

Town of Oakesdale
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
For
September 07, 2010

**** Public Hearing for additional 1% property tax for collection in 2011 – Mayor Dennis Palmer opened the public meeting at 7:00 p.m. prior to our regular council meeting. Mayor Palmer informed the public the additional one percent would amount to \$428.18 as a total for 2011. The one percent increase is exclusive of additional revenue resulting from new construction, improvements to property, newly constructed wind turbines, any increase in the value of state assessed property or any annexations that have occurred and refunds made. A citizen asked if the one percent is for the Town or County. The one percent is for the Town. Council member’s comments varied from opposing the increase to supporting the increase to aid in the rise of Town expenses. Being no further comments, the public hearing was closed at 7:10 p.m.**

I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Dennis Palmer called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m. following the Public Hearing for the additional one percent property tax collection for 2011.

II. **ROLL CALL:** Mayor Dennis Palmer, Randy Robinson, Tom Crooks, Tom Johnson, Al Evans and George Dewan. Also present were Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer; Keith Cooper, Town Marshal and Dick Brown, Public Works Director.

III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** June Sharp, Terry & Holly Boxleitner and Kari Ellis.

June Sharp – She brought reminisce of fireworks that her neighbor shot off on the 4th of July holiday that covered her deck, yard and sidewalks. Citizens are allowed to use fireworks on the 3rd, 4th and 5th of July. We do ask our citizens to be courteous of their neighbors and pick up their litter from the use of fireworks. This was even mentioned in the Town’s July newsletter however, this type of littering happens every year. Council members discussed other alternatives which includes banning fireworks or designating one area to light the fireworks. This will be addressed in a planning meeting before the next 4th of July holiday is upon us.

Terry & Holly Boxleitner – They were not happy to come home after the 4th of July holiday to find their yard full of fire work debris. Their main reason for attending the meeting tonight was the change in their neighborhood. They can not enjoy being outside on their deck when all they can hear is yelling, cursing, loud music and alcohol rages from their neighbors. They continue to notice an increase in traffic and parked cars blocking access to fire hydrants. Youth are out

very late at night and do not respect private property boundaries especially when playing a game called fugitive. They have been awakened in the middle of the night by kids running through their yard playing this game. This game involves kids from Oakesdale, Tekoa, Rosalia and Colfax.

Kari Ellis – She has the same concerns as the Boxleitner’s since she lives in the same neighborhood. She is also frustrated with all the garbage lying about neighbor’s yards. It appears some citizens are not getting garbage service and have it piled up in cans and/or old vehicles that no longer operate. Kari also submitted a written statement and had photos showing the condition of the neighborhood. Our Town Marshals can address the garbage violations and junk vehicles and parking in front of the fire hydrants. The Council will review the nuisance ordinances at the next planning meeting. We will review these concerns with our Town Attorney and Town Codes.

IV. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** After council member reviewed August 16, 2010 minutes, Randy Robinson made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Tom Johnson seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

V. **TOWN MARSHAL REPORT:** Keith Cooper submitted a report for August 2010 showing the police department’s activity for the month. There were three cases of juvenile problems all stemming from the kids playing the game fugitive. They conducted twenty traffic stops with four infractions issued. There is a grant coming up Keith will be submitting an application to purchase an electronic speed sign. We will be financially responsible for installing the sign. There will be increased traffic through town in the next 45 days due to HWY 27 being closed for the bridge project and traffic is being diverted through town. We will also see an increase from fans going to WSU football games.

VI. **PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:** The water leak on Third Street has been fixed. Our summer temp worker, Joey Hooper, was done on August 22nd as he went off to college. We will get the chipper/shredder this month to get caught up on the outdoor recycling. If the weather holds, we will lay some more hot mix to patch the streets. Dick asked if council would consider purchasing a used portable industrial air compressor. We need one to help locate shut-offs for the water system that are buried under asphalt. We can rent one, but there will be other times we could really use one. At a previous council meeting, council had given Dick permission to rent one when he needed to use one.

VII. **OLD BUSINESS:** None

VIII. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. **RESOLUTION NO. 2010-317** – Randy Robinson made the motion to dispense with the reading of Resolution No. 2010-317 increasing the regular property tax levy by one percent. Tom Johnson seconded the motion, all council voted yes – **motion passed.** Tom Johnson made the motion to adopt Resolution No. 2010-317 increasing the

property tax by one percent totaling \$428.18 for collection in 2011 and \$315.70 for new construction credit. George Dewan seconded the motion. Council members had a brief discussion before Randy Robinson called for question. Four council members voted yes and one council member voted no – **motion passed.**

- B. TIB 2010 SIDEWALK GRANT APPLICATION** – Council members received a copy of the grant application that Thomas, Dean & Hoskins for a sidewalk project consisting of 140 feet north of Steptoe to Williams with a preliminary construction cost estimate of \$116,300. The application was submitted on August 31, 2010.

IX. COUNCIL MEMBER’S BUSINESS:

GEORGE – He reported a few street light out at 7th & Rednour; 4th & Williams and Rednour & Bell.

AL – Nothing at this time.

TOM J. – He will talk to the owner of the concerned rental properties as a citizen, not as a council member, about the concerns that were brought to our attention tonight.

TOM C – He has talked to Dick Brown and George Cotterill about the need for a portable industrial air compressor and it would be utilized to find the water shut-offs and raise man holes. It was anticipated there could be up to 40 shut-offs to locate. It has been mentioned the white sweeper is not used very much and would we consider selling the sweeper and use the money to purchase an air compressor. Tom gave some prices he obtained from United Rental on used and new. We can rent one for about \$900 for one month. Consensus from council members was to rent, but if we come across a used one for a much lower price they could be interested in purchasing one.

RANDY – He would like to see a notice in the Town’s newsletter informing citizens to please move their parked cars off the edge of the pavement by six feet to allow our snow plows access to plow the streets. Some streets are narrower than others and it will make it harder to keep those streets open if we get another bad winter. He really wants to see our Town Marshals enforcing the garbage ordinances.

DENNIS – He had toured the Davenport area and through Wilson Creek who has a staircase like we do from downtown to the school. Our project looks great and well maintained. They had weeds and grass as tall as the handrails. Our public works department does a good job of keeping the stairway clean.

- X. TREASURER’S REPORT/APPROVAL OF CHECKS:** Council members reviewed the Treasurer’s Report, Check Register and Receipt Register for August 2010. George made the motion to approve paid checks #21900 - #21927 in the amount of \$7,046.72 for claims and \$8,474.00 for

payroll totaling \$15,520.72 from August 19, 2010 through September 01, 2010. Al Evans seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**.

- XI. **ADJOURNMENT:** Tom Johnson made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 p.m. Al Evans seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**.

ATTEST:

DENNIS PALMER, MAYOR

Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer