

***Town of Oakesdale***  
***TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES***  
***For***  
***February 1, 2016***

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Dennis Palmer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Mayor Dennis Palmer, Dolores Haley, 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:** None
- IV. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** Council members reviewed January 19, 2016 minutes. Randy Robinson made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Tom Crooks seconded the motion, all members voted yes – **motion passed.**
- V. **TOWN MARSHAL REPORT:** Keith Cooper presented the police department’s monthly report for January 2016. There were five cases ranging from 911 communication problems, domestic dispute, suspicious and theft. Whitman County handled five calls for domestic dispute, welfare check, DWLS and citizen assist. Keith talked about the use of force in the police procedure manual and how it would be handled should use of force be used. Al Evans stated he would like to see an independent agency listed specifically when it comes to the need to investigate use of force by one of our officers. Keith disagreed respectfully, as it should stay worded that an independent agency may be appointed to investigate the use of force. Naming only one agency may not work to our favor if they do not have the time to investigate. We need to keep our options open should that be the case. Keith gave examples of using Whitman County Sheriff’s Department, State Patrol or even Pullman Police Department to name a few to use as an investigating agency. If you name one in the policy then that is the only one you can use to investigate. Keith will review the revised police manual and remove anything that does not pertain to Oakesdale. Al will work with Keith to review the changes.
- VI. **PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:** Bob Hooper reported the water problem at 406 N Front has been resolved. The copper line from the main was plugged tight with iron deposits. Bob brought a section of the pipe to the meeting to show council members. The generator at the lagoons will be serviced next Monday. We are still waiting for a price quote from Western States on the cost for a generator for the wells. Bob had a service call at 12:30 a.m. over the weekend from Phil Brown. He had a water leak at his rental house on east Bartlett and needed the water shut off at the meter. When Bob arrived at the rental house, he turned the water off at the meter. Then about 5 to 10 minutes later, Phil asked Bob to turn the water

back on due to the renters complaining about not having any water. Council members noted that if Phil Brown approaches council asking for a reprieve on his water bill due to a leak, he will not qualify for the reduction since he left the water on after discovering the leak.

**VII. OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. SMALL WATER SYSTEM MANAGEMENT PLAN GRANT** – Council members received copies of the grant that TD&H submitted to DOH on January 29, 2016.
- B. UP RAILROAD AGREEMENT** – No new information at this time.
- C. DRUG STORE LIEN** – Our Town Attorney, Stephen Bishop, was notified by the perspective buyer’s Elmo & Lisa Nelson’s attorney that they agreed to the adjusted balance of \$810.27 on the lien against the drug store property.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. 2015 BUDGET REVIEW** – Mary reviewed 2015 year end budget with council members. Current Expense Fund 001 was in the black by \$8,836.99, Street Fund 101 was in the black by \$15,496.74 and Water/Sewer Fund 401 ended the year with \$662.18 after adopting a budget amendment for the purchase of the wireless control system between the wells and water tank.
- B. SWEDA INVOICE** – Members reviewed a copy of an invoice we received from Southeast Washington Economic Development Association (SWEDA) in the amount of \$100 for being a Community Partner in 2016. This organization works on programs to service the southeast of Washington. They also support and organize the Mayor’s Roundtable Meetings which Mayor Palmer attends faithfully. Dolores Haley made the suggestion to Denny that Whitman County does not offer a master gardener program and would like to see offered in our county. Council consensus was to pay the membership invoice.
- C. POLICE POLICY MANUAL** – This was discussed under Town Marshal Report. Al asked if we can check with Stephen Bishop on what is the council’s role to aid the Mayor in implementing the policies.

**IX. COUNCIL MEMBER’S BUSINESS:**

**DOLORES** – She noticed there was a shed added to the property located at 108 S 5<sup>th</sup> and wanted to make sure they went through the proper channels to add that storage shed. Mary told Dolores they did go thru City Hall before purchasing the shed.

**AL** – Nothing at this time.

**TOM C.** – Nothing at this time.

**RANDY** – He will pursue asking Tammie Williams, Environmental Manager for WSDOT, about digging out the channel by the old railroad bridge south of town across from our lagoons. The channel is all choked out with canary reed grasses, silt and rocks. Everything starts backing up into town since it has nowhere to flow.

**X. TREASURER'S REPORT/APPROVAL OF CHECKS:** Al Evans made the motion to approve paid check #24741 in the amount of \$68.00 for claims and \$0 for payroll totaling \$68.00 for December 31, 2015 AND approve paid checks #24743 - #24753 in the amount of \$4,952.08 for claims and \$6,439.07 for payroll totaling \$11,391.15 from January 21, 2016 through January 29, 2016. Randy Robinson seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

**XI. ADJOURNMENT:** Tom Crooks made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 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**