

Town of Oakesdale
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
For
January 18, 2011

- 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, Al Evans and George Dewan. Also present was Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer.
- III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Randy Noble, Thomas Dean & Hoskins and Debbie Snell, Port of Whitman County.
- IV. **RANDY NOBLE, TD&H:** Randy presented to our council members the consultant agreement for the First Street Sidewalk Project that has been awarded funds from the Transportation Improvement Board. Randy Robinson made the motion to authorize Mayor Palmer to sign the consultant agreement with TD&H for said project. George Dewan seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**. Randy also discussed where we are at in the Steptoe Street Bridge Project. Some council members did not realize Whitman County will be advertising our bridge project and their bridge project at the same time which would eliminate the need for civil engineering. We are still waiting to here from our Town Attorney on the inter-local agreement between the Town of Oakesdale and Whitman County for this project. Council members would like to stress to Mark Storey, Public Works Director for Whitman County, that they would like to see our engineers receive a fair chance at this project. Mayor Palmer has discussed this concern already with Mark Storey last week. Councilman Al Evans made a request to have the water meter, which is located inside his business at 113 N First St., be moved out to the new sidewalk area during construction. Public Works Director, Dick Brown, saw no problem with moving the water meter and we may also replace the water line in that location as well. Randy Noble will make a note on that request and we will review that when we get ready for construction.
- V. **JOE POIRE, PORT OF WHITMAN COUNTY:** Joe was not able to attend tonight's meeting, so Debbie Snell, Properties & Development Manager for the Port of Whitman, came to discuss the statewide project of bringing fiber optic cable and broadband services to underserved areas of the state. The Port is one of thirteen entities participating in a project using federal stimulus money, as well as local investments to provide broadband services to anchor institutions in communities. The anchor institution in Oakesdale will be the library. This project is referred to as the BTOP 1 project funded through the Department of Commerce. The lead participant in the project is a nonprofit organization NoaNet. The Port is requesting a franchise for the installation of fiber optic infrastructure (underground or aerial fiber and vaults) from all small towns along a fiber optic route from Spokane to Clarkston. A franchise agreement allows the Port to install fiber optic on city property and rights of ways. The Port has provided an example of a franchise agreement they have with the City of Pullman for our review. The benefit of such a franchise to

small towns is increased accessibility to enhanced telecommunication infrastructure which in turn supports local government, private sector businesses, libraries and medical facilities. Increased access to the bandwidth that fiber optics can supply is also a powerful economic development and business recruiting tool. Debbie was not able to bring a map of the suggested fiber optic route with her tonight, but she will email the map to Mary tomorrow. This fiber optic line will be completely independent from Frontier's line. The Port will lease access to the line so other companies can provide residential services as well as commercial. This line will be an open access line – not private.

VI. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES: After council members reviewed January 3, 2011 minutes, Tom Johnson made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Al Evans seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

VII. OLD BUSINESS: None

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

A. FIBER OPTIC/BROADBAND REQUEST – Our Town Attorney, Stephen Bishop, was given all the information regarding the Port of Whitman's request for a franchise for fiber optics at the beginning of January. Mary has not heard back from him and will follow up on his recommendations for said franchise request.

B. RESOLUTION NO. 2011-320 – Randy Robinson made the motion to dispense with the reading of Resolution No. 2011-320 designating an official Town newspaper for 2011. George Dewan seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – motion passed. Randy Robinson made the motion to adopt Resolution No. 2011-320 designating the Whitman County Gazette as the Town's official newspaper to become effective January 1, 2011. George Dewan seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

IX. COUNCIL MEMBER'S BUSINESS:

RANDY – He would like to see the Town annex the City Shop and the south end of the Town from the WA State DOT shop to the lagoons into our city limits. We have talked about this before but nothing has happened in the past. He also inquired where the Friends For Living Choices are in their endeavors to have an assisted living unit built on the nine lots we sold them last month. A brief update was given by Tom Johnson as he serves on that board.

TOM C. – Nothing at this time.

TOM J. – He thanked George Cotterill for staying on top of the snow removal.

AL – He suggested we consider another area to pile snow once the new sidewalk project is completed.

GEORGE – He asked if anyone at the City has addressed the safety concern for the back brick wall of the café that collapsed last fall. A family member of the owner has put a blue tarp over the exposed area and yellow caution tape has been added along the back. Mary informed council members that the owner has terminal cancer and is not expected to live much longer

according to family members. This will be referred to our building inspector for recommendations on making the area safer until the family can fix the problem properly.

- X. **TREASURER’S REPORT/APPROVAL OF CHECKS:** Council members reviewed the Treasurer’s Report for December 2010. Mary reminded council members that we have an open 13th month in January until the 20th to pay expenses that occurred in December 2010. George made the motion to approve paid checks #22117 – 22127, #22136-22137 in the amount of \$4,288.52 for claims and \$0 for payroll totaling \$4,288.52 for December 31, 2010 and checks paid #22128 - #22135, #22138 - #22139 in the amount of \$6,227.54 for claims and \$6,970.44 for payroll totaling \$13,197.98 from January 06, 2011 through January 14, 2011. Approval for EFT payment on 01/26/11 in the amount of \$432.49 to WA State Department of Revenue for December’s excise taxes. Randy Robinson seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**
- XI. **ADJOURNMENT:** Tom Johnson made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m. Al Evans seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

ATTEST:

DENNIS PALMER, MAYOR

Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer