

Town of Oakesdale
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
February 18, 2020

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Dennis Palmer called the council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Palmer asked Dolores Haley to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Mayor Dennis Palmer, Dolores Haley, Al Evans, Tom Johnson, Tom Crooks and Randy Robinson. Also present were Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer and Eric Hanson, Town Attorney.
- III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Steve Marsh, TD&H Engineering
- IV. **STEVE MARSH, TD&H ENGINEERING:** Steve wanted to review funding needs for our water system and lagoon/treatment plant. He and Mary were on a conference call last week with the Department of Health regarding our application for funding \$2.6 million for upgrading about half of our water system. Steve submitted a map of the Town that showed what areas would be upgraded which totaled 11,000 linear feet. During the discussion, it was brought to our attention that Oakesdale could be eligible for 30% forgiveness of the loan which would total \$780,000. We did receive the award letter today from DOH on approving our loan for funding. Steve has received notice that Department of Ecology will be funding our application for \$189,000 with 50% forgiveness totaling \$94,500. We have not received that award letter yet. We will need to increase our sewer rates by \$6.73 minimum to be able to pay the loan back in six years. He wanted to make sure council members were aware that after the sewer system plan is completed and submitted for approval to DOE, we will more than likely be required to upgrade our lagoon/treatment plant facilities and there would be the need for another sewer loan in the next few years. Steve submitted four scenarios on where our water and sewer rates could be headed with accepting water and sewer funding. There was council discussion with Steve on future projects showing a debt ratio through 2034. Department of Health would like to know if Town council wants to continue pursuing the water loan so they can continue to crunch numbers for our project. Al Evans made the motion to vote to see how many council members want to move forward with the water loan with DOH. Randy Robinson seconded the motion, four members voted yes and one member voted no – **motion passed.**
- V. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** Council members reviewed February 3, 2020 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. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - A. **TENNIS COURTS** – Town Attorney, Eric Hanson asked the Mayor if we could enter into Executive Session to discuss the tennis courts for possible litigation with WA State RCO. Mayor Palmer announced we would be going into Executive Session at 7:38 p.m. for twenty minutes to discuss possible litigation regarding the tennis courts. Executive Session was exited 7:58 p.m. Mayor Palmer resumed the council meeting at 7:58 p.m.

following Executive Session. Council members asked Eric to contact Jake Dingman at Oakesdale Schools to discuss possible options to satisfy RCO regarding the discontinued use of the tennis courts. Eric will be in contact with Allison Greene from RCO to confirm what would be acceptable for alternate use of space.

- B. **BUSINESS INCUBATOR LEASE** – Eric Hanson, Town Attorney, advised council members to lease the back portion of the Business Incubator at \$200 per month as agreed upon. That amount is fair market value and council should not accept anything lower. We reviewed to possibility of leasing out the space by the square foot for \$1.50 per ft. That would make the rent over \$600 per month and that is high for our economy. Council members agreed with Eric on the monthly lease and Mary will inform Meghan Doneen of the cost to lease the space.
- C. **AWC CQC SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION** – We received four applications from Elisabeth Perry, Madison Dingman, Kyla Hansen and Julie Jo Baljo for the AWC CQC scholarship. Each Town will submit one candidate’s scholarship application to Association of Washington Cities where they will offer six scholarship of \$1,500 each. Council members used the scholarship ranking sheet from AWC CQC to score the applications. The highest scored application will be submitted to AWC CQC for further ranking.

VII. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. **.09 FUNDING APPLICATION** – Council members reviewed the letter from Whitman County Commissioners informing the Blue Ribbon Advisory Task Committee (BRATC) is now accepting applications for economic development funds known as .09 funds. We will be putting an application together with the assistance from Whitman County Library for improving the front entrance of our library to meet ADA regulations.
- B. **DOH APPLICATION** – Council members received a copy of the award letter from Department of Health that our 2019 DWSRF construction loan application has been selected to receive funding. Our application received a final score of 95. Council members discussed the rate increase to the basic water rate should we accept the loan terms.

VIII. **COUNCIL MEMBER’S BUSINESS:** None

- IX. **TREASURER’S REPORT/APPROVAL OF CHECKS:** Council members reviewed the Treasurer’s Report for February 2020. Al Evans made the motion to approve paid checks #26845 - #26859 in the amount of \$4,060.17 for claims and \$7,032.27 for payroll totaling \$11,092.44 from February 6, 2020 through February 13, 2020. Randy Robinson seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

- X. **ADJOURNMENT:** Dolores Haley made the motion to adjourn the council meeting at 8:38 p.m. Randy Robinson seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

DENNIS PALMER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

MARY DEGON, CLERK/TREASURER