Ordinance 225.

Second, by Council Member Teeselink.

Council Member Rambo-yes, Council Member Teeselink-Yes, Council Member Kitterman-Yes  
All in favor, motion carried.

Council Member Rambo moved to invoke the emergency clause.

Second, by Council Member Teeselink.

Council Member Rambo-yes, Council Member Teeselink-Yes, Council Member Kitterman-Yes  
All in favor, motion carried.

**Proposed Resolution 222- Solid Waste Disposal Rates 2026**

Mayor Blackburn reported to the council that the rates on previously approved Resolution 222 were incorrect and presented corrections to the resolution.

Council Member Teeselink moved to approve Resolution 222 as presented.

Second, by Council Member Rambo.

Council Member Rambo-Yes, Council Member Kitterman-Yes, Council Member Teeselink-Yes  
All in favor, motion carried.

**Proposed Ordinance 226 Fortner Annexation**

Mayor Blackburn introduced proposed ordinance 226.

Council Member Rambo moved to read proposed ordinance 226 by title only.

Second, by Council Member Teeselink.

Council Member Rambo-yes, Council Member Teeselink-Yes, Council Member Kitterman-Yes  
All in favor, motion carried.

Recorder-Treasurer Christal Allen read proposed ordinance 226 by title.

Council Member Teeselink moved to suspend the rule to read proposed ordinance 226 on three separate occasions.

Second, by Council Member Rambo.

Council Member Rambo-yes, Council Member Teeselink-Yes, Council Member Kitterman-Yes  
All in favor, motion carried.

Council Member Rambo moved to approve ordinance 226.

Second, by Council Member Teeselink.

All in favor, motion carried.  
Ordinance goes into effect in 30 days.

**NEW BUSINESS**

2025 Agreed Upon Procedure vs Audit

Council members were provided bids from Turner, Rodgers, Manning & Plyler for \$4,000.00, 3yr contract and Berry and Associates for \$2,200.00 for the retainer. Berry and Associates total fees for the 2024 Agreed Upon Procedures was \$4,785.00

After discussion, Council Member Teeselink moved to retain Turner, Rodgers, Manning & Plyler to perform the 2025 Agreed Upon Procedure.

Second, by Council Member Rambo.

Council Member Rambo-Yes, Council Member Kitterman-Yes, Council Member Teeselink-Yes.

All in favor, motion carried.

**Proposed Resolution 224-Council Rules for Meetings 2026**

Mayor Blackburn introduced Proposed Resolution 224.

After discussion, Council Member Teeselink moved to approve Resolution 224 as presented.

Second, by Council Member Rambo.

Council Member Rambo-Yes, Council Member Teeselink-Yes, Council Member Kitterman-Yes

All in favor, motion carried.

**Proposed Resolution 225- Council Code of Conduct 2026**

Mayor Blackburn introduced Proposed Resolution 225.

Council Member Rambo moved to approve Resolution 225 as presented.

Council Member Rambo-Yes, Council Member Teeselink-Yes, Council Member Kitterman-Yes

All in favor, motion carried.

**Proposed Resolution 226- Appointing City Attorney**

Mayor Blackburn introduced Proposed Resolution 226.

Council Member Kitterman moved to approve Resolution 226 as presented.

Second, by Council Member Rambo.

Council Member Rambo-Yes, Council Member Teeselink-Yes, Council Member Kitterman-Yes

All in favor, motion carried.

**Proposed Ordinance 227- Moratorium Subdivision Construction**

Mayor Blackburn advised the Planning Commission to revisit the moratorium and make changes.

Planning Commission Chairperson Patricia Lee answered questions from the council regarding the proposed moratorium.

Council Member Rambo moved to table proposed ordinance 227 until the February 2026 council meeting.

Second, by Council Member Teeselink.

Council Member Rambo-Yes, Council Member Teeselink-Yes, Council Member Kitterman-Yes

All in favor, motion carried.

### **Proposed Resolution 227-Reconciling 2025 Budget**

Mayor Blackburn introduced Proposed Resolution 227.

After discussion, Council Member Teeselink moved to approve Resolution 227 as presented.

Second, by Council Member Rambo.

Council Member Rambo-Yes, Council Member Teeselink-Yes, Council Member Kitterman-Yes

All in favor, motion carried.

### **Review December 2025 Financials**

December 2025 financial reports were presented to the council.

Council Member Teeselink moved to approve December 2025 financial reports as presented.

Second, by Council Member Rambo.

Council Member Rambo-Yes, Council Member Teeselink-Yes, Council Member Kitterman-Yes

All in favor, motion carried.

Mayor Blackburn informed the council that he reached out to State Aid regarding paving Dennis Mitchell Rd. He received notification that the request was denied but will remain active to be considered next year.

Mayor Blackburn advised he wrote a letter on December 8, 2025, to Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission requesting to expedite job 090065 regarding Highway 62 due to safety concerns. He read the response he received to the council which stated the commission has identified the segment of highway 62 as a physically constrained priority project in the draft long range regional transportation plan, reflecting a commitment to prioritize available federal, state and local funding as opportunities arise.

Mayor Blackburn advised the council that errors were discovered on the 2026 General Fund Budget.

An amended 2026 General Fund Budget was presented to the council.

The budget line for Code Enforcement salary, approved as \$52,000.00 and should have been \$5,200.00.

The budget line for Street Employee was zero and should have been \$20,000.00.

The budget line for Water Employee was zero and should have been \$55,123.00.

Council Member Rambo moved to approve the amended General Fund 2026 Budget as presented.

Second, by council Member Teeselink.

Council Member Rambo-Yes, Council Member Teeselink-Yes, Council Member Kitterman-Yes

All in favor, motion carried.

Council Member Rambo asked about the damaged school zones lights located on highway 62.

Mayor Blackburn advised the lights would have to be replaced and he made a request to ARDOT to relocate the sign further east.

Council Member Teeselink confirmed the school zone signs on highway 127 have been installed.

**Adjournment**

Council Member Teeselink moved to adjourn.

Second, by Council Member Rambo.

All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at

Passed and approved this 10<sup>th</sup> day of February 2026.

**Gary Blackburn**

**Christal Allen**

Approved, Mayor Gary Blackburn

Attested, Recorder-Treasurer Christal Allen





