

***Town of Oakesdale***  
***TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES***  
***For***  
***December 1, 2014***

**\*\*Public Hearing for 2015 Final Budget – Mayor Dennis Palmer opened the Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m. before the regular council meeting. Mary reviewed the few changes from the last budget review. Employee raises have been added and a few spending codes have been increased. Dolores Haley asked about the amount of property taxes we will receive in 2015. Being no other comments from the public, the Public Hearing was closed at 7:08 p.m.**

I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Dennis Palmer called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m. following the Public Hearing.

II. **ROLL CALL:** Mayor Dennis Palmer, Jake Dingman, Al Evans, Tom Crooks and Randy Robinson. Councilman Tom Johnson 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 and Gail Parsons

Dolores – She would like to borrow Bob on Friday to help her decorate the tree by the old gas station. Council members saw no problem with Bob helping her with the tree. She read in the newsletter where the Town will be increasing the basic water rate by \$5 dollars per month. She supports the council's efforts in building up the water/sewer fund. She suggested we put more water saving tips in the newsletter.

Gail – He asked council members if it was okay for him to decorate the inside of the little gas station. Council members were fine with Gail decorating the windows of the gas station. He wants to see our community get a recycling program back in town. Council members explained why the recycling came to a stop and the measures we have tried to establish another recycling program in town.

IV. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** Council members reviewed November 17, 2014 minutes. Randy Robinson 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:** Keith Cooper gave council members a report for the police department's activities during November 2014. There were only three cases handled by our Marshals consisting of communication problems, domestic dispute (felony arrest made) and identity theft. There were four cases handled by Whitman County Sheriff's office consisting of DUI arrest, fraud, burglary/theft and agency assist with domestic dispute. With the snow

coming they will be contacting residents to have them move vehicles, trailers and other things that will obstruct snow removal.

**VI. PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:** Bob Hooper reported we received our gravel we ordered from Whitman County. We replaced the guard rail up by the school. We have had a community service worker this past month and we used him to completely weed the hill up to the school by the sidewalk and switchbacks. The snow bucket has been added to the backhoe. The Tiger Mower was fired up after replacing the battery. The mower needs all four tires replaced. Council consensus was to try to replace the back tires with used before considering new. We received our new composite testing equipment for the lagoons.

**VII. OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. 2015 BUDGET** – The budget will receive one more fine tuning before we adopt the 2015 budget at the next meeting.
- B. WELL #4** – The parts have been ordered and we are waiting for them to arrive before they will come out and install the pump back into the well.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. RESOLUTION NO. 2014-348** - Randy Robinson made the motion to dispense with the reading of Resolution No. 2014-348 setting the salaries of certain public officials. Jake Dingman seconded the motion, all council members votes yes – **motion passed**. Randy made the motion to adopt Resolution No. 2014-348 giving the Town/Clerk a 2% increase, raising the Public Works Director by a 7% increase when he passes his sewer certification and leaving the Town Marshals at \$20 per hour and the Building Inspector stays the same at \$250 per month. Jake Dingman seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**. Al Evans asked where does this put Duane Groom’s position with us when Bob gets his sewer certification. Duane will receive a 30 day notice that we no longer require his services. We have been paying Duane \$200 per month for use of his sewer certification until we could get Bob certified. Bob’s 7% increase is the amount we have been paying Duane each month.
- B. WSDOT RIGHT-OF-WAY BY LAGOONS** – Randy Robinson spoke with Bob Westby, Manager of Palouse and Coulee City Rail System for WSDOT, about the wetland area by the lagoons. Bob has spoken to Tammie Williams, Environmental Manager with WSDOT, and it appears as though the original wetland designation is no longer valid. In that case, WSDOT could issue a permit to the Town of Oakesdale to perform the mowing of the reed canary grasses in the channel within WSDOT’s right-of-way. Randy met with Tammie Williams along with Bob Hooper at the site in question on November 25<sup>th</sup>. She stated if we need to improve the water flow through the channel to alleviate flooding in town, then she has no issues with us removing the reed canary grass. The woody vegetation must remain. She will send us scanned photos

of the channel work they did in 1996 which will provide good visualization of what the geometry of the channel was when they installed the box culvert.

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

**JAKE** – He gave a school update: basketball starts next week, the greenhouse has been delivered and First Wind will take care of all the construction costs.

**AL** – Nothing at this time.

**TOM C.** – He participated in a conference call with Dennis Palmer with the Sewer Funding Coalition. The City of Shelton is trying to put this coalition together to hire a lobbyist to help the coalition persuade the government in setting aside money for towns and cities that need sewer upgrades that are being required by DOE. The coalition needs to raise \$21,000 for the lobbyist and our cost to join the coalition is \$500. There are many small towns around us that are considering joining the coalition. They do have the support of AWC. Mary will check with the auditors to see if public funds can be used for a coalition. This topic was tabled.

**RANDY** – Nothing at this time.

**X. TREASURER'S REPORT/APPROVAL OF CHECKS:** Council members reviewed the Treasurer's Report, Receipt Register and Check Register for November 2014. Al Evans made the motion to approve paid checks #24171 - #24184 in the amount of \$5,078.21 for claims and \$6,001.31 for payroll totaling \$11,079.52 from November 20, 2014 through December 1, 2014. Randy Robinson seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

**XI. ADJOURNMENT:** Randy Robinson made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Jake Dingman 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**