

***Town of Oakesdale***  
**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
***For***  
***December 8, 2009***

**\*\* Public Hearings:** Mayor R.W. Rickett opened the public hearing at 7:00 p.m. for the 1% property tax increase. Mayor Rickett gave a brief explanation for the need and that the one percent increase would amount to an overall total increase of \$418.98 in 2010. The Town also qualified for a new construction credit of \$911.45 to be paid in 2010. Dave Knerr asked if the Town planned on using the extra income next year. Mayor Rickett replied we would use the one percent as it helps us to stay within the cost of inflation each year. Councilman Al Evans is against taking the extra one percent. Since he has been living here, he has seen Whitman Country raise everyone's property values and over time it can strangle a town. We should give our citizens a break. Dave Hooks is in favor of the increase as it will help to keep voter approved levy amounts down. Being no further comments from the public, the hearing was closed at 7:20 p.m.

Mayor R.W. Rickett opened the public hearing at 7:21 p.m. for the 2010 final budget. He stated we were basically down to three operating accounts consisting of Fund 001 Current Expense, Fund 101 Streets and Fund 401 Water/Sewer. Dave Knerr inquired about the liquor excise tax and liquor board profits on the revenue side. Dave Hooks asked if the budget contained funds to cover public records request. Both questions were answered by Mayor Rickett. Being no further comments from the public, the hearing was closed at 7:32 p.m.

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor R.W. Rickett called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. following the public hearings.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Mayor R.W. Rickett, Randy Robinson, Dennis Palmer, Tom Johnson, Al Evans and George Dewan. Also present were Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer; Dick Brown, Public Works Director and Keith Cooper, Town Marshal.
- III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Dave Hooks and Dave Knerr
- IV. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** After council members reviewed November 16, 2009 minutes, Tom Johnson made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Dennis Palmer seconded the motion, four council members voted yes and one council member abstained from voting due to his absence from the last meeting – **motion passed.**
- V. **TOWN MARSHAL REPORT:** Town Marshal, Keith Cooper, submitted a report to council members from November 3, 2009 through December 7, 2009 consisting of five cases and six traffic stops. They are still waiting on Town Attorney, Stephen Bishop, for the Recreational Vehicle Ordinance. They have not received confirmation on being awarded the \$9,999 grant for their department from CTED.

VI. **PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:** Dick Brown reported all the snow equipment was chained up and ready to roll for the season. The brakes were repaired on the grader. He is now working on the brakes for the orange dump truck. The chlorination level is as low as we can be on the water system.

VII. **OLD BUSINESS:**

A. **RV LIVING** – Mayor Rickett sent the information to our Town Attorney, Stephen Bishop and has not heard back from him.

VIII. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **ORDINANCE NO. 600 (2010 BUDGET)** – Mayor Rickett reviewed final numbers with council members. Randy Robinson made the motion to dispense with the reading of Ordinance No. 600. Dennis Palmer seconded the motion, all council member voted yes – **motion passed**. Tom Johnson made the motion to adopt Ordinance No. 600 for the 2010 budget. Randy Robinson seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**.

B. **RESOLUTION NO. 2009-307 (EMPLOYEE SALARIES)** – Randy Robinson made the motion to dispense with the reading of Resolution No. 2009-307. Tom Johnson seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**. Tom Johnson made the motion to adopt Resolution No. 2009-307 raising the salary of the Clerk/Treasurer four percent as of January 1, 2010. Dennis Palmer seconded the motion. Council discussed the Public Work Director’s salary would remain the same and the Town Marshals will continue with their hourly rate. There were no benefit changes. Randy Robinson called for question. All council members voted yes – **motion passed**.

C. **RESOLUTION NO. 2009-308 (1% PROPERTY TAX INCREASE)** – Councilman Al Evans reinforced his earlier response to raising the property tax by 1% in 2010. He is against the increase and we do not need it. He stated the actual inflation rate is a .23 of a percent. Randy Robinson made the motion to dispense with the reading of Resolution No. 2009-308. Dennis Palmer seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**. Randy Robinson made the motion to adopt Resolution No. 2009-308 increasing the property tax by one percent amounting to \$418.98 and using the new construction credit of \$911.45. Dennis Palmer seconded the motion, four council members voted yes and one council member voted no – **motion passed**.

D. **RAILROAD CROSSINGS (BARTLETT & STEPTOE)** – The railroad crossing on Bartlett has been repaired and the crossing on Steptoe has been repaired with all new planks.

E. **PUBLIC WORKS BOARD GRANT APPLICATION** – Council members received a copy of the letter informing the Town we were not one of the 17 communities chosen to receive funding. The board received 210 applications requesting over 156 million.

F. **PURCHASE OF WATER BY CONTRACTOR** – We have received three request from various contractors to purchase water for the road project on HWY 27 between Oakesdale and Tekoa where is frequently floods. They are currently in the bidding phase of the road project and contractors are inquiring about the cost to purchase water for the project. Council members discussed a few options and decided to charge one cent per gallon if Town codes permit and/or codes are updated to accommodate said request. Mayor Rickett will refer this request to our Town Attorney, Stephen Bishop.

IX. **COUNCIL MEMBER’S BUSINESS:**

**GEORGE, AL, TOM, DENNIS AND RANDY** – Nothing at this time.

X. **TREASURER’S REPORT/APPROVAL OF CHECKS:** Council members reviewed the Treasurer’s Report, Receipt Register and Check Register for November 2009. Randy Robinson made the motion to approve paid checks #21459 - #21492 in the amount of \$14,318.10 for claims and \$7,457.58 for payroll totaling \$21,775.68 from November 20, 2009 through December 04, 2009. Check #21462 to Oxarc in the amount of \$141.22 was returned and voided. Al Evans seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**.

XI. **ADJOURNMENT:** Tom Johnson made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. Randy Robinson seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**.

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R.W. RICKETT, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer