

Town of Oakesdale
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
January 21, 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, Tom Crooks and Randy Robinson. Councilmen Al Evans and Tom Johnson were not in attendance. Also present was Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer and Eric Hanson, Town Attorney.
- III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Alison Greene, Outdoor Grants Manager with RCO and Pete Baljo

Pete informed council members that this Saturday, January 25th at 10 a.m. there will be a meeting at the Oakesdale Museum with WSU Rural Communities Design Initiative (RCDI) members to discuss ways to restore, preserve and revitalize our community.
- IV. **ALISON GREENE, OUTDOOR GRANTS MANAGER, RCO:** Alison came to our council meeting to discuss the 1979 project contract between the Town of Oakesdale, Oakesdale School District and the State of Washington Committee for Outdoor Recreation. This specific grant is a long-term obligation where the outdoor recreation site needs to be maintained and available to the public perpetually. The tennis courts are located on school property, but the funding was channeled through the Town. Her job is to make sure the grants back then are still being used for the purpose of the grant and still have public access. She reported that staff checked on the tennis courts 20 years ago and made a note in the file that they were no longer being used and the access gate had been locked with a sign hanging on the gate stating danger – keep out. It was brought up why it wasn't addressed 20 years ago, and Alison said it was not uncommon for things to go unaddressed. The school has been using the site for its FFA greenhouses for approximately the past 5 years. The area began having drainage issues and the foundation began to sluff off the hill causing the tennis courts to be shut down. She pointed out that none of us were part of this agreement 40 years ago when it happened. But she does have a job to do to make us get back in compliance. The 3 options being given to us is to put the area back into tennis courts and relocate the FFA greenhouses; turn the area into a park or another outdoor activity area and relocate the FFA greenhouses; or find a replacement site to make a park based on the same appraised value of the current lot so the FFA greenhouses can stay. Tom Crooks pointed out the space is still being used publicly by a public school and that should mean something. Many questions were asked by council members and our Town Attorney. Alison admitted she did not have all the answers but took notes to get back with us later. We asked that she communicate through our Town Attorney going forward

and copies of email correspondence could be sent to Mary. Council remained baffled that we are having to discuss this situation 40 years later.

V. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** Council members reviewed January 6, 2020 minutes. Randy Robinson made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Tom Crooks seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

VI. **OLD BUSINESS:**

A. **TENNIS COURTS** – The topic on the minds of council members is can it truly be a perpetual agreement? Can this agreement be enforced 40 years later? Could there be a statute of limitations? Our Town Attorney will be reviewing the contract and the WACs from 1979.

VII. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. **SEWEDA 2019 PROJECTS** – Council members reviewed the yearly overview from SE Washington Economic Development Association. As a member of SEWDA, we receive yearly updates on major projects that they have completed or put into practice.

B. **SNOW REMOVAL** – Our staff have worked countless hours to keep all the streets open in town during that two feet of snow that was dumped on us. They did a great job, and yet there are always a few citizens that continue to complain it wasn't done right or it wasn't enough. Council praised the staff for their efforts and the long hours they put in. Randy Robinson used his 4-wheeler and plow to help remove the snow from the sidewalks and Gail Parsons helped remove snow on the sidewalks with a snow blower.

C. **BUSINESS INCUBATOR RESIGNATION** – Council reviewed an email from Meghan Doneen, McCoy Creek Timber Co, resigning her interest in the back portion of the Business incubator. She sees a financial challenge attempting to balance the costs of an external office space.

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

DOLORES – She gave us an update on Councilman Tom Johnson's health.

TOM C. – None

RANDY – None

IX. **TREASURER'S REPORT/APPROVAL OF CHECKS:** Council members reviewed the Treasurer's Report for January 2020. Dolores Haley made the motion to approve paid checks #26807 - #26814, #26825 - #26828 in the amount of \$7,820.51 for claims and \$0 for payroll totaling \$7,820.51 for December 31, 2019 AND approved paid checks #26815 - #26824, #26829 - #26830 in the amount of \$30,939.06 for claims and \$4,347.48 for payroll

totaling \$35,286.54 from January 09, 2020 through January 15, 2020. Randy Robinson seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**.

- X. **ADJOURNMENT:** Randy Robinson made the motion to adjourn the council meeting at 8:05 p.m. Tom Crooks seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**.

DENNIS PALMER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer