

Town of Oakesdale
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
For
January 7, 2019

- 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, Al Evans, Tom Johnson, Tom Crooks and Randy Robinson. Also present were Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer; Pam Jacobs, Public Works Director and Keith Cooper, Town Marshal.
- III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Colleen Rose
- Colleen asked if an emergency contact and phone number could be put on a sign and posted outside of City Hall. Should there be a sewer emergency or water leak or a water meter in need of being shut off, who can be called? Mary will make a sign to be posted outside on City Hall's window that will have emergency contact information for Mayor Palmer, Mary and Brad Sullivan for Public Works since Pam does not live in town.
- IV. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** Council members reviewed December 17, 2018 minutes. Tom Johnson made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Tom Crooks seconded the motion, all council members votes yes – **motion passed.**
- V. **TOWN MARSHAL REPORT:** Keith Cooper gave his department's report for December 2018. There were nine cases ranging from civil issues, vehicle accident, warrant arrest, medical, harassment, welfare check, and traffic offense. Keith finally found the right person through the railroad to move the idling train engines that were smack dab in the middle of town running all day and night for weekends at a time. The railroad was asked to move the engines to the edge of city limits. Several citizens complained of the noise, fuel odor and vibrations in their homes from the engines idling 24/7.
- VI. **PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:** Pam Jacobs gave council members her report showing projects that were completed in December 2018 and projects that will be completed in January 2019. Upcoming projects included replacing the tires on the orange sweeper, continue looking for a service truck, replace sump pump at treatment facility, create a lock over the underground access to the grinders at the treatment facility, continue to sand and plow streets as needed and continue to discharge and monitor the lagoons.
- VII. **OLD BUSINESS:**
- A. **BUSINESS INCUBATOR LEASE** – Our Town Attorney, Stephen Bishop, put together a lease between the Town and Mike Brown, Wilbur-Ellis Company, LLC. The monthly lease amount will be \$250 plus electricity reimbursement costs. The lease

can be terminated by either party with a 30 day written notice. Mike will begin occupying the incubator space on Tuesday, January 8th.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. RESOLUTION NO. 2019-379** – Randy Robinson made the motion to dispense with the reading of Resolution No. 2019-379 setting the salaries of certain staff for 2019. Tom Crooks seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**. Tom Johnson made the motion to adopt Resolution No. 2019-379 setting the salaries of the Clerk/Treasurer, Town Marshal, Public Works Director and Building Inspector for 2019 including benefits for Clerk/Treasurer and Public Works Director for 2019. Al Evans seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**.
- B. RESOLUTION NO. 2019-380** – Al Evans made the motion to dispense with the reading of Resolution No. 2019-380 designating an official Town newspaper. Randy Robinson seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**. Tom Johnson made the motion to adopt Resolution No. 2019-380 designating the Whitman County Gazette as the official Town’s newspaper for 2019. Dolores Haley seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**.

IX. COUNCIL MEMBERS BUSINESS:

DOLORES – None

AL – Happy New Year everyone! He has noticed some activity at the old empty house at 207 E Bartlett. Mary informed Al the house was sold by Whitman County to pay off back taxes owed to the county. There is a new owner and they are starting to clean up the property. Al asked who is responsible for cleaning up the chunks of cement between the old tavern and the Masonic hall building. That lot belongs to the current owner of the old tavern and he is the one responsible for cleanup. The tavern is currently listed for sale.

TOM J. – None

TOM C. – He asked if our annual water samples for lead and copper were good. Yes, all tests came back normal. We are required to take 5 tests for copper and lead from five different locations each year. We received an email from DOH that we needed to submit another 5 tests before the end of the year. We complied but we were not required to do so according to our water source monitoring schedule from DOH. We believe he had our water system confused with another system. Our lab confirmed we are only required to submit 5 samples, not 10 samples a year.

RANDY – He apologized to staff that the council let the ball slip on giving employees cost of living increases for 2019. The positions of PWD and Clerk/Treasurer wages have been raised to be competitive, but we need to do better as a council and address this during our budget discussions.

- X. **TREASURER'S REPORT/APPROVAL OF CHECKS:** Council members reviewed the Treasurer's Report, Receipt Register and Check Register for December 2018. Tom Johnson made the motion to approve paid checks #26239 - #26263 in the amount of \$7,386.84 for claims and \$8,963.52 for payroll totaling \$16,350.36 from December 20, 2018 through December 31, 2018 AND approve paid checks #26264 - #26265 in amount of \$3,544.20 for claims and \$1,415.59 for payroll totaling \$4,959.79 from January 2, 2019 through January 3, 2019. Dolores Haley seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**
- XI. **ADJOURNMENT:** Randy Robinson made the motion to adjourn the council meeting at 7:30 p.m. Al Evans seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

DENNIS PALMER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer