

***Town of Oakesdale***  
***TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES***  
***For***  
***October 15, 2018***

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Dennis Palmer called the council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Mayor Dennis Palmer, Dolores Haley, Tom Johnson, Tom Crooks and Randy Robinson. Councilman Al Evans was not in attendance. Also present was Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer.
- III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** John-Mark & Denise Mahnkey
- John-Mark introduced himself and he is a candidate running for Whitman County Commissioner for District #3. He gave a brief background of himself and just wanted our council to put a face with the name. He explained how the primary and general election voting worked between District #3 and all of Whitman County. In the primary, only District #3 voters had the candidates running for Whitman County Commissioner District #3 on their ballots. The top two candidates then move on to the General Election where all voters in Whitman County vote between Mahnkey and Michael Largent.
- IV. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** Council members reviewed October 1, 2018 minutes. Tom Johnson made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Randy Robinson seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**
- V. **OLD BUSINESS:**
- A. **2019 BUDGET** – Mary reviewed the 2019 budget changes from last council meeting until now with council members. More adjustments will be made before the final budget. There will be a first budget hearing at the November 19<sup>th</sup> council meeting.
- VI. **NEW BUSINESS:**
- A. **ORDINANCE NO. 632** – Randy Robinson made the motion to dispense with the reading of Ordinance No. 632 amending the 2018 budget. Tom Johnson seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.** Tom Johnson made the motion to adopt Ordinance No. 632 amending the 2018 budget for Street Fund 101 in the amount of \$165,288.91 increasing it by \$35,049.91 for line item 595.30.63.00 TIB Roadway Project – Pearl/First/McCoy Street for 5% retainage payment. Randy Robinson seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**
- B. **UTILITY RATES/DOE LOAN** – Council members reviewed a utility rate schedule per Federal/State guidelines submitted by Steve Marsh with TD&H Engineering. The

purpose of this information was to show council members a brief analysis of where the Town's water and sewer rates should be in order to obtain grant funding for infrastructure improvements as opposed to loan funding. Our current base water rate is \$28.65 and our base sewer rate is \$25.00 for a total of \$53.65 before taxes. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) nationwide guidelines based on the Median Household Income (MHI) for each town or city should be two percent for water rates and two percent for sewer rates. Oakesdale's MHI is currently \$50,781 which means our base water rate per month should be \$84.64 and our base sewer rate at \$84.64 making the monthly total \$169.28 before taxes. All council members agreed raising the rates by \$115.63 per month before taxes appears to be unreasonable. TD&H Engineering's recommendation is to have someone conduct an income survey for the Town to validate what our Median Household Income actually is. Most state funding agencies use American Communities Survey (ACS) to determine the MHI. It is important to note that during the survey, the ACS may have only contacted 2 to 4 people in Oakesdale to determine the MHI for the entire Town. An income survey is the only way to trump the ACS survey.

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

**DOLORES** – None

**TOM J.** – None

**TOM C.** – He thanked the Public Works Department for fixing the water leak by his office.

**RANDY** – It's time to remind our citizens we need to keep alley ways and streets cleared of vehicles so we can plow snow and sand streets during the winter months. Mary will put this information in the next Town's newsletter.

**VIII. TREASURER'S REPORT/APPROVAL OF CHECKS:** Council members reviewed the Treasurer's Report for October 2018. Dolores Haley made the motion to approve paid checks #26121 - #26145 in the amount of \$13,555.79 for claims and \$7,454.97 for payroll totaling \$21,010.76 from October 3, 2018 through October 15, 2018. Tom Johnson seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

**IX. ADJOURNMENT:** Randy Robinson made the motion to adjourn the council meeting at 7:50 p.m. Tom Crooks seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

**ATTEST:**

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**DENNIS PALMER, MAYOR**

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**Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer**