

Town of Oakesdale
TOWNCOUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
For
September 19, 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, Tom Johnson and Tom Crooks. Councilmen Randy Robinson and Al Evans were not in attendance. Also present was Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer.
- III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Mary Collins, Katie Bittinger and Karen Kiessler from the League of Women Voters of Pullman. They gave a presentation on the poverty in Whitman County. They focused their study in eight areas:

- Food Security
- Housing
- Healthcare
- Transportation
- Education
- Eldercare
- Legal Services
- Childcare

Whitman County has been described as the poorest county in Washington State with a poverty level of 32.6% per American Fact Finder 2 in 2013. The US Census suggests the statistic is not accurate by the number of WSU students. By adjusting for the college students, it still leaves Whitman County with a poverty level around 16.7% which is higher than the state average of 14.1%. The presentation was about 45 minutes and council members followed up with their own questions.

- IV. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** Council members reviewed September 6, 2016 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. **OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. **UP RAILROAD AGREEMENT** – No updates
- B. **POLICE POLICY MANUAL** – No updates
- C. **DOH PRECONSTRUCTION LOAN** – It appears the loan and the Small Water Systems Management Plan will happen in 2017. Mary is waiting for a call back from TD&H to

confirm the plan can be completed within a year. This information is needed for budgeting purposes.

D. 2017 BUDGET – Mary presented a rough preliminary 2017 budget to council members. They reviewed Current Fund 001, Street Fund 101 and Water/Sewer Fund 401. Some of the added expenses for next year are:

- State Audit for last 3 years
- Blackboard communication system
- Purchase gravel
- Solar powered speed limit signs
- TIB street project
- Air compressor
- DOE waste load assessment and extra testing
- Small water system management plan

The budget will getting fined tuned over the next several weeks as we receive more updates from other sources of income and expenses.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

A. RESOLUTION NO. 2016-340 – Tom Johnson made the motion to dispense with the reading of Resolution No. 2016-340 approving the inter-local agreement with AWC RMSA. Dolores Haley seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**. Tom Johnson made the motion to approve Resolution No. 2016-340 allowing the Mayor to sign the inter-local agreement between the Town of Oakesdale and AWC RMSA for our liability insurance. Dolores seconded the motion, all members voted yes – **motion passed**.

B. BACKHOE INVOLVED IN ACCIDENT – On September 13th our backhoe was involved in an accident at the intersection of East Bartlett & Washington Streets. A young driver failed to yield at the intersection, t-boned the backhoe causing it to spin and flip over. George was taken to the ER for a neck and back strain. The young driver was also taken to the ER for facial injuries from the airbag and a bruised femur. The young driver did receive a ticket for failure to yield. The backhoe sustained significant damage and was taken to Rowand Machinery, where we purchased it eight years ago, to be repaired. We have been given a rental backhoe to use until ours has been repaired.

C. BLACKBOARD COMMUNICATION SYSTEM – Mary asked Jake Dingman what notification system they use to inform parents, students and teachers about school delays, school functions, etc. Jake said they use Blackboard Communication Systems and thought the school district pays about \$2000 a year for the notification system. Mary contacted the company via website and requested more information about

their services. This service would be used for any water problems or emergency notifications to our citizens.

D. NEW WATER CONNECTION REQUEST – Council members reviewed a new water connection request from Al & Karen Taylor. They purchased the lots at 408 N Second Street. They live in Arizona but plan on living in Oakesdale during the summer months. Council member’s consensus was to approve the new connection request.

VII. COUNCIL MEMBER’S BUSINESS:

TOM C. – None

TOM J. – None

DOLORES – The neighbor’s new dog is not on a leash or in their fenced area. It is roaming around the neighborhood. Mary warned them when they purchased their dog tag that we have a leash law and the dog needed to stay on their property. This will be referred to our Town Marshal.

VIII. TREASURER’S REPORT/APPROVAL OF CHECKS: Council members reviewed the September 2016 Treasurer Report. Tom Johnson made the motion to approve paid checks #25029 - #25051 in the amount of \$12,436.90 for claims and \$3,724.34 for payroll totaling \$16,161.24 from September 7, 2016 through September 15, 2016. Tom Crooks seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

IX. ADJOURNMENT: Dolores Haley made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m. Tom Johnson seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

DENNIS PALMER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer