

**Town of Oakesdale**  
**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**For**  
**November 3, 2014**

**\*\* Public Hearing for 2015 Preliminary Budget – Mayor Dennis Palmer opened the Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m. Mary DeGon reviewed the changes in the budget. Dolores Haley asked about the excise tax. We have a 6% excise tax on telecommunications, garbage, electricity, water, sewer and cable TV. Being no other comments from the public, the meeting was closed at 7:25 p.m.**

**\*\*Public Hearing for 1% increase over actual levy amount from last year – Mayor Dennis Palmer opened the Public Hearing at 7:26 p.m. Mary explained we are entitled by RCW 84.55.120 to increase the regular property tax levy by 1% which would be a total increase of \$474.89 for the year. Joe Reynolds gave Mary a print out with actual levy calculations that show the Town of Oakesdale has a banked capacity of \$3,616.81 that we can have refunded to the Town per RCW 84.55.070. Being no comments from the public, the meeting was closed at 7:30 p.m.**

I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Dennis Palmer called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. following the Public Hearings.

II. **ROLL CALL:** Mayor Dennis Palmer, Jake Dingman, Al Evans, Tom Johnson, Tom Crooks and Randy Robinson. Also present were Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer; Bob Hooper, Public Works Director and Justin Derosier, Town Marshal.

III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Dolores Haley

Dolores asked council if we had Town Codes to prevent neighbors from hoarding garbage. We do have Town Codes to deal with individuals not using garbage service or removing piled up trash. The one in particular person she is referring to has moved and all the garbage has been hauled away.

IV. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** Council members reviewed October 20, 2014 minutes. Tom Johnson made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Jake Dingman seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

V. **TOWN MARSHAL REPORT:** Justin Derosier gave council members the police department's monthly report for October 2014. There were 8 cases ranging from property damage, traffic hazard, communication problems (911), civil standby and Halloween patrol. We had 2 calls handled by Whitman County which consisted of a DUI and warrant arrest.

VI. **PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:** Bob Hooper reported to council we had our 5 year sanitary inspection of the wells by DOH and passed. The only comment we received was to silicone around the air tube. We fixed two water leaks located at 405 N Third and 505 W Pearl. He completed the last meter reading for winter. Meters will not be read again until March 25<sup>th</sup> in 2015 weather permitting. Whitman County brought another container for us to haul more yard debris away. We participated in the Whitman County tire amnesty program and hauled about 150 tires to the landfill. The sprinkler system at City Hall has been winterized.

VII. **OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. **2015 BUDGET** – Mary added funds to the budget to re-codify our Town Codes. It has been 5 years since we had them done. The time study Mary completed in October 2014 showed approximately 23% of her duties were in Water/Sewer and 67% in Current. The 2015 budget reflects those splits.
- B. **WELL #4 REPAIRS** – We are waiting for the new quote from Specialty Pumps.
- C. **STORMWATER FUNDING** – Council members reviewed a copy of an email from Stillman Norton with Keller Associates. As he promised, he continues to look into other options to offset any matching fund requirements for DOE funding. Unfortunately, he hasn't found much. He really sees the only viable option to help pay for grant matching funds is for the Town to setup a storm water utility fund. He suggests adding a fee on our water bills (example: \$4 per account per person) to help the Town fund maintenance and capital projects with storm water. Council consensus was not to establish a storm water fund yet. No updates from Union Pacific Railroad on the old bridge south of the city limits.

VIII. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. **SEWER FUNDING COALITION** – Council members reviewed a letter we received from Mayor Gary Cronce from Shelton, WA representing the Sewer Funding Coalition (SFC). The SFC is a coalition of smaller local governments that are lobbying the Legislature for wastewater grants. Their goal is to secure grants from the state for local government sewer system improvements. The idea is to get help for smaller systems with a population of 25,000 or less that are facing financial hardships due to sewer capital construction mandates. He would like to arrange a 15 minutes conference call to discuss their progress and hear about our needs. Mayor Palmer will contact him for a conference call.
- B. **2015 WATER RATES** – Randy Robinson made the motion to raise the basic water rate from \$22 per month to \$27 per month for 2015 and a 2% increase to the base rate for the next five years 2016-2020. Jake Dingman seconded the motion, 4 council members voted yes and 1 council member voted no – **motion passed.**
- C. **RESOLUTION NO. 2014-347** – Randy made the motion to dispense with the reading of Resolution No. 2014-347 imposing a one percent increase from the

previous year's property tax and taking our \$3,616.81 refund. Tom Johnson seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**. Randy Robinson made the motion to adopt Resolution No. 2014-347. Tom Johnson seconded the motion, 4 council members voted yes and 1 council member voted no – **motion passed**.

- D. ORDINANCE NO. 618** – Jake Dingman made the motion to dispense with the reading of Ordinance No. 618 amending the Town's 2014 Budget. Randy Robinson seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**. Tom Johnson made the motion to adopt Ordinance No. 618 amending the 2014 budget for Street Fund 101 for the Front Street Roadway Project in the amount of \$24,347.18 adjusting the budget to \$189,281.78. Al Evans seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**.

**IX. COUNCIL MEMBERS' BUSINESS:**

**RANDY** – He thought the wetlands sign has been removed out by the lagoons. He will contact Bob Westby with WSDOT to see if there is any new information. RVs and vehicles are clogging up alley ways and city right-of-ways which will make it difficult to plow snow and for emergency vehicles to have access. This will be referred to the Town Marshals.

**TOM C.** – Nothing at this time.

**TOM J.** – He concurs with Randy.

**AL** – He asked if there was any place in town people could pay to store their RVs and stuff. Besides the mini storage in town, there is not any extra storage.

**JAKE** – He gave a school report:

Funds have been donated by Wilbur-Ellis for the school to have a green house.

McGregor's has donated \$5,000 per year for 3 years for the maintenance and supplies needed for the green house.

First Wind will likely pay for the installation of the green house.

We are hosting District volleyball playoffs on November 5<sup>th</sup> – 2 games

Our volleyball team has won academic champs for the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row.

The all school reunion and Old Mill Days will be July 11, 2015.

- X. TREASURER'S REPORT:** Council members reviewed the Treasurer's Report, Check Register and Receipt Register for October 2014. Randy Robinson made the motion to approve paid checks #24135 - #24148 in the amount of \$4,584.58 for claims and \$6,266.05 for payroll totaling \$10,850.63 from October 22, 2014 through October 31, 2014. Tom Johnson seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**.

XI. **ADJOURNMENT:** Jake Dingman made the motion to adjourn the council meeting at 8:17 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**