

Town of Oakesdale
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
For
June 3, 2013

- 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 were Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer; Bob Hooper, Public Works Director and Stephen Bishop, Town Attorney.

- III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Dolores Haley, Randy Noble & Steve Marsh with TD&H.

Dolores wanted to remind council members about Old Mill Days on July 20th. She would love to see all the council members participate in the parade. She gave a brief overview of the day's events.

- IV. **RANDY NOBLE & STEVE MARSH, TD&H:** Randy Noble gave a status report on our projects:

Front Street

- WSDOT has approved the intersection layout
- Bid Authorization forms have been sent to TIB
- DAHP requires an Inadvertent Discovery Plan in case historical or archeological items are discovered - \$250 cost reimbursable by TIB and the plan will be delivered later this week.
- We must obtain Tribal concurrence for the Archeological Report – letters are ready for Mayor's signature

Steptoe Sidewalk

- Bid Authorization forms have been sent to TIB
- Pole removal – Avista is okay
- Frontier indicated they must receive notice from Avista to relocate the telephone lines (fiber optic). We have asked Avista to contact Frontier.

Front Street Water Main Replacement

- Ready for bids

Steve Marsh informed council members there will be another call for water projects this September because the Department of Health did not spend all of their EPA money. Earlier this year, DOH received 44 applications and all of them were funded. There is still subsidy money available for the fall. Another Whitman County town was awarded approximately

\$1.5 million in funding for water improvements. The standard loan terms are a 1.5% fixed rate, 1.0% loan fee (may be waived), principal forgiveness (up to 50%) and a 20 year loan term. TD&H will submit an application to DOH on the Town's behalf at no cost. The funding is retroactive. If the Town receives funding, we have the option to repay the cost for the Small Water System Management Program. If funded, the Town has the option to terminate the loan if we had a change of commitment. The first loan payment is due after construction is complete. The Town would have 2 to 3 years to build reserves. The Town needs to have the Small Water System Management Plan approved by DOH by September. We need to make sure the desired improvements are listed as the top priorities. The Town needs to adopt a Resolution adopting the plan once it has been given approval by DOH. It was suggested to have TD&H perform a hydraulic model of our water system to help us understand where our deficiencies are at a cost of around \$10,000. To have a complete water system plan we are looking at \$35,000. Council discussion on all the information Steve presented. Council consensus was to submit our plan to DOH first and go from there. No other decisions were made to apply for funding.

- V. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** Council members reviewed May 20, 2013 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:** No Marshal was present to review the monthly report. There were nine cases in May and 25 traffic stops.
- VII. **PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:** Bob Hooper reported to council that we rented a compressor to blow out all the shut-offs for the Front Street Project. The valves finally turned and were tested. Our summer help, Jeffrey DeGon, comes back next Tuesday. We had Whitman County bring us a container to haul the yard waste away in the outdoor recycling center. This is less expensive compared to chipping it ourselves.
- VIII. **OLD BUSINESS:**
- A. **LIBRARY BUILDING** – We have not heard back from Brian Westmoreland. Mayor Palmer will call him to get the bid we were supposed to have received over a week ago.
- B. **PROJECT UPDATES** – We received a letter from Keith Martin, Regional Local Programs Engineer with WSDOT, agreeing to be the Town's Certification Acceptance (CA) agency for the Steptoe Bridge Project. Whitman County was our agent for the preliminary engineering phase and WSDOT will be our agent for the remainder of the project.
- C. **CHRONIC NUISANCE ORDINANCE** – Stephen Bishop explained how this ordinance was modeled after other cities and how smaller towns are now looking at using something very similar due to nuisance rental properties. Stephen encouraged council to review the sample ordinance he has submitted and detail it to fit our

needs. Council members will review the ordinance in its entirety at the next council meeting and then they will make their suggestions to Stephen.

- D. **MOSQUITO FOGGING** – We need someone to obtain a Public Applicator’s license to fog mosquitoes. Cory Doneen has shown some interest in getting his license.

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **PRE-CHARGING DIVERSION PROGRAM – Whitman Co. Prosecuting Attorney** – We received a letter from Denis Tracy, Prosecuting Attorney, letting us know of a new program he is considering implementing through his office called a Pre-Charging Diversion Program. This program would be targeted to the first time offenders who are between the ages of 18 and 21 and who commit the misdemeanor crimes of either Minor in Possession of Alcohol or Minor in Possession of Marijuana. He would like to hear our input on this proposed program. He included a draft of the program with his letter for council member’s review.
- B. **SIX YEAR STIP** – Council members reviewed the STIP for 2014-2019 lists of projects. We will have a public hearing before the regular council meeting on June 17th at 7 p.m. for input on the STIP.
- C. **SURPLUS OF OLD PUMPER TRUCK** – Now that the weather is nicer, we will be parking the old fire pumper truck across from City Hall and advertising the surplus item. Last fall council members made the motion to surplus the truck at the August 6, 2012 meeting with a minimum bid of \$3,000.

X. COUNCIL MEMBER’S BUSINESS:

KELLI – She wanted to confirm we are submitting our water plan to DOH – yes. She wants to see us keep moving forward on the chronic nuisance ordinance.

AL – Continues to request council to consider purchasing a generator to operate the wells during a severe power outage. This could be added to the water system plan needs.

TOM J. – Nothing at this time.

TOM C. – Concern over the condition of the brick on the old hotel building. The owner passed away a few years ago and the property remains in limbo as to who legally owns it. Tom Johnson will check on the property’s status tomorrow at the county. We could proceed with abatement.

RANDY – Nothing at this time.

- XI. **TREASURER’S REPORT/APPROVAL OF CHECKS:** Council members reviewed the Treasurer’s Report, Receipt Register and Check Register for May 2013. Al Evans made the motion to approve paid checks #23379 - #23393 in the amount of \$6,109.87 for claims and \$5,817.85 for payroll totaling \$11,927.72 from May 22, 2013 through May 31, 2013 AND

EFT payment to WA State Department of Revenue in the amount of \$579.72 for excise taxes AND EFT payment to EFTPS in the amount of \$1,759.00 for federal employee taxes. Randy Robinson seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

- XII. ADJOURNMENT:** Al Evans made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 p.m. Kelli Meserve seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

DENNIS PALMER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer