

Town of Oakesdale
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
For
June 20, 2011

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Dennis Palmer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Mayor Dennis Palmer, Al Evans, Tom Johnson and Tom Crooks. Councilman George Dewan arrived at 7:12 p.m. Councilman Randy Robinson was not in attendance. Also present was Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer.
- III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Dave Hooks – He brought population charts for census years 1990, 2000 and 2010. He also provided a graph chart that showed the demographics of the population since 1970 when the population was approximately 450 people then a dramatic decline in 1990 with a population of 346 and rising again to 422 by 2010.
- IV. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** Council members reviewed June 6, 2011 minutes. Al Evans made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Tom Johnson seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**
- V. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - A. **WHITMAN COUNTY AGREEMENT** – Mayor Palmer met with Mark Storey last week to discuss the inter-local agreement that has yet to be approved by both parties. Mark had one concern that he needed to discuss with our Town Attorney. Mark will be out of the office this week. The agreement was not received by Whitman County until last week from our Town Attorney.
 - B. **VACATING ALLEY** – Pending property purchase.
 - C. **FIRST STREET SIDEWALK PROJECT** – No update.
 - D. **OUTDOOR RECYCLING** – Mayor Palmer brought back some information that could enhance our recycling center. We could enter into an agreement between the Town and Empire Disposal to be provided with forty yard boxes for cardboard and mixed paper. There is no monthly cost of this program, the containers are rent free and costs are incurred when there is a drop off or pick up of the boxes. Empire Disposal sets the prices and would charge the Town a fee plus applicable taxes per box upon pick up and drop off. The Town would see a rebate from the commodity after weight verification.

Currently, cardboard has been sold at \$143.00 per ton and mixed paper is \$50.00 per ton. Council members reviewed a draft agreement. Mayor Palmer will contact the school to see if they would be willing to have the forty yard boxed outside the old bus barn. We will need to find a good location for the boxes before entering into an agreement with Empire Disposal. Al Evans made the motion to authorize Mayor Palmer to sign an agreement with Empire Disposal for recycling mixed paper and corrugated cardboard when an appropriate location can be agreed upon. Tom Johnson seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**. Dick Brown visited BARR-TECH today to measure the recycling containers for the grass and tree/shrub trimmings. It would probably take two containers to clean the outdoor recycling center up. Council member’s consensus was to rent a chipper and shred the tree and shrub trimmings. We will try to rent Whitman County’s chipper and if that is not available we will rent Garfield’s chipper. Mayor Palmer has notified Whitman County about the recyclables at the Willow’s are being dumped as garbage in the big dump truck by Empire Disposal instead of the recycling truck.

- E. **MOSQUITO FOGGING** – We were notified today that we have been moved to Thursdays for mosquito fogging. Fogging will begin this Thursday, June 23rd around 8 p.m. Mayor Palmer will ride with Dean Browning the first time to help show him the layout of the Town and those individuals on the do not fog list.

VI. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. **BARTH PIT** – Mayor Palmer received confirmation from the Whitman County’s Assessors Office that Allen/Patricia Barth are the title owners to the pit up above the Town on Roberts Road. The property is a complete block with four lots. Council members discussed the reasons for inquiring about purchasing the property. Council consensus was to send a letter to Barth’s inquiring about purchasing the pit.

VII. **PLANNING:**

- A. **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CHANGE** – We had a request by the Friends for Living Choices to include the services of assisted living in our Comprehensive Plan. Council members reviewed page 6 of the Comprehensive Plan under section Public Facilities: “All public lands used by federal, state, county or local governments for the administration of public affairs, and those public and semi-public institutions providing for the social, cultural, religious and health needs of the community. Included are schools, churches, hospitals (*insert – assisted living/retirement and similar facilities*), and cemeteries. These uses are identified on the Land use Map by an appropriate individual name.” Tom Crooks reviewed the suggested change with council members. Council consensus was to insert assisted living/retirement and similar facilities to this section. A public hearing will be held for the suggested change on July 18th before the regular council meeting.

B. **OTHER** – Nothing at this time.

VIII. **COUNCIL MEMBER’S BUSINESS:**

TOM C. – Nothing at this time.

TOM J. – He would like to compliment the Public Works Department on maintaining the city right-of-ways with mowing and weed control.

AL – He inquired if the letter had been sent to the businesses who wanted to have RV parking for the construction workers on the First Wind turbine project enforcing the sites are only temporary for the project. It was affirmed the letters were sent out last week.

GEORGE – The fire department will be getting a tender truck and the Town’s 1935 fire truck will need to be stored by the Town as the space it is occupying at the fire station will be used for the new truck. We will store it at the old fire station. He asked how long we will have Joey Hooper as our summer temp. Joey returns back to school at WSU on August 22nd.

DENNIS – The new doors have been installed at the old fire station. The furnace heating oil tank has been moved inside the old fire station. He would not be surprised to see the old fire station’s heating oil bill cut by one third by making these changes.

IX. **TREASURER’S REPORT/APPROVAL OF CHECKS:** Council members reviewed the Treasurer’s Report for June 2011. George Dewan made the motion to approve paid checks #22342 - #22360 in the amount of \$16,227.05 for claims and \$3,898.34 for payroll totaling \$20,125.39 from June 09, 2011 through June 16, 2011. Tom Johnson seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

X. **ADJOURNMENT:** George Dewan made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m. Tom Johnson seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

ATTEST:

DENNIS PALMER, MAYOR

Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer