

Town of Oakesdale
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
November 4, 2019

****Public Hearing for property annexation – Mayor Palmer opened the Public Hearing at 7 p.m. Roberta Harper had submitted an annexation petition to council members at the last council meeting. The property is located at 301 N Roberts Rd, Oakesdale, WA Block 1, Lots 1 & 2 in Roberts Addition, Oakesdale. Council members had no additional comments, being no comments from the public; Mayor Palmer closed the Public Hearing at 7:02 p.m.**

****Public Hearing for 1% property tax increase from Whitman County – Mayor Palmer opened the Public Hearing at 7:03 p.m. The dollar amount of the increase over the actual levy amount from the previous year would be \$535.86 which is 1% from the previous year. Being no comments from the public; Mayor Palmer closed the Public Hearing at 7:05 p.m.**

****Public Hearing for preliminary 2020 budget – Mayor Palmer opened the Public Hearing at 7:06 p.m. The 2020 budget has beginning and ending balances for all funds. Funds were added to the budget for codifying our Ordinances over the last five years; per council recommendation a 4% salary increase was budgeted for all employees. Being no public comments; Mayor Palmer closed the Public Hearing at 7:08 p.m.**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Dennis Palmer called the council meeting to order at 7:09 p.m. following the Public Hearings.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Mayor Dennis Palmer, Dolores Haley, Al Evans, Tom Johnson, Tom Crooks and Randy Robinson. Also present were Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer; Keith Cooper, Town Marshal and Brad Sullivan, Public Works Director.
- III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Dylan Doneen, Russell Vondettii, Elana Nordstrom, Michele Wright, Marletta Sisak, Leta Palmer, Chris Veilleux, David Roduner, Jessie Palumbo, Jan Noble and our Town engineer, Steve Marsh from TD&H Engineering.

Michele Wright – She said she would speak for the group of citizens that came tonight to discuss developing a neighborhood block watch. She would like to put up some posters with contact information and a number to report a theft. Over the past several months there has been gas theft in our community. The frustrating point of all this is we know who is stealing the gas but we just haven't caught them doing it yet. Keith said he would get Michele a number to post on the sign that goes to the Sheriff's office. He would rather they call that number than City Hall or the Town Marshal's office. Dolores had information on beginning a neighborhood watch and what steps should be taken. Keith encouraged the group to have security cameras, keep everything locked and have good outdoor lighting. A discussion was held between council and the group. Council members had no problem with a block watch.

They asked who would be in charge of the group and Michele said her and Chris Veilleux would take the lead. Council members thanked the group for their concern and input.

Dylan Doneen – He asked about the outstanding utility bill on the tax foreclosure property at 306 W Pearl located behind his property. The charges stay with the property. Whoever purchases the house from the County will have to pay the outstanding bill to the Town before water will be turned on again at that property. Mary has notified the County of the utility charges against that property.

- IV. **STEVE MARSH, TD&H ENGINEERING:** We discussed possible funding for water system improvements. When Department of Health scores the funding applications it is off a 5 to 1 scale – 5 being the worst. We fall as a level one. We would be in the last group of applications considered for funding. Steve asked council members if they still wanted him to apply for funding which would replace water mains, water service lines, meters and fire hydrants for over half the town. Council consensus was to continue with the DOH 1 application. Brad would like to see final approved plans on a project for a change instead of going off the current maps we have that say “proposed” plans.
- V. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** Council members reviewed October 21, 2019 minutes. Tom Johnson made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Dolores Haley seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**
- VI. **TOWN MARSHAL REPORT:** Keith Cooper gave council members his department’s report for October 2019. There were 11 cases ranging from domestic disputes, driving while license suspended, gas thefts, welfare check, non-injury accident, civil and civil standby. Tom Crooks asked Keith what his thoughts were about having a dog kennel for stray dogs and/or dogs running at large. Council discussed the pros and cons on having a kennel. No definite decision was made.
- VII. **PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:** Brad shared with council members the completed projects for last month. The street patching is completed, replaced crushed meter boxes, installed oil containment for furnace at the city shop per DOH, installed new overflow pipe for the water tower, began discharging the lagoons on November 1st and completed a winter turn around spot for the plow on Rednour by the dead end side of the hill. The lagoons will require weekly testing while we are discharging. We continue to work on installing the new water tower over flow pipe. We are getting the equipment ready for plowing and sanding streets.
- VIII. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - A. **2020 BUDGET** – Council reviewed the preliminary 2020 budget. Council discussion on water/sewer revenues compared to expenses. Mary reminded council members that this needs to be a self sustaining fund. All employees will receive a four percent wage increase. We will have the final budget hearing before the next council meeting.

B. RUCK FOR THE FALLEN – Marlene Sisak and Leta Palmer addressed council with an update on the Ruck for the Fallen event on November 30th. They have been very impressed with the out-reach they have received. All the event posters are up; there will be 3 bands playing now – Tone Sober has been added to the venue; they asked permission to run ATVs, UTVs and possibly golf carts to shuffle Veterans from the parking areas to the event – Keith had no problem with that. They are working on a permit through Whitman County to close down Oakesdale Rd during the run. We discussed what streets in town need to be closed for the event. No count available on how many could be attending the event.

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

A. ORDINANCE NO. 636 – Randy Robinson made the motion to dispense with the reading of Ordinance No. 636 annexing certain territory within the boundaries of Oakesdale. Al Evans seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**. Tom Johnson made the motion to adopt Ordinance No. 636 annexing the property owned by Roberta Harper located at 301 N Roberts Rd – Lots 1 & 2, Block 1 Roberts Addition, Oakesdale, WA. Al Evans seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**.

B. RESOLUTION NO. 2019-386 – Tom Johnson made the motion to dispense with the reading of Resolution No. 2019-386 for the one percent increase from the actual levy amount from last year. Randy Robinson seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**. Randy Robinson made the motion to adopt Resolution No. 2019-386 authorizing a one percent increase in property tax levy for 2020 amounting to \$535.86. Dolores Haley seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**.

X. COUNCIL MEMBER'S BUSINESS: None

XI. TREASURER'S REPORT/APPROVAL OF CHECKS: Council members reviewed the Treasurer's Report, Check Register and Receipt Register for October 2019. Randy Robinson made the motion to approve paid checks #26699 - #26718 in the amount of \$10,305.20 for claims and \$10,282.80 for payroll totaling \$20,588.00 from October 24, 2019 through November 1, 2019. Al Evans seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**.

XII. ADJOURNMENT: Dolores Haley made the motion to adjourn the council meeting at 8:45 p.m. Tom Crooks seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**.

ATTEST:

DENNIS PALMER, MAYOR

Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer