

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

****Mayor Dennis Palmer opened the public hearing at 7:00 p.m. for the Comprehensive Plan change under section Existing Land Use and Economics under public facilities adding “assisted living/retirement and similar facilities”. Dave Hooks submitted his views why we should not make the change until the whole plan has been revised and brought up to date. Dave had no objection to the added language. He was concerned about the timing of the change. Being no further comments, the public hearing was closed at 7:23 p.m.**

****Mayor Dennis Palmer opened the public hearing at 7:24 p.m. for the Six Year Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP). Mary reviewed the changes on the STIP where information and status was updated for the Steptoe Street Bridge replacement, First St Sidewalk project to Williams Street and Steptoe Street sidewalk project by Crossett’s. Being no comment from the public, the hearing was closed at 7:26 p.m.**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Dennis Palmer called the meeting to order at 7:27 p.m. following the public hearings.
- 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:** Dave Hooks
- IV. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** Council members reviewed July 5, 2011 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. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - A. **WHITMAN COUNTY INTER-LOCAL AGREEMENT** – The requested change was made by our Town Attorney, Stephen Bishop, and the agreement was resubmitted to Whitman County for their approval. Mayor Palmer will contact Mark Storey this week.
 - B. **VACATING ALLEY** – The property has been purchased by Ben & Danielle Crossett and we are waiting for Stephen Bishop to provide appropriate paperwork to vacate said alley.
 - C. **FIRST STREET SIDEWALK PROJECT** – The bid for construction ad will run again in this week’s issue of the Gazette and bids will be opened on August 1, 2011 and be presented at the council meeting that evening for approval.

D. BARTH PIT – We did receive a letter from Allen Barth stating he would be willing to sell the four lots with the Town covering all costs, including cleanup of the lots, closing costs, title insurance, etc. He would accept \$12,500 net price for the lots. If there are any liens on the property for restitution from Patricia K. Barth, we are expected to cover those additional costs. He is requiring a certified check for \$12,500 made out to him alone. He will have no problem having Ms. Barth release her interest in the property. Council members discussed the pros and cons of purchasing the pit. Council member’s consensus was to counter offer with \$10,000. We need to develop a plan on cleaning up the pit, how much it will cost to haul the garbage away and how the Town will use the pit. Once both parties have agreed on a purchase price our Town Attorney will begin a title search. Council will not proceed with the purchase of the property if it does not have a clean title.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

A. RESOLUTION NO. 2011-322 (STIP) – Randy Robinson made the motion to dispense with the reading of Resolution No. 2011-322 adopting the Six Year Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). Al Evans seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**. Al Evans made the motion to adopt Resolution No. 2011-322. Tom Johnson seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**.

B. RESOLUTION NO. 2011-323 (SETBACK VARIANCE) – Al Evans made the motion to dispense with the reading of Resolution No. 2011-323 for a setback variance for Block 7 of the Oakesdale McCoy’s 2nd Addition, Lots 2-4 for Ben & Danielle Crossett. Randy Robinson seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**. Randy Robinson made the motion to adopt Resolution No. 2011-323. Tom Johnson seconded the motion, four members voted yes and one member abstained from voting – **motion passed**.

C. RESOLUTION NO. 2011-324 (COMP PLAN) – Tom Crooks volunteered to read Resolution No. 2011-324 to council members amending the Comprehensive Plan to include “assisted living/retirement facilities” within the definition of “Public Facilities” as the term is defined and used within the Plan. Tom Johnson made the motion to adopt Resolution No. 2011-324. Al Evans seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**.

VII. PLANNING: Mayor Palmer once again emphasized his concern with our water system and the serious updating it needs. We need to start planning ahead and increase our water reserve funds. Our water rates have not been increased in years and maybe we need to consider an increase by next year. Council members discussed the condition of the water system and current rates and do not see a need at this time to consider raising the water rate. Continue patching water leaks and maintaining the water system.

VIII. **COUNCIL MEMBER’S BUSINESS:**

RANDY – He is concerned about the safety of the intersection of McCoy and Fifth Street. There is so much stuff parked along the street and city right-of-way that it has made that a blind corner. This will be referred to the Town Marshals.

TOM C. – Nothing at this time.

TOM J. – Nothing at this time.

AL – Nothing at this time.

GEORGE – He inquired if we charge the owners of new home construction the cost of a new meter and the labor to install the meter. In the past, the cost of installing a new water meter has been charged to the new home owner. Mary reviewed the Town Codes and it does not state we charge the owner for those incurring costs. It does refer to a resolution if we are going to pass the cost on to the owner. Mary will try to find said resolution the Town Codes referenced.

IX. **TREASURER’S REPORT/APPROVAL OF CHECKS:** Council members reviewed the Treasurer’s Report for July 2011. Al made the motion to approve paid checks #22386 - #22411 in the amount of \$3,618.51 for claims and \$7,649.98 for payroll totaling \$11,268.49 from July 07, 2011 through July 15, 2011. Randy Robinson seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

X. **ADJOURNMENT:** Al Evans made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m. Randy Robinson seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

ATTEST:

DENNIS PALMER, MAYOR

Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer