

Town of Oakesdale
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
For
August 15, 2011

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Dennis Palmer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Mayor Dennis Palmer, George Dewan, Al Evans, Tom Johnson and Tom Crooks. Councilman Randy Robinson did not arrive until 7:55 p.m. Also present was Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer.
- III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** None
- IV. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** Council members reviewed August 1, 2011 minutes. George Dewan made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Al Evans seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**
- V. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - A. **WHITMAN COUNTY INTER-LOCAL AGREEMENT** – Council members reviewed the final changes to the inter-local agreement between the Town and Whitman County for managing the federal funded grant for the Steptoe Street Bridge replacement. Council members also reviewed a copy of a letter from our Town Attorney, Stephen Bishop, stating his preparation and submission of this latest revision should not be construed as a recommendation to approve the proposed agreement. He prepared the revision at our request, to facilitate the adoption of the agreement to reduce further delays in the bridge project. However, as he has previously stated, he remains concerned that nowhere in the four corners of the document is there a definitive method of determining the sums to be paid to the county. George Dewan made the motion to allow Mayor Palmer to sign the inter-local agreement between the Town of Oakesdale and Whitman County for managing the federal funded Steptoe Street bridge project. Tom Johnson seconded the motion. Al Evans had concerns about the project going over the funded amount due to change orders and so forth. Tom Crooks talked to Don Hendrix from WSDOT and has a better understanding of the inter-local agreement and Whitman County’s role in this project. Al Evans called for question, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**
 - B. **VACATING ALLEY** – Public Hearing notices were posted in three public places – City Hall, Crossett’s Food Market and US Post Office today. The Public Hearing will be on Tuesday,

September 6th at 7:00 p.m. before the regular council meeting. Letters to adjacent property owners will be sent out on Monday, August 22nd.

C. FIRST STREET SIDEWLAK PROJECT – No updates to report. Our TIB application for 2012 projects was mailed today from TD&H for the Mayor’s review.

D. BARTH PIT – Pending title search

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

A. NEW WATER HOOKUPS – Council members received copies of the Town Code for connecting water and rates for water connection fees and new water service installation fees from three local communities. The Town of Oakesdale currently has no water connection fee and a \$500 sewer connection fee. The primary discussion was what should be charged for a new water service. Council would consider an \$850 water connection fee and actually labor, materials and operation cost plus 15% for administrative fees for new connections. This was tabled until we can meet with our Town Attorney on possible changes.

VII. COUNCIL MEMBER’S BUSINESS:

TOM C. – Nothing at this time.

TOM J. – Nothing at this time.

AL – Don Paddock would like council’s permission to have a pine tree professionally removed that is on city right-of-way abutting his property. Council gave their permission. He has real concerns with apparent drug trafficking happening in our town. A few rental properties in town have security cameras, pit bulls and blacked out windows and traffic coming all times of the night. He would like to see the dog ordinances beefed up. He has talked to Quad City Drug Task Force officials to inquire about taking control of the drug problems. This will be referred to our Town Marshalls and tabled for next meeting.

GEORGE – He asked council members to consider applying for a FEMA grant to purchase a new pumper for the fire station. The town qualifies for the FEMA grant due to our population being under 500. The current 1956 pumper is owned by the town but operated by the district. There was much discussion about the town being responsible to replace the pumper truck. Many council members agreed that we pay the district \$14,000 to provide fire protection and emergency medical services and we should not have to purchase a new pumper truck. The district should be the one to replace the pumper truck. However, due to the size of the population in the fire district, the FEMA grant is not eligible. George will confirm the percent of out of pocket contribution for the grant. It is anywhere from 5% - 15%. A new pumper truck could cost anywhere from \$300,000 - \$350,000. Some council members may be interest in the grant if the Town’s contribution was only 5%.

RANDY – Nothing at this time.

- VIII. TREASURER’S REPORT/APPROVAL OF CHECKS:** Council members reviewed August 2011 Treasurer’s Report. Tom Johnson made the motion to approve paid checks #22431 - #22455 in the amount of \$9,522.13 for claims and \$7,651.84 for payroll totaling \$17,173.97 from August 04, 2011 through August 15, 2011. Tom Crooks seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**
- IX. ADJOURNMENT:** Al Evans made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. Tom Crooks seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

ATTEST:

DENNIS PALMER, MAYOR

Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer