

Town of Oakesdale
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
For
February 16, 2010

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Dennis Palmer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Mayor Dennis Palmer, Randy Robinson, Tom Crooks, Tom Johnson and George Dewan. Councilman Al Evans was not in attendance. Also present was Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer.
- III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Dave Knerr – He is requesting the removal of the grass and tree located in the middle of the intersection at Montana and Roberts Road. He states the road is not wide enough for two cars to pass and it is a safety issue. Mayor Palmer inspected the intersection and he did not see a concern. Mayor Palmer encouraged council members to look at the intersection and to voice their opinion at the next meeting.
- IV. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** After council members reviewed February 1, 2010 minutes, Tom Johnson made the motion to approve the minutes as written. George Dewan seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**
- V. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - A. **CHIPPER/SHREDDER** – Mayor Palmer has made contact with BARR-TECH and they would take our outdoor recyclables for \$70 per ton. Mayor Pfaff from Garfield has quoted a rental price for using their 12 inch chipper for \$20 per hour. Whitman County will be charging \$50 - \$55 per hour for use of their chipper. We have \$1,200 in the budget for this year to process our outdoor recyclables. Many council members agreed that BARR-TECH could be a great option if we can not keep up on the composting.
- VI. **NEW BUSINESS:** None
- VII. **PLANNING:** George Dewan and Tom Crooks submitted three ideas for the empty lot between City Hall and Crossett's Food Market: (1) Leave the lot as it is; (2) Construct a memorial garden; (3) Design it as a mini-park/walkway. Council members reviewed the sketches and magazine article displaying the different designs. Council members discussed various methods to complete the project using our employees and community volunteers. It would be nice to complete the project by July 3rd for the all class reunion. Council consensus was to favor the mini-park/walkway. The next project in the discussion was the landscaping of the two welcome signs. Now that we have the signs installed and shrubs planted, we need to install a weed barrier, rocks or bark and design a small area under the sign by using stackable edging stones. This project could easily be completed by our own staff. We also have solar lights to install at

both signs. Council members also looked back at their 2006 planning notes to see what projects have been completed and what still remains on the list.

VIII. COUNCIL MEMBER'S BUSINESS:

DENNIS – It was brought to our attention by the bank that we need to renew our Mayor Pro-tem designee. The signature cards were just completed for both banks and it would be convenient to have George Dewan continue his position as Mayor Pro-tem. Randy Robinson stated he would prefer to wait for all council members to be present before making that decision. However, since the signature cards were just completed, council members gave their approval to allow George Dewan to continue serving as Mayor Pro-tem for the next six months and then allow Al Evans to be nominated for the position if he is still interested.

TOM J. – He inquired about the storage of railroad tanker cars at Belmont. He did not realize they had begun storing the chlorine gas in the fenced area.

GEORGE – He asked if the Town can have a petty cash fund again to help with the cash payments for water bills and/or dog licenses when change is needed. Mary DeGon explained the state auditors closed the petty cash fund due to extensive abusive and theft of funds from a previous clerk. The state auditors did establish a twenty five dollar change fund for just such occurrences. However, Mayor Palmer was not aware of the change fund and had to ask a customer last Friday to go next door to Crossett's Food Market to make change. Mary explained that most of our payments received are made by check or money order. We have very few customers who pay their bills using cash.

RANDY – Council discussion on rental properties that have become home to certain individuals who repeatedly break the law and have caused damage in our small community. Council members would like to know if they can send a letter to the property owners requesting background checks to be performed before they rent the property. It was suggested to refer the concerns to our attorney, county prosecutor, and maybe ask the undersheriff to attend one of our council meetings to listen to the concerns we have for our town's safety. Tom Johnson will be at the courthouse tomorrow and he will check with the county prosecutor for our legal obligations. The second concern Randy had was the amount of dogs we have in town. Maybe we should consider changing our dog license fee from \$7.50 per spayed/neutered dog to \$20 each for the first and second dog and \$50 for any other dog. This suggested change would require an ordinance update to the Town Codes. This will be referred to the Town Marshals for their opinion of the continued dog problems.

TOM C. – Nothing at this time.

- IX. TREASURER'S REPORT/APPROVAL OF CHECKS:** George Dewan made the motion to approve paid checks #21590 - #21613 in the amount of \$3,316.77 for claims and \$6,215.89 for payroll totaling \$9,532.66 from February 05, 2010 through February 15, 2010. Tom Johnson seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

- X. **ADJOURNMENT:** Randy Robinson made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m. Tom Johnson seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

ATTEST:

DENNIS PALMER, MAYOR

Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer