

Town of Oakesdale
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
For
March 1, 2010

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Dennis Palmer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Mayor Dennis Palmer, Tom Crooks, Tom Johnson, Al Evans and George Dewan. Councilman Randy Robinson was not in attendance. Also present were Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer; Dick Brown, Public Works Director and Keith Cooper, Town Marshal.
- III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** None
- IV. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** After council members reviewed February 16, 2010 minutes, Tom Johnson made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Al Evans seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**
- V. **TOWN MARSHAL REPORT:** Keith Cooper submitted a police report to council from February 02, 2010 through March 01, 2010 involving seven cases consisting of junk vehicle, domestic violence, warrant arrest, dog licenses, dog bite, noise complaint and dog complaint. Council members discussed raising the fines for dogs running at large and dog bites rather than raise the dog licensing fees. Al Evans asked for the police car to be more visible for traffic traveling through town. When the car is not being used it should be stored in the shop to help keep people guessing when they are on duty. Council members agreed having a block watch program is not a bad idea. It was suggested to also post a crime bulletin in the Town's monthly newsletter. They received another grant for \$2,500 for a Lidar speed measuring device.
- VI. **PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:** We have ordered 1,000 ton of gravel from Whitman County and they have started using one truck and trailer to deliver the rock. It may take the County several weeks to complete the delivery of gravel due to their priorities in their work schedules. Al Evans reported a water leak in front of the old Richfield gas station today and the leak has been repaired. We are close to receiving all the bid proposals for well maintenance repairs and replacing the communication phone line between the wells and water tower with wireless network.
- VII. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - A. **CHIPPER/SHREDDER** – The outdoor recycling area is getting full of shrub and tree clippings and council members need to make a decision on how we will process these items. George Dewan made the motion to enter into an inter-local agreement with the Town of Garfield for the use of their 12 inch chipper/shredder for the rental fee of \$20 per hour. Al Evans seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

- B. JACKSON & ROBERTS INTERSECTION** – Mayor Palmer submitted a map he drew of the intersection at Jackson and Roberts where resident, Dave Knerr, questioned the safety of the road due to the grass and tree located in the middle of that particular intersection. Mayor Palmer measured each side of the intersection and he did not feel that it posed a safety problem. Councilman Tom Crooks interviewed three residents who live by the intersection and they did not have any concerns and would hate to see the grass and tree removed. The residents actually had more concerns with the bottom corner of Montana and Bartlett. It was suggested to add a caution sign at the intersection to keep traffic alert and watch their traveling speed.
- C. DOG LICENSE FEES** – As previously discussed under Town Marshal Report, raising the dog license fees would not help the problem of barking dogs or dogs running at large. We need to consider raising the fees for those who violate the dog ordinances. This was tabled until the next business meeting where council members will review the current fines and discuss a possible increase.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. MAYOR’S LETTER** – Council members received a copy of a handwritten letter Mayor Palmer composed regarding the safety of our residents and community due to the arrests of a few citizens involved in a theft ring. Mayor Palmer asked council members for their advice on his letter. Mayor Palmer wants the community to know he is available every evening upon appointment at City Hall should they have any questions or concerns. It was suggested to summarize the letter with a message that does not come across as an alarmist. Suggesting a block watch is a good idea.
- B. WATER ACCOUNTS IN PROPERTY OWNER’S NAME** – Council members reviewed the billing procedures pertaining to our monthly water and sewer statements. Specifically, we have experienced an increase in unpaid utility bills and shut-off notices to rental properties where the landowners have requested the billings be sent to the tenants. The Council noted that Oakesdale Municipal Code Section 2.16.230 provides “all accounts for water shall be the responsibility of the owner(s) of the real property receiving the water” and “all accounts for the water shall be kept in the name of the owner of the property and all charges shall be made against the real property as well as against the owner thereof.” After considering the situation, the Council determined that, henceforth, all utility billings will be sent to the landowners as required under Section 2.16.230. Property owners will be given a thirty day notice prior to the billing change.

IX. COUNCIL MEMBER’S BUSINESS:

GEORGE – Nothing at this time.

AL – Nothing at this time.

TOM J. – He heard that loud bang again last weekend in the middle of the night. Our Town Marshals did receive a noise complaint from that incident and the property owner has received a warning letter not to do that again.

TOM C. – He was all prepared for the planning meeting and had his information ready on developing the mini park between City Hall and Crossett’s Food Market. He was not aware the first meeting of each month is the business meeting and the second meeting of each month is the planning meeting.

DENNIS – He will measure the areas at the “Welcome to Oakesdale” signs so we can start that project.

X. TREASURER’S REPORT/APPROVAL OF CHECKS: Council members reviewed the Treasurer’s Report, Check Register and Receipt Register for February 2010. Al Evans made the motion to approve paid checks #21614 through #21635 in the amount of \$8,747.38 for claims and \$5,215.36 for payroll totaling \$13,962.74 from February 18, 2010 through February 26, 2010. George Dewan seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**.

XI. ADJOURNMENT: Al Evans made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Tom Crooks seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**.

ATTEST:

DENNIS PALMER, MAYOR

Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer