

Town of Oakesdale
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
For
April 4, 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 were Stephen Bishop, Town Attorney; Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer; Keith Cooper, Town Marshal and Dick Brown, Public Works Director.
- III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Laena Huffaver from Alternative Violence of the Palouse and Randy Noble, TD&H Engineering. Laena brought council members brochures and assorted information about the services their agency provides which serves all of Whitman County. They strive to help victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. She inquired to council members if there were any suggestions how to reach out to our community better. Council members asked a few questions and thanked her for attending tonight's meeting.
- IV. **RANDY NOBLE, TD&H – FIRST STREET SIDEWALK PROJECT:** Mayor Palmer met with Randy Noble and Adam Jackson from TD&H last Friday to look over the job site. Randy submitted to council members a petition for a pedestrian crossing at the railroad tracks on First Street to the WA Utilities and Transportation Commission. The request will be a continuation of highway crossing for the First Street Sidewalk Project. The crossing is geared towards roadway and not pedestrians. Asphalt has been recommended for the crossing. The sidewalk can not be relocated to the other side of HWY 27 due to the location of the switch on the railroad track. Council member's consensus was to authorize Mayor Dennis Palmer to sign the petition to the WA UTC. Randy also talked about the Steptoe Street Bridge and made suggestions that we could also ask WA DOT to be our CA agent for the federal funding bridge project if we do not get an agreement between the Town and Whitman County soon. Town Attorney, Stephen Bishop, stated he has left messages for Mark Storey, Whitman County Public Works Director and is still waiting for an example of an agreement to be submitted by Mark from previous projects that would work for this one. Mayor Palmer has also left messages for Mark Storey and none have been returned. Mary will try to contact Mark tomorrow and get everybody on the same page.
- V. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** After council members reviewed March 21, 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.**
- VI. **TOWN MARSHAL REPORT:** Keith Cooper submitted a monthly report for March 2011 to council members listing nine cases ranging from noise complaint, animal problems, agency assist, traffic

offense, identity theft and driving while suspended. As of April 4th, there are eight residents who have not purchased their dog licenses for this year. Keith will be mailing a final reminder letter at the end of the week before issuing citations.

VII. PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: Dick Brown reported the snow plow equipment is off and they are busy taking advantage of the wet weather with sweeping the streets. He is still having to discharge the lagoons with the amount of rain we have had in the past few weeks. Both wells are running good and he has repaired the roof on Well #4.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS:

A. PORT OF WHITMAN FRANCHISE – Stephen Bishop has prepared an ordinance between the Town of Oakesdale and the Port of Whitman for a fiber optic franchise. Mayor Palmer read said ordinance title, “an ordinance of the Town of Oakesdale, Washington, granting a nonexclusive telecommunications franchise to the Port of Whitman and other matters properly relating thereto.” Al Evans made the motion to dispense with the reading of Ordinance #605. Randy Robinson seconded the motion. Randy Robinson called for question, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**.

B. WHITMAN COUNTY AGREEMENT – Still Pending

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

A. BUSINESS INCUBATOR RENEWAL LEASE – First Wind has contacted the Town asking to renew their lease for another year and to include the extra space in the agreement. Per council member’s consensus from a previous meeting, council members agreed to offer First Wind the other business incubator space for an extra one hundred dollars per month. Town Attorney, Stephen Bishop, has prepared an agreement extending the lease through May 15, 2012. Mary will send a copy of the agreement to First Wind for their review and legal counsel.

X. COUNCIL MEMBER’S BUSINESS:

GEORGE – He has also noticed the deteriorating condition of the old fire station hanger doors. We really need to get those replaced. We are losing a tremendous amount of heat through the doors. Dick Brown will contact two companies for bids and Al Evans will contact one for a bid. It was suggested to have bids include insulated doors as well. The brick work on the outside of the library building and City Hall are both in need of repair. Mary will contact Mark Doneen for an estimate.

AL – Nothing at this time.

TOM J. – Nothing at this time.

TOM C. – There will be a gathering at the Oakesdale Museum on Saturday, April 9th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for coffee and donuts and questions and answers about the Oakesdale School Bond Levy sponsored by the Oakesdale School Renovation Campaign Committee.

RANDY – He would like to see the council discuss the possibilities of annexation on two areas of town at the next council meeting. The first step should be a representative from the Town needs to discuss the annexation with property owners. Then the property owners can petition the Town for annexation. He has some concern about the amount of money being levied if the school bond passes. There could be a handicap in the future for the Town, Park & Rec or the cemetery board passing their levies. There is only so much tax money residents can afford.

XI. TREASURER’S REPORT/APPROVAL OF CHECKS: Council members reviewed the Treasurer’s Report, Receipt Register and Check Register for March 2011. The first quarter 2011 Budget position was also available for council members review. Al Evans made the motion to approve paid checks #22225 - #22250 in the amount of \$9,218.76 for claims and \$7,720.68 for payroll totaling \$16,939.44 from March 24, 2011 through March 31, 2011 AND EFT payment on 03/31/11 in the amount of \$1,769.26 to Electronic Federal Tax Payment System for March 2011 employee 941 taxes. Tom Johnson seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

XII. ADJOURNMENT: Randy Robinson made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Tom Johnson seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

ATTEST:

DENNIS PALMER, MAYOR

Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer