

***Town of Oakesdale***  
***TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES***  
***For***  
***December 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, Kelli Meserve, Al Evans, Tom Johnson, Tom Crooks and Randy Robinson. Also present was Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer.
- III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Randy Noble, TD&H
- IV. **RANDY NOBLE, TD&H – Front Street Project:** He received a call today from his surveyor that may shed new light on the existing roadway. There is a possibility that a section of Front Street’s right-of-way was already deeded to the Town by previous land owners. They will be going to Whitman County for confirmation and to also check on ownership of a small piece of triangle property at the bottom of Front Street and McCoy that may belong to Whitman County. The Mayor will wait for confirmation from TD&H before contacting the current property owner about the possibility of a quit claim deed to clear title for the existing road.
- VI. **DEAN CORNELISON, WHITMAN CO. – Steptoe Street Bridge Project:** Dean could not attend our meeting tonight due to illness.
- VII. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** Council members reviewed December 3, 2012 minutes. Randy Robinson made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Kelli Meserve seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**
- VIII. **OLD BUSINESS:**
- A. **STATE AUDIT** – The State Auditors were here three days last week and today reviewing 2009, 2010 and 2011 data. Today, we had our entrance conference which councilman Tom Crooks attended with Mary DeGon. Our audit will evaluate accountability and compliance with state laws and regulations in the following areas:
- Shared costs
  - Payroll and benefits
  - Bid compliance
  - Grant/contract agreements
  - Billing and receipting

Tom Crooks did state to members that the State Auditors did have a concern how payroll and employees benefits are automatically allocated between our three major funds. For an example, Mary is allocated 50% to Current Expense Fund and 50% to Water/Sewer Fund. They noticed Mary has no payroll or benefits being allocated to the Street Fund. Mary does manage grant projects related to streets and sidewalks and pays bills related to streets. We need documented proof to justify the allocations to confirm the existing allocations. They suggested doing a time study. The other item they are focusing their efforts on is the business incubator grant funding and our previous occupants, First Wind.

- B. FRONT STREET PROJECT** – This was all discussed under Section IV with Randy Noble from TD&H.
- C. STEPTOE STREET BRIDGE PROJECT** – Dean Cornelison from Whitman County has reviewed the contract many times and stated it was good to go. Randy Robinson made the motion to allow Mayor Palmer to sign the Local Agency Standard Consultant Agreement with JUB. Tom Johnson seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. CERTIFICATION OF LEVIES** – Council members received copies of the levy certifications for both of our propositions on the General Election ballots. Proposition #1 passed with a 74.31 percent approval for our safety levy and Proposition #2 passed with a 73.52% approval for our street levy.

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

**KELLI** – She asked if there was a law that stated how long a train could block an intersection in town. Council members thought there was but not sure what length of time. Denny will check with the railroad. Kelli was reviewing the AWC Tax and User Fee Survey information and noticed how low our water rates are compared to other communities. Council members discussed how good that is for our users but it could hinder us trying to get loans to improve our water system in the future. Randy Noble stated that the organization lending the money may see our rates too low to support the loan. A few council members do not see the need to increase our water rates until we absolutely need to.

**AL** – He stated after the shooting that happened last week in Connecticut at the Sandy Hook Elementary School he would like to have a school representative and our Town Marshals meet with council members to review our school's policy for such events.

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

- X. TREASURER'S REPORT:** Council members reviewed the Treasurer's Report for December 2012. Tom Johnson made the motion to approve paid checks# 23138 - #23163 in the amount of \$3,463.03 for claims and \$7,055.81 for payroll totaling \$10,518.84 from

December 06, 2012 through December 14, 2012. Al Evans seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

- X. **ADJOURNMENT:** Al Evans made the motion to adjourn the council meeting at 7:52 p.m. Kelli Meserve seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

---

**DENNIS PALMER, MAYOR**

**ATTEST:**

---

**Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer**