

***Town of Oakesdale***  
***TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES***  
***For***  
***October 3, 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:** Randy Noble, TD&H, Tom Kammerzell, Port Commissioner District #3 Candidate and Mike Nearing.

Mike Nearing submitted a written complaint about witnessing Brian Berntgen racing his car at very high speeds on McCoy Street to 4<sup>th</sup> Street. His wife immediately called the Town Marshal's office and reported the event. Mike then called 911 and reported the event as witnessed and asked for assistance from the local Marshals. This is not the first time Brian has used city streets as his own personal race track. Councilman Randy Robinson also submitted a letter of concern with several signatures from the neighborhood concerned about Brian jeopardizing the safety and well being of their neighborhood. For several months Brian has been driving around the local streets at a reckless and high rate of speed. This is very concerning in that we have several young children in the area and we want to bring this to council's attention before a very serious accident happens. Officer Keith Cooper will submit a report to the Prosecutor's with statements on Brian's driving. If more witnesses come forward it will help the Prosecutor to consider charging him with reckless driving. The witness statements must state exactly what happened and be signed to be enforced.

- IV. **RANDY NOBLE, TD&H:** The construction of the First Street Sidewalk project is near completion. Randy asked Dick to walk through the project and let him know if there were any points of concern. The two light poles have not been ordered due to LED pricing. The railroad needs to repair the wood ties before the asphalt can be completed. Pedestrian signs need to be installed and some grass seeding to be done. There is a bit more work to be done at the new mailbox supports. The final acceptance will be this week with Mayor Palmer, Dick Brown, Randy Noble and Greg Bacon.
- V. **TOM KAMMERZELL:** He is running for Whitman County Port Commissioner District 3. This will be the Port's first election since 1958. The Port has three positions and is responsible for the Snake River water facilities, economic development in Whitman County and tourism. Tom's priorities include building local economy, create jobs to retain our working families and young adults,

communicate with constituents and local communities and devote the time necessary to do the job. Tom gave a brief description of his background as owner/operator of Maple K Farms, 16 yrs City of Colfax Planning Commission, 7 yrs Colfax City Council, 5 yrs Whitman Co Conservation Dist Supervisor, 4 yrs Whitman Co Cattlemen President and 24 yrs Colfax School Dist employee. He is a lifelong Whitman County resident and the National Board Director for the American Highland Cattle Association. He is also a volunteer fire fighter, major sponsor for Youth Outdoors Unlimited, and a partner at WSU BioAg learning site. Council members asked their questions and thanked Tom for attending our meeting.

- VI. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** Council members reviewed September 19, 2011 minutes. Tom Johnson made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Randy Robinson seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**
- VII. **TOWN MARSHAL REPORT:** Keith Cooper reported two cases for September involving repeated problems with Chappell’s cow getting out of the fence and damaging the school’s football field. We have contacted the owner several times informing them to keep the cow restrained inside the fence and not to allow it to roam the town. The cow continued to get out and the owner was told to move the cow out into the county or receive a ticket. The owner chose to move the cow out of town. They have received a letter from several residents about Brian Berntgen’s driving and charges will be forwarded to the Prosecutor for reckless driving based on his driving on September 29, 2011. This does not mean the Prosecutor will actually file the charges. Councilman George Dewan requested the police car needs to be patrolling more than it has this summer.
- VIII. **PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:** The leak on Pearl Street has been repaired. It was an old abandoned water line. APEX who is the company installing the fiber optic line for the Port of Whitman has requested we mark the water and sewer lines along their route of installation. George Cotterill and Dick did complete those locations. This month will be the last water meter reading for the year. He is gearing up the Town equipment for plowing snow.
- IX. **OLD BUSINESS:**
- A. **FIRST STREET SIDEWALK PROJECT UPDATE** – This was reported under Section IV by Randy Noble, TD&H.
- B. **BARTH PIT** – Town Attorney, Stephen Bishop, did send a letter to Allen Barth asking if he would agree for the proceeds of the property sale be paid to the State of Washington who holds a lien against the property. He has not received a response back from Mr. Barth. Council members discussed the situation with the property having a lien and agreed to not proceed any further if Mr. Barth does not return our correspondence in two weeks.

- C. WATER HOOK UP FEES** – Council members asked their questions to Stephen Bishop about the Town having a water hook up fee for new water service. Currently the Town does not have a water hook up fee and a \$500 sewer hook up fee. Stephen suggested for Dick Brown to submit a baseline cost for ¾ inch and 1 inch meters for new connection installations. Then we will have a better idea of how much to set the rate for a new hook up fee.
- D. PROBLEM RENTAL PROPERTIES** – Everything that had been discussed at the last few meetings was reviewed with Stephen Bishop. Stephen reviewed our Town Codes regarding dogs and our codes need to be updated especially where it pertains to dangerous dogs. He will send us a copy of Tekoa’s for councils’ review. He was asked by council members to compose an Ordinance that would not allow medical marijuana dispensaries to open a shop in Oakesdale. Al Evans will obtain copies of said ordinance from other cities that have currently adopted such an ordinance. This was tabled until more information could be obtained.

**X. NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. 2012 PRELIMINARY BUDGET DISCUSSION** – Mary DeGon informed council members she will have a 2012 preliminary budget for review at the next council meeting. Council members would like to see planning and the 2012 budget only in place of old and new business at the next meeting.

**XI. COUNCIL MEMBER’S BUSINESS:**

**GEORGE** – He asked if we need to consider increasing the sewer hook up fee from \$500 or are the costs covered under that fee? Dick Brown reported our costs are being covered under that fee. We need to consider adding the purchase of a new copier for City Hall to the new budget. We just put another six hundred dollars into repairing the copier and we can no longer purchase toner for the machine. We have one box of toner left that will last for awhile. Council thought we could add a new copier to the 2013 budget. George had a few questions about the tire amnesty program that Whitman County provides. The Town’s residents had 155 tires that were transported down to the landfill for this recycle program at the expense of the Town.

**AL** – Nothing at this time.

**TOM J.** – He asked if it was allowed for motorcycles and four wheelers to be riding on the old abandoned railroad line within city limits out into the county.

**TOM C.** – He is still trying to find a good solution to having public restrooms in town. This will be discussed further at the next meeting under planning.

**RANDY** – He thanked Mike Nearing for taking the initiative to report reckless driving on our streets.

**XII. TREASURER’S REPORT/APPROVAL OF CHECKS:** Council members reviewed the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter budget position, Treasurer’s Report, Receipt Register and Check Register for September 2011. George Dewan made the motion to approve paid checks #22497 - #22526 in the amount of \$10,730.70 for claims and \$8,086.12 for payroll totaling \$18,816.82 from September 22, 2011 through September 30, 2011 AND EFT payment to WA State Dept of Revenue in the amount of \$549.74 for August 2011 excise taxes, EFT payment to Employment Security Dept in the amount of \$50.23 for 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter unemployment and EFT payment to EFTPS in the amount of \$1,577.15 for August 2011 employee 941 taxes. Tom Johnson seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT:** Randy Robinson made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. Tom Johnson seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

ATTEST:

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**DENNIS PALMER, MAYOR**

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**Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer**