

***Town of Oakesdale***  
***TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES***  
***For***  
***July 2, 2012***

**\*\* PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE SIX YEAR TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (STIP) – Mayor Dennis Palmer opened the public hearing at 7:00 p.m. The STIP was explained to our guests and being no public comment the public hearing was closed at 7:02 p.m.**

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Dennis Palmer called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. following the public hearing.

**II. ROLL CALL:** Mayor Dennis Palmer, Al Evans, Tom Johnson, Tom Crooks and Randy Robinson. Council member Kelli Meserve was not in attendance. Also present were Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer; Bob Hooper, Public Works Director and Keith Cooper, Town Marshal.

**III. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Dolores Haley, William Tensfeld – candidate for Whitman County Commissioner and Garth Meyer, reporter for the Whitman County Gazette.

Dolores asked council members how many have been in the McCoy Valley Museum lately. All council members raised their hands that they have visited the museum. Dolores stated this is the best museum in Washington State. She would like to see the means and opportunity to get people here to see the museum. Our museum is a gem and it needs to be shared. Mayor Palmer stated we are on one of the stops with the Palouse Scenic Byway and he will be making sandwich board signs to have on the sidewalks inviting people to stop and tour the open museum.

**IV. WILLIAM TENSFELD – CANDIDATE FOR WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONER:** Bill gave a brief introduction to council members and then talked about his experience and adverse background and education that make him qualified for the job of Whitman County Commissioner. He has a lot to offer the citizens and he is committed to listening and understanding any and all major concerns of the citizens and employees of the county. He will focus on the challenging budget deficit and negativity we keep hearing about. He is a proven leader in his job with WSDOT of 18 years, Rosalia Fire Chief the past 12 years, firefighter and EMT for more than 25 years, President of the Whitman County Fire Chiefs Association, Chairman of the Whitman County Hazard Mitigation Steering Committee and a member of the Whitcom Fire and EMS Committee. He will listen to the citizens and he will make a difference. Council members asked various questions and thanked Bill for his time.

**V. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** Council members reviewed June 18, 2012 minutes. Tom Johnson made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Al Evans seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

VI. **TOWN MARSHAL REPORT:** Keith Cooper submitted a monthly report for June 2012 to council members. There were seven cases ranging from drug arrests, traffic offenses, domestic dispute and town code violation. Keith has spoken with Whitman County Sherriff, Brett Myers, regarding our police department being used as a sub-station for Whitman County Sherriff's. Sherriff Myer stated it would be a benefit for his department and the Town to have Deputies in town as well as in the office during the times Keith is not on duty. He also discussed with Sherriff Myer the possibility of having one of his Deputies be a Code Enforcer for our town. He did not have any issues with a Deputy doing that on their own time. Keith will post a notice out to the Deputies if council members decide that is the way they want to go with code enforcement. He will need to know the hourly rate and maximum hours allowed before he can post the opening.

VII. **PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:** Bob Hooper reported he and Jeffrey DeGon have been very busy mowing, trimming and spraying weeds. The riding mower we use is on its last leg and Bob asked council members if they would consider purchasing a new mower. Randy Robinson will check with Tom Truman on the commercial mowers he sells. We need to consider a zero turn mower and possibly purchasing a used mower. Bob thanked council members for allowing him to have a week off to be with family.

VIII. **OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. **RAILROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY LEASES** – Two leases are still pending.
- B. **TOWN MARSHAL VACANCY** – Council members discussed possible hours per week with a monthly maximum along with an hourly rate. Many council members stated five hours a week should be plenty with twenty hours maximum per month. The code enforcer would be employed by the Town. There was much discussion about pay rate and Mayor Palmer made the decision to offer \$17 per hour.
- C. **MOSQUITO FOGGING** – Pending an inter-local agreement from Tekoa.
- D. **SURPLUS WHITE PUMPER TRUCK** – Mayor Palmer feels the fire department has jumped the gun on asking the Town to remove the pumper truck from the fleet. The fire department may still need the pumper truck as a back up according to the Survey Rating Bureau. Mayor Palmer will meet with Fire Chief, George Dewan, regarding the pumper truck and contact a representative from the Survey Rating Bureau. This was tabled until we have more information.

IX. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. **RESOLUTION NO. 2012-331 STIP** – Randy Robinson made the motion to dispense with the reading of Resolution No. 2012-331 adopting the Six Year Transportation Improvement Program. Tom Johnson seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**. Randy Robinson made the motion to adopt Resolution No. 2012-331. Al Evans seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**.
- B. **2013 LEVIES** – Council members discussed what amounts were needed for next year's safety & fire levy and the street levy. Randy Robinson pointed out we gave our citizens a break this year with no levies and we need to get back on track with the same levies we ran in 2011 which were \$20,000 for safety & fire and \$30,000 for streets. Mary pointed out is costs the Town \$14,000 a year in our contract with

Whitman County Fire District to provide the Town with fire protection and emergency medical services. The remaining \$6,000 goes to aid in the costs of having our own Town Marshal. The bulk of the street levy pays for the Town's street lights which cost around \$20,000 and the remaining \$10,000 helps us to maintain and repair our streets. Council consensus was to ask \$20,000 for safety & fire levy and \$30,000 for street levy. The next meeting will have the resolution for the levies.

**X. COUNCIL MEMBER'S BUSINESS:**

**RANDY, TOM C., TOM J. AND AL** – Nothing at this time.

**MARY** – City Hall will be closed on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> for the extended holiday. Mary will be on vacation all of next week. Former Mayor, Russ Rickett, will be working half days at City Hall from 8 am to Noon while Mary is on vacation from July 9<sup>th</sup> thru July 13<sup>th</sup>.

**XI. TREASURER'S REPORT/APPROVAL OF CHECKS:** Council members reviewed the Treasurer's Report, Receipt Register and Check Register for June 2012. They also reviewed the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter budget position for 2012. Al Evans made the motion to approve paid checks# 22917 - #22945 in the amount of \$24,006.98 for claims and \$8,981.60 for payroll totaling \$32,988.58 from June 21, 2012 through June 29, 2012 AND EFT payment on 06/21/12 to WA State Department of Revenue for \$570.79 for excise taxes and EFT payment on 06/29/12 to EFTPS for \$1,862.97 for employee federal taxes. Tom Johnson seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

**XII. ADJOURNMENT:** Randy Robinson made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m. Al Evans 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**