

Town of Oakesdale
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
For
May 7, 2012

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Dennis Palmer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Mayor Dennis Palmer, Kelli Meserve, Tom Johnson and Tom Crooks. Councilmen Al Evans and Randy Robinson were not in attendance. Also present were Keith Cooper, Town Marshal; Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer and Bob Hooper, Public Works Director.
- III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Randy Noble and Steven Marsh from TD&H; Vicki Leeper, Director of Tourism & Special Events for Pullman Chamber of Commerce; Micki Harnois, Mayor of Rockford; Greg Partch, Whitman County Commissioner; Joe Carlson from 3rd Street Studios; Jerome Green from Spokane Scenic Tours; and Jack & Marci Fanning.

Jack & Marci Fanning – Neighbors are not following the Town codes when burning outdoor yard debris. Neighbors have burned after 4 p.m. The neighbors to the west are renters and did not know the Town’s burning codes. Town Marshal Keith Cooper did talk to the neighbors and informed them of the burning allowed times. Jack will circulate a petition to ban burning. He stated there are other avenues to take care of it. Marci asked when the drainage ditch project on the corner of Pearl & Fourth Street was going to be completed. She has noticed children playing in the open ditches. Bob Hooper stated the project should be completed by next week. She feels the Town is letting go the beautiful empty buildings. These buildings are all privately owned and her concerns should be redirected to the actual owners of the property. Jack also stated his neighbor behind him has junk vehicles and why did he have to get rid of his junk vehicles and that person doesn’t? This was referred to the Town Marshals.

- IV. **GREG PARTCH – TIB UPDATES:** Greg serves on the Transportation Improvement Board and wanted to give council members new updates from TIB. Towns and Cities under 1,000 in population will have no match towards TIB funded projects. The no match used to be for Towns under 500 in population. There will be 1.5 million in extra funding available for pavement preservation projects. Something TIB is strongly considering will be to make funding available to update street lights to LED. They are going to have a pilot program to start the process at \$50,000 to fund the LED program. Paul Kimmel from Avista will be in touch to discuss monitoring the new street lights on Steptoe. They would like to compare the power usage by using the newer lights on the south side of Steptoe by the Co-Ag office to be compared with the brand new LED lights on the north side of Steptoe by Crossett’s Food Market. Greg also talked about the construction kick-off event hosted by First Wind and the tax revenue benefiting our

school. The levy could actually be cut in half next year from the wind turbine project tax revenues.

- V. **TD&H – RANDY NOBLE & STEVE MARSH:** The Town received a letter from the Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation regarding the Front Street Project stating the area has the potential for archaeological resources. Further, the scale of the proposed ground disturbing actions would destroy any archaeological resources present. Therefore, recommending a professional archaeological survey of the project area be conducted prior to ground disturbing activities. TD&H has contacted Plateau Archeological Investigations (PIA) for the survey work. PIA submitted a proposal of \$4,375 for the survey which will be reimbursed 100% by TIB. Tom Johnson made the motion to approve Mayor Palmer to sign the proposal from PIA for \$4,375. Kelli Meserve seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**. Randy asked council to consider replacing the water line on Front Street while the road will be under construction next year. A lower grade on the project could make replacing the water line eligible for TIB funds.

Steve Marsh presented council with water system improvements that were listed in the 1993 Capital Facilities Plan for the Town of Oakesdale. The various updates would cost around \$2.6 million. The funds that are available through the USDA Rural Development would be a 40 year loan with an approximate interest rate of three percent. The Town’s monthly water rate could be increased from \$22 per month to \$62 should we apply for funding. Steve suggested council discuss the possibilities and work on public awareness and public education for a year before committing to such a loan.

- VI. **3RD STREET STUDIOS:** Jerome Green from Spokane Scenic Tours and Joe Carlson, owner of 3rd Street Studios, gave a presentation about their recent video of “American Time Passages” and would like to make a video about Tekoa, Oakesdale and Palouse. The video would be approximately 20 minutes long and could be an economic engine. The title could be “A Slice of Heaven Along Highway 27”. Joe shared many favorite pictures he has taken and gave some examples of what kind of images he would like to have in the video. He will email a more professional bid, but is looking for \$2500 shared between the three towns.

- VII. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** Council members reviewed April 16, 2012 minutes. Kelli Meserve made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Tom Johnson seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**.

- VIII. **TOWN MARSHAL REPORT:** Keith Cooper reviewed April 2012 police report with council members. There were nine cases ranging from traffic offenses, false reporting, warrant arrest, vehicular assault and protection order violation. Keith addressed all the cars parked on the side of the street on East Bartlett that belong to Brett Hanks.

IX. PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: Bob Hooper reported the leak has been fixed in front of the Presbyterian Church. Water meters were read at the end of April and there appeared to be very few leaks since it has been six months since we last read them. He is discharging the lagoons this week. Gearing up for lots of mowing!

X. OLD BUSINESS:

A. RAILROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY LEASES – We received two updated invoices from WSDOT on our railroad right-of-way leases that showed original amounts agreed to by the Town and not the inflated amounts first billed. The invoices were forwarded to our Town Attorney.

B. PORT OF WHITMAN’S REQUEST – Stephen Bishop is drawing up the request for council members to review before being submitted to the Port.

C. SURPLUS 1960 GALION GRADER – We received three sealed bids for the grader that were due by 3:00 p.m. today. The three bids were \$2,528, \$3,000 and \$3,125. The highest bid was awarded the grader and has until Friday, May 11th to pay for the grader.

XI. NEW BUSINESS:

A. FIRST WIND BUSINESS INCUBATOR LEASE AGREEMENT – First Wind has asked for an extension of their lease through the remainder of this month and to have the option of renting the space month to month for the remainder of this year. They would give us a thirty day notice to vacate the space. Council consensus was to approve the extended lease for the remainder of 2012. This will be referred to Stephen Bishop.

B. OAKESDALE CAFÉ BUILDING CONCERNS – We received a letter of concern from Rachel Hovde, Postmaster for the Oakesdale Office, regarding the condition of the collapsed back wall and barrels of used cooking oil located behind the café. Dan Brown did find a company’s name and number on the barrels and Mary contacted them to have the barrels removed. The company located out of Hayden, Idaho came and removed the barrels that same day.

C. MOSQUITO FOGGING – We are waiting for an inter-local agreement from Tekoa to continue sharing the fogging machine used for mosquito fogging. The City of Tekoa will no longer be supplying a licensed person to apply the chemical. It is now the responsibility of the Town to provide that person.

XII. COUNCIL MEMBER’S BUSINESS:

TOM C. – Nothing at this time.

TOM J. – He had questions about the trouble at 605 W McCoy Street.

KELLI – Nothing at this time.

DENNY – WSDOT has added fluorescent markers to the stop sign at the intersection of HWY 27 and HWY 271 for added safety. He is talking to Avista about having a street light at that location as well. He would also like to see a No Truck parking sign on Steptoe on the south side of Crossett’s to prevent poor visibility at the intersection of Steptoe and First Street.

XIII. TREASURER’S REPORT/APPROVAL OF CHECKS: Council members reviewed the Treasurer’s Report, Receipt Register and Check Register for April 2012. Tom Johnson made the motion to approve checks paid #22828 - #22851 in the amount of \$7,399.27 for claims and \$12,448.70 for payroll totaling \$19,847.97 from April 19, 2012 through May 03, 2012 AND EFT payment to WA DOR in the amount of \$470.20 for March 2012 excise taxes AND EFT payment to EFTPS in the amount of \$2,121.75 for employee taxes. Kelli Meserve seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**.

IXV. ADJOURNMENT: Tom Crooks 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:

DENNIS PALMER, MAYOR

Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer