

Town of Oakesdale
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
October 21, 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, Al Evans, Tom Crooks and Randy Robinson. Council members Dolores Haley and Tom Johnson were not in attendance. Also present was Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer.
- III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** None
- IV. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** Council members reviewed October 7, 2019 minutes. Randy Robinson made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Al Evans seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**
- V. **OLD BUSINESS:**
- A. **2020 BUDGET** – Council members reviewed projected numbers for the 2020 budget for all funds. We did receive an email from AWC Benefit Trust that there will be no increases in the medical, dental and vision plan we provide for our employees. Next year will be our three year state audit and \$12,000 has been budgeted for that cost. We need to codify our ordinances in 2020 and Mary will look into how much we paid the last time. Randy and Tom volunteered to look at employee wage increases and to make a recommendation at the next council meeting. There will be a Public Hearing before the next council meeting for the first budget hearing. The budget will include beginning and ending balances for the budget hearing.
- B. **RUCK FOR THE FALLEN** – We do have participation forms available at City Hall. Empire Disposal has donated garbage cans for the event.
- VI. **NEW BUSINESS:**
- A. **ANNEXATION PETITION** – Roberta Harper submitted a petition to annex territory to council members for Lots 1 & 2, Block 1, Roberts Addition to Oakesdale according to plat thereof, recorded in Volume C of Plats, page 13, records of Whitman County, Washington, except the west 150 feet of said Lot 1. Roberta is building a new house on her property and has city services. Randy Robinson made the motion to approve the annexation petition for said property located at 301 N Roberts Rd, Oakesdale, Washington. Tom Crooks seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.** There will be a Public Hearing at the next council meeting for the annexation.

- B. DWSRF APPLICATION INFORMATION** – Steve Marsh with TD&H submitted an email to council members giving a possible scenario of what the Town could qualify for the water improvement project – phase I. The Town qualifies for a 30% principal forgiveness and a loan at 1.75% interest rate. Assuming the project comes in around \$2.6 million the breakdown would be \$780,000 in principal forgiveness, \$1.82 million in a loan for 20 years with a 1.75% interest and monthly water rates would need to be increased by \$44. There is one other scenario if two grants could be obtained then the principal forgiveness drops to \$570,000, \$700,000 covered by a second grant leaving \$1.33 million in a loan for 20 years at 1.75% interest and monthly water rates would need to be increased by \$32 per month. Council had many questions and concerns over the information provided and would like to meet with Steve at our next council meeting. One of the concerns is the increase in water rates per month. Could the project be cut back to make it more affordable. Could there be any other alternatives to making improvements.
- C. WHITMAN COUNTY ASSESSOR NOTICE OF INSPECTIONS** – Appraisers from the Whitman County Assessor’s office will be conducting physical inspections in the Oakesdale, Tekoa and Belmont areas during the fall of 2019 and early 2020. The Assessor’s office must physically inspect each property in the County once every six years. They will be taking new pictures of properties to update their record files. The appraisers will be driving county vehicles with Whitman County Public Works emblem on the doors. The appraisers will be wearing Whitman County picture ID badges with their names and they will also have contact information on business cards.

VII. COUNCIL MEMBER’S BUSINESS:

AL – None

TOM C. – None

RANDY – He just wanted to reiterate that the aging water system is to the point of pay me now or pay me later. Eventually, we have to bite the bullet and increase water rates and update our water system. The frustrating fact is updating the infrastructure does not help us gain any businesses.

VIII. TREASURER’S REPORT/APPROVAL OF CHECKS: Council members reviewed the Treasurer’s Report for October 2019. Al Evans made the motion to approve paid checks #26677 - #26698 in the amount of \$11,459.79 for claims and \$5,486.25 for payroll totaling \$16,946.04 from October 10, 2019 through October 17, 2019. Tom Crooks seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

IX. ADJOURNMENT: Randy Robinson made the motion to adjourn the council meeting at 7:45 p.m. Tom Crooks seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

DENNIS PALMER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer