

Town of Oakesdale
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
For
January 17, 2012

- 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 and Kelli Meserve. Councilman Al Evans was not in attendance. Also present were Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer and Keith Cooper, Town Marshal.
- III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** James & Sherry Orton and Mark Storey.
- IV. **MARK STOREY, WHITMAN COUNTY:** Mark addressed council members on the status of the Steptoe Street Bridge. Last week we advertised the need for consultants for bridge replacement structural design for the Steptoe Bridge. The ad will run again this week and the deadline for statement of qualifications (SOQ's) is February 16, 2012 by 5:00 p.m. The original proposal did not include sidewalks on the bridge. We were approved to add sidewalks using existing funds. Mark asked if someone from the council would be interested in serving on the interview committee. Mayor Palmer stated he wanted to be on that committee. We have received FHWA fund authorization for preliminary engineering in the sum of \$57,500. The Federal share will be \$46,000. Construction of the project could be in the fall of 2012 but it would most likely happen in 2013. Mayor Palmer would like to see the bridge construction before or after harvest. Mark also pointed out we do not want to be in the middle of construction during First Wind's project as construction traffic will be using that bridge too. It was asked how long would actual construction of the bridge take? Mark thought about three months at least.
- V. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** Council members reviewed January 3, 2012 minutes. Tom Johnson made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Tom Crooks seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**
- VI. **OLD BUSINESS:**
- A. **PROBLEM RENTAL PROPERTIES** – Pending attorney's approval.
- B. **DOG ORDINANCE** – Councilman Al Evans submitted a suggested change in our dog ordinances to address vicious dogs and securing those animals in a fenced area to help prevent the animal from attacking or injuring any other person or animal. Tom Crooks reviewed current dog ordinances and does not see the need to add more when the current code addresses the issues. Randy Robinson agreed with Al's

changes when it comes to requiring a vicious dog to be in a fenced area. Council discussion followed with a decision to table this topic for our next meeting when the Town Marshal could have a chance to review the suggested changes.

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. MAYOR PRO-TEM** – Every six months we need to designate a Mayor Pro-tem. Randy Robinson made the motion to allow Al Evans to continue serving in that position. Tom Johnson seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**
- B. STEPTOE STREET BRIDGE** – Council members received a copy of the fund authorization from WSDOT. The bridge project updated was covered by Mark Storey.
- C. CARDBOARD RECYCLING & MIXED PAPER** – As of now, this is a no go. We had an Empire Disposal employee look at the site where the big dumpsters were to be located and they can not get the dumpster in or out of the area due to the roof on the lean-to building. We really want the dumpsters to be under cover to avoid recycling items from blowing out of the containers. Dick Brown saw pictures of Tekoa’s containers and they are being filled with garbage besides the designated recyclables. The dumpster ends up being taken to a landfill because of the contamination and then charged to the town.

VIII. PLANNING: Tom Crooks brought up the outdoor recycling center and the continued concern about the chips and compost not being used by citizens. The center is used by a majority of our citizens and this has been a great asset to our community. Council members discussed other ways to dispose of the compost and chips. There was a suggestion on having an annual user fee. Residents would pay a small fee annually to have access to the recycling center. That income could help the town dispose of the compost and chips that are left at the end of the season.

IX. COUNCIL MEMBER’S BUSINESS:

KELLI – She attended a 2 -day training for newly elected officials. She received lots of good information and thanked council for the opportunity to attend.

TOM J. – He attended First Wind’s contractor open house today. The open house was to learn about opportunities for subcontractors, vendors and professional service providers. It was very well attended.

TOM C. – Nothing at this time.

RANDY – Kudos to the Whitman County Sherriff and our local police for all the work done over the past weekend.

- X. **TREASURER'S REPORT/APPROVAL OF CHECKS:** Council members were given a Treasurer's Report for December 2011. Mary has three more days to pay bills that were acquired in 2011 before closing the year and inputting the 2012 beginning balances. Randy made the motion to approve paid checks #22672-#22683, #22685-#22690 in the amount of \$3,927.33 for claims and \$0 for payroll totaling \$3,927.33 for December 31, 2011 AND paid checks #22684, #22688, #22691-#22696 in the amount of \$958.00 for claims and \$6,397.43 for payroll totaling \$7,355.43 from January 5, 2011 through January 12, 2012. Kelli Meserve seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**
- XI. **ADJOURNMENT:** Randy Robinson made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Tom Johnson seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – motion passed.

ATTEST:

DENNIS PALMER, MAYOR

Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer