

***Town of Oakesdale***  
***TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES***  
***For***  
***January 6, 2014***

- 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 Keith Cooper, Town Marshal.
- III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Dolores Haley
- IV. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** Council members reviewed December 16, 2013 minutes and December 26, 2013 Special Meeting minutes. Tom Johnson made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Tom Crooks seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**
- V. **TOWN MARSHAL REPORT:** Keith Cooper gave council members a copy of the police department's report for December 2013. There were 11 cases ranging from domestic dispute, suspicious, malicious mischief, trespassing to extra patrols needed. Out of the eleven calls six were to 502 W Steptoe. The eleven calls do not include how many times Whitman County Sherriff's department responded to calls to the same address. As stated in the Whitman County Gazette, there have been some arrests made last week and this week pertaining to a large theft. Some of the arrests have been made in Oakesdale pertaining to this case.
- VI. **PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:** Bob Hooper reported they have been repairing the white sweeper. It now has a new broom tube and running better after a few adjustments. He has been building shelves for the shop and getting supplies and parts reorganized.
- VII. **OLD BUSINESS:**
  - A. **REPAIR OF WELLS** – Mayor Palmer went by Specialty Pump today to check on the progress of the well but they were closed. Bob has been working on cleaning the 130 feet of 8 inch pipe on the inside and getting them painted. The new motor in the pump comes with a standard one year warranty. Denny would like to add an hour meter on the pump. It already has a meter for the gallons pumped.
  - B. **WATER RATE INCREASE** – The rate council members will discuss will be in effect in 2015. Al suggested basing the increase on a cost of living factor. Randy Robinson asked

to table the discussion until the next council meeting as that will be our planning meeting. Council members agreed to table this discussion until the next meeting.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. RAILROAD LEASE INCREASES** – We received notification from WSDOT providing notice from the Rail Division that any leases that currently have an annual rental rate of less than \$350 will be implemented to the new minimum lease amount of \$394.94 per year. This will affect three out of the four leases we have with WSDOT. We show our current leases to be:

Lease #525065 - \$500

Lease #229350 - \$75

Lease #NP43540 - \$1

Lease #229961 - \$90

**B. LIBRARY LEVY** – We received an email from Kristie Kirkpatrick to inform our Town Council that the Whitman County Library will be running a levy reset election in February. The measure seeks to reset the library's levy rate to 50 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value within the library district, a rate originally approved by voters in 1984 and was effective through 2002. With the passage of I-747 in 2001 the levy rate began to drop, requiring voters to restore the levy in 2010 and now, again for 2015.

**C. RESOLUTION NO. 2014-343** – Randy Robinson made the motion to dispense with the reading of Resolution No. 2014-343 designating an official Town's newspaper for 2014. Al Evans seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**. Tom Johnson made the motion to adopt Resolution No. 2014-343 designating the Whitman County Gazette as the official Town's newspaper in 2014. Al Evans seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**.

**D. MAYOR PRO-TEM** – Every six months we must renew our Mayor Pro-tem. Council members' consensus was to keep Al Evens as Mayor Pro-tem for another six months. Al agreed to continue the position.

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

**KELLI** – Nothing at this time.

**AL** – He would like to explore the idea of having a Sister City for the Town of Oakesdale.

**TOM J.** – Nothing at this time.

**TOM C.** – He met with Jake Dingman today to discuss possible future ideas for the school's ailing tennis court. The school is looking at placing a greenhouse in the spot where the tennis court currently resides. The school is trying to offer more to our students by having an agriculture program.

**RANDY** – Nothing at this time.

**IX. TREASURER’S REPORT/APPROVAL OF CHECKS:** Council members reviewed the Treasurer’s Report, Check Register and Receipt Register for December 2013. Al Evans made the motion to approve paid checks #23697 - #23721 in the amount of \$185,230.45 for claims and \$8,386.75 for payroll totaling \$193,617.20 from December 19, 2013 through December 31, 2013 AND EFT payments to:

- WA State Department of Revenue in the amount of \$501.60 for excise taxes
- EFTPS in the amount of \$1,924.52 for employee federal taxes
- WA State Employment Security Department in the amount of \$47.96 for 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter unemployment benefits
- WA State Department of Labor & Industries in the amount of \$957.25 for 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter employee benefits

AND approve paid check #23722 in the amount of \$689.15 for claims and \$0 for payroll totaling \$689.15 for January 3, 2014. Tom Johnson seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

**X. ADJOURNMENT:** Al Evans made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m. Randy Robinson seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

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**DENNIS PALMER, MAYOR**

**ATTEST:**

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**Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer**