

Town of Oakesdale
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
For
April 5, 2010

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Dennis Palmer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Mayor Palmer, Randy Robinson, Tom Crooks, Tom Johnson, Al Evans and George Dewan. Also present were Stephen Bishop, Town Attorney; Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer; Dick Brown, Public Works Director and Keith Cooper, Town Marshal.
- III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Gail Parsons
- Gail had a question about the policy of trees growing on city right-of-ways and who is responsible for maintaining those trees? The trees are in need of trimming and the deadwood needs to be removed. There are limbs overhanging the street. Gail was asked if any power lines go through the trees. He did not think there were any power lines going through the trees. Both Stephen Bishop and Mary DeGon had reviewed the Town's Codes and did not find anything pertaining to trees on public right-of-ways. Stephen Bishop did suggest to council members to develop a policy for this exact situation. It was noted that other area towns that have a policy leave the responsibility to the adjacent property owner not the jurisdiction. Council members asked for a copy of the Town of Garfield's policy for review. Stephen will email us a copy of the ordinance and the street committee will review said policy.
- IV. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** After council members reviewed March 15, 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. **TOWN MARSHAL REPORT:** Keith Cooper submitted a report to council members from March 1, 2010 through April 1, 2010 listing all cases for the month. The police department has received approximately 50% of the reimbursement money from the \$10,000 grant. Notices were hand delivered to residents who have failed to pay for their dog tags for 2010. Beginning May 1, 2010 we will be issuing tickets for failure to license their dog(s). There are only 9 people left in town who have not licensed their dog(s). Council members asked if we could use a speed radar unit from Whitman County to help slow down traffic coming into town on HWY 27. The county has four units that are all being used right now, but when one is free Keith will bring it to Oakesdale. Al Evans stated he has seen traffic running the Steptoe & HWY 27 stop sign. Keith will ask WA DOT for orange flags to be placed on the stop signs.
- VI. **PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:** The chipper/shredder was used for the first time a few weeks ago for the growing pile of limbs we had at the outdoor recycling center. We have purchased some manhole lid risers and we will be installing those in the next few weeks. We installed a receiving

hitch on Dick's Chevy pickup. They will finish sweeping the streets by Wednesday of this week. We are still waiting on a repair quote for the wells from a company our certified water operator, Frank Tripplett, recommended. Al Evans asked if we have heard anything else on the mosquito spraying. We have not had any communication from Tekoa since February 2010. Mary will contact Tekoa to inquire about the mosquito spraying.

VII. OLD BUSINESS:

A. CHIPPER/SHREDDER – Mayor Palmer brought a bucket of the chipped product from the outdoor recycling area and it looked like mangled pieces of wood about 6-8 inches long. The chipper/shredder does not appear to be set right. The wood should look like chips. Garfield's Public Works Director did come by to see our chipped product and stated the machine worked fine when they used it last. The next time we use it Dave from Garfield will be here to make sure it is working properly. Mayor Palmer will be in contact with Bartech for confirmation on pricing and minimum weight load for taking our outdoor recyclables away.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

A. BUSINESS INCUBATOR LEASE – We have a business, Firstwind, interested in leasing the business incubator. Representative from the company will be here this Thursday, April 8th, to see the office space. They have been notified that we require a business plan for council's review before entering into a lease agreement.

B. FIRE SIREN – We need to consider moving the fire siren off the top of the library building due to eventually leasing the top of the building to a new business. The siren is extremely loud inside the office space when it is in use. Mary has talked to one of the Fire Commissioners, Tom Hodges, and the fire department would be willing to pay for half of the moving expenses and to mount the siren on a pole behind the fire station. Avista Utilities was notified about the need to move the siren and they did come up last week to inspect the potential site. The alarm runs on a three phase panel and there is not a three phase utility pole by the fire station. It would be very costly to have Avista install that type of service. Avista was going to contact M & M Harrison Electrical and see if we can change the alarm system from a three phase to a lesser phase. There is a possibility we can not move the siren and we may need to discontinue the noon whistle while the office space is occupied. The siren would still be used in emergency situations.

IX. COUNCIL MEMBER'S BUSINESS:

A. GEORGE – He asked if we need to consider having a back-up person for Mary when she wants to take vacation days or if she should need to be gone due to a serious illness or injury. Council members really did not see a need to hire a temp on an as needed basis while Mary is gone. When Mary does take a few days off, usually the office remains closed unless Dennis can take time off from his employer to cover the days. Mary mentioned that we could possibly hire our past Mayor, Russ Rickett, should she be gone

for any length of time. Russ knows how to post utility payments, pay bills and process payroll in the BIAS system. Al Evans said he is around if we need him to watch the office. George inquired about the rumor he heard at the firemen's meeting about a helipad. Mayor Palmer said he has started looking into the possibilities of having a helipad if he can find grant money. Randy Robinson voiced his opinion of not spending a dime of the Town's money for a helipad when the baseball and football fields work just fine for emergency situations. Mayor Palmer plans on attending a firemen's monthly meeting to discuss such possibilities.

AL – Nothing at this time.

TOM J. – Nothing at this time.

TOM C. – He gave council members a brief description of the mini-parkway plan from last meeting as two council members were absent. Tom was asking for council consensus to begin the project. Council members gave their approval to begin the project and put a cap of \$4,000 for expenses.

RANDY – Nothing at this time.

STEPHEN – Our Town Attorney brought a draft ordinance for recreational vehicle and oversize vehicle parking. Council members were encouraged to review this draft ordinance before the next meeting. Mary will make copies and put them in council members' mail boxes.

- X. **TREASURER'S REPORT/APPROVAL OF CHECKS:** Council members reviewed the Treasurer's Report, Receipt Register and Check Register for March 2010 and the first quarter budget position for 2010. George Dewan made the motion to approve paid checks #21656 - #21688 in the amount of \$9,180.13 for claims and \$10,440.03 for payroll totaling \$19,620.16 from March 18, 2010 through April 02, 2010. Randy Robinson seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**
- XI. **ADJOURNMENT:** George Dewan made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 p.m. Tom Johnson seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

ATTEST:

DENNIS PALMER, MAYOR

Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer