

Town of Oakesdale
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
For
September 16, 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, Tom Johnson and Randy Robinson. Councilmen Tom Crooks and Al Evans were not in attendance. Also present was Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer.

III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Steve Marsh, TD&H Engineering

Steve wanted to update council members on the TIB street project, sewer funding and water system.

- TIB Project – We will advertise for bids in October and open bids in November with work to begin in the spring on Steptoe Avenue and on First Street. The project is on schedule.
- Sewer Pre-construction Funding – Steve will re-apply for DOE funding next month using the same application as last year. We had the opportunity to refuse the funding awarded to us from the last funding cycle since we now qualify for pre-construction hardship funding. Our application request for \$169,000 funding for improvements, planning and infiltration study for the lagoons is now eligible for 50% DOE grant funding leaving the Town borrowing around \$84,500.
- Water System – Now that we have a Small Water System Management Plan approved by DOH, we are now eligible for water system updates funding. The funding cycle application process is due in November. Does the council want to proceed with the first phase of improving the water system in the amount of \$2.6 million? The update would include new mains, service lines, meters and fire hydrants, approximately 11,000 feet of pipe, for about half of the town. Steve threw out some rough numbers of \$30 to \$50 increase per month would need to be applied to our current water rate to afford the loan. We do not know at this point if we will qualify for any hardship funding from DOH for the first phase of water improvements. The first step is to go through the state’s environmental checklist to confirm this upgrade does not harm the environment in any way and publish the non significance in the Gazette. Council member’s consensus was to begin the application funding to see what we will be offered. We do not have to accept DOH’s terms of funding if the package does not have the best interest of the Town.

IV. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** Council members reviewed September 3, 2019 minutes. Tom Johnson made the motion to approve the council minutes as written. Randy Robinson seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

V. **OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. **BUSINESS INCUBATOR REPAIRS ESTIMATE** – Council members reviewed the window repair estimate from River City Glass. To replace the damage glass in 3 of the windows in the front portion of the Business Incubator would cost around \$1,430. To add 5 screens to the windows in the back portion of the Business Incubator would cost \$274. Council consensus was to allow the Mayor to sign the quote approving the repairs.

VI. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. **WHITMAN COUNTY LIBRARY GRANT UPDATE** – We received an email from Kristie Kirkpatrick with Whitman County Library informing us the estimate to bring the library building up to ADA code would cost around \$42,000. Kristie will submit the estimate for funding. If the funding is awarded but needs a match, they are holding onto \$3,500 donated by the Palouse Wind Farm/Novatus to use towards the match. If funding is not approved, then the donation from Palouse Wind Farm will be used to expand community and school programming.
- B. **PROCLAMATION – RUCK FOR THE FALLEN** – Council members thanked Mary for composing the proclamation. Tom Johnson made the motion to adopt the proclamation declaring November 30, 2019 Ruck for the Fallen Day. Randy Robinson seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**
- C. **2020 BUDGET PROCESS** – Mary informed council members that all council meetings for the rest of the year will focus on balancing a budget for 2020. Council discussed some budget items that will be considered at the next meeting.

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

DOLORES, TOM J. AND RANDY – None

- VIII. **TREASURER'S REPORT/APPROVAL OF CHECKS:** Council members reviewed the Treasurer's Report for September 2019. Tom Johnson made the motion to approve paid checks #26618 - #26637 in the amount of \$10,675.58 for claims and \$7,749.44 for payroll totaling \$18,425.02 from September 5, 2019 through September 13, 2019. Randy Robinson seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

- IX. **ADJOURNMENT:** Dolores Haley made the motion to adjourn the council meeting at 7:45 p.m. Tom Johnson seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

ATTEST:

DENNIS PALMER, MAYOR

MARY DEGON, CLERK/TREASURER