

Town of Oakesdale
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
January 6, 2020

- 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 Crooks and Randy Robinson. Councilman Tom Johnson was not in attendance. Also present were Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer and Keith Cooper, Town Marshal.

- III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Jake Dingman, Superintendent of Oakesdale Schools

Jake came tonight to discuss the phone call and email Mary received on December 20, 2019 from Alison Greene, Outdoor Grants Manager with Recreation & Conservation Office regarding the condition of the tennis courts up by the school. The funding for the tennis courts came from her office in 1979 with the agreement signed by the school and the Town. The property the tennis courts are on is owned by the school. The funds awarded for the tennis court were dispersed to the Town. Alison brought to our attention that in the agreement it states the tennis courts needs to be maintained and remain tennis courts for the intended purposes of the grant. Upon inspection this summer, the tennis courts are currently not being used for public outdoor recreation in any capacity. The tennis courts have been removed and the school has installed two FFA green houses on the ground where the tennis courts used to reside. She understood this would be a shock to council members and she apologizes for being the bearer of bad news. There are two options facing the Town and the school:

1. Get the original site back to a condition that is safe and usable for public recreation – put the tennis courts back in the chain link fenced area or;
2. Deem the site a conversion to a non-eligible use and replace it with a new park facility.

Mary forwarded the email and copy of the agreement to Jake and our Town Attorney, Eric Hanson. Alison would like to attend the next council meeting to discuss our options. Council members received copies of the email and agreement as well. Council members would like more time to review the 1979 agreement. Tom Crooks gave a description what he knew about installing the tennis courts 40 years ago. The question on everyone’s mind...why now 40 years later inform us we are not in compliance with grant funding from 1979.

- IV. **TOWN MARSHAL REPORT:** Keith Cooper gave his department’s report for December 2019. There were eight cases ranging from juvenile problems, assault, harassment, illegal fireworks discharged, animal problem, traffic offense and domestic dispute.

- V. **PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:** Mary gave the Public Works Report for December 2019. There are no outstanding projects that need to be done at this time. Pam did an amazing job decorating the Town for Christmas. Public Works will continue to be busy plowing snow and sanding streets. The waste recycling was hauled away to make room for Christmas trees. Continue to monitor the discharging of the lagoons and weekly testing to the lab.
- VI. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** Council members reviewed December 16, 2019 minutes. Tom Crooks made the motion to approve the council minutes as written. Al Evans seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**
- VII. **OLD BUSINESS:**
- A. **LIBRARY ADA UPDATE** – Council members reviewed an email from Kristie Kirkpatrick, Director of Whitman County Rural Library District, suggesting we apply for .09 funding from Whitman County in 2020 to make the front entrance ADA accessible and clean up the wiring issues inside the library. Whitman County Library has the \$5,000 match for a \$20,000 grant proposal. The engineering fee is estimated at \$4,100 leaving \$15,900 for repairs. They can assist with the application process as well as the presentation to the Blue Ribbon Committee. Council consensus was to proceed with the application process. If we are awarded the funds, we will have to make a budget amendment to the 2020 budget for Fund 001 Current Expense.
- VIII. **NEW BUSINESS:**
- A. **TENNIS COURT FUNDING COMPLIANCE** - *See notes under Section III. Introduction of Guests.
- B. **RESOLUTION NO. 2020-389 – Employee Wages** – Randy Robinson made the motion to dispense with the reading of Resolution No. 2020-389 setting the salaries of certain public officials for 2020. Al Evans seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.** Randy Robinson made the motion to adopt Resolution No. 2020-389 giving the employees a 4% wage increase effective January 1, 2020. Al Evans seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**
- C. **RESOLUTION NO. 2020-390 – Official Town’s Newspaper** – Al Evans made the motion to dispense with the reading of Resolution No. 2020-390 designating an official Town newspaper. Randy Robinson seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.** Al Evans made the motion to adopt Resolution No. 2020-390 designating the Whitman County Gazette as the Town’s official newspaper effective January 1, 2020. Randy Robinson seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**
- D. **RECORDS STORAGE** – Mary asked council members if the closet in the back room above the library could be used for storage at this time. The records room is full over at the old fire station and we need another location to store records. Council

members had no problems using the extra closet space above the library for records storage.

X. COUNCIL MEMBER'S BUSINESS:

DOLORES – She was so excited to see our Town light up for Christmas! Thank you to Pam! She gave us an update on Councilman Tom Johnson's health.

AL – The south end welcome sign has lost the decal of the old mill on it. We need to get another one put on in its place. Mary has been working with Bob Hooper, who made the sign, to get a replacement decal.

TOM C. – None

RANDY – None

XI. TREASURER'S REPORT/APPROVAL OF CHECKS: Council members reviewed the Treasurer's Report, Receipt Register and Check Register for December 2019. Al Evans made the motion to approve paid checks #26777 - #26800, #26804 - #26806 in the amount of \$8,175.11 for claims and \$10,948.21 for payroll totaling \$19,123.32 from December 19, 2019 through December 31, 2019 AND paid checks #26801 - #26803 in the amount of \$5,213.60 for claims and \$0 for payroll totaling \$5,213.60 for January 2, 2020. Randy Robinson seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

XII. ADJOURNMENT: Al Evans made the motion to adjourn the council meeting at 7:46 p.m. Dolores Haley seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

DENNIS PALMER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer