

***Town of Oakesdale***  
**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
***For***  
***November 21, 2011***

- \*\* PUBLIC HEARING FOR 2012 PRELIMINARY BUDGET – MAYOR DENNIS PALMER OPENED THE PUBLIC HEARING AT 7:00 P.M. BEFORE THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING. MARY DEGON GAVE A BRIEF BUDGET REVIEW ON FUND 001 CURRENT EXPENSE, FUND 101 STREETS AND FUND 401 WATER/SEWER. BEING NO COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC, THE PUBLIC HEARING WAS CLOSED AT 7:08 P.M.**
- I. CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Dennis Palmer called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m. following the Public Hearing.
- II. ROLL CALL:** Mayor Dennis Palmer, Tom Crooks, Tom Johnson, Al Evans and George Dewan. Councilman Randy Robinson was not in attendance. Also present was Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer.
- III. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Kelli Meserve
- IV. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** Council members reviewed November 7, 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. 2012 BUDGET –** Tom Crooks asked if we need to add funds to the budget in case we acquire the café building. There would be initial costs for that building and then do we consider repairing the building? Council members did not change or make any additions to the 2012 preliminary budget. There will be a change in Fund 101 Streets for the TIB funded projects. If we are not awarded the grant funds then those projects will be removed from the budget. We will know for sure by next week if we were awarded any funds from TIB.
- B. CAFÉ BUILDING –** Our Town Attorney, Stephen Bishop, contacted Pioneer Title and learned there is no pending foreclosure action against the deceased owner, Rick Kuykendall. Mr. Kuykendall is the last owner of record of the property, Lot 7, Block 12, Original Town of Oakesdale, assessor’s tax parcel No. 1-0645-00-12-07-0000. The property is subject to a deed of trust naming Katherine Westover (Gibson) as beneficiary. It is surmised that Ms. Gibson chose to waive the balance remaining on the note secured by the deed of trust. If we are serious about cleaning up the property, he recommends that we contact Mr. Kuykendall’s two daughters and ask them to quit claim their interest in the property to the Town. At the same time, ask Ms. Gibson for a request for re-conveyance which would allow us to secure the release of the deed of trust. The Town would acquire costs which would include recording fees, excise tax processing fees, deed of trust re-conveyance and unpaid

property taxes. Council members were deep in discussion on whether the Town should be involved with this property or leave it to Mr. Kuykendall's estate. Al Evans made the motion not to proceed any further on the correction and order notice of the café building. Tom Crooks seconded the motion, three council members voted yes and one council member abstained – **motion passed**.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. TIB FUNDING** – We received a call last week from Greg Partch advising us that our application to TIB to improve Front Street has been approved. We will be awarded \$496,250 for that street project to be completed in 2013.
- B. CLERK'S COMPUTER** – The computer Mary uses for BIAS crashed this morning. The hard drive was taken to BIAS to retrieve the data and a laptop was given as a loaner until we can determine what is wrong with the computer. Council members agreed not to spend too much time trying to find/fix the problem at \$95 per hour. Council agreed to replace the crashed computer with a new one if the old one can not be fixed for a reasonable amount.

**VII. COUNCIL MEMBER'S BUSINESS**

**GEORGE** – He was assisting his wife with cleaning the business incubator and they found a garbage bag lying next to a wall heater that was on. The bag had melted from the contact with the heater. Mary will contact First Wind and ask them to be more careful. He called the Department of Health regarding the rental property on Bartlett that has been without water for several months and the property is still occupied by renters. Our Building Inspector can red flag the property for no occupancy due to the property having no water services. This is a misdemeanor against the property owner. The owner has since paid the water bill and water services have resumed at that rental property. George asked on the status of the new lights for the Steptoe sidewalk. They have been ordered and are suppose to arrive sometime next month. Do we have any new information on the bridge project? We have not heard anything from Whitman County and Mayor Palmer will give Mark Storey a call tomorrow to see where we are at in the project.

**AL** – We need to get someone to be a code enforcer for our Town Codes. Nothing is getting done now. We really need to look at the safety issues that arise when the codes are not enforced. He would like to see the fines increased. He asked if we might consider making the new Public Works Director position include code enforcement when Dick retires. We have Town Marshalls who enforce the codes. If there is something that needs to be enforced then the Mayor needs to follow-up with our police department.

**TOM J.** – Nothing at this time.

**TOM C.** – Nothing at this time.

**VIII. TREASURER'S REPORT:** Council members reviewed the Treasurer's Report for November 2011. Tom Johnson made the motion to approve paid checks #22581 - #22596 in the amount of \$2,352.90 for claims and \$3,682.97 for payroll totaling \$6,035.87 from November 09, 2011 through November 10, 2011. Al Evans seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**.

IX. **ADJOURNMENT:** Al Evans made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. George Dewan 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