

*Town of Oakesdale*  
**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
*For*  
*September 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, Al Evans, Tom Crooks and Randy Robinson. Councilman Tom Johnson was not in attendance. Also present was Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer.
- III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Chris Ellis and Frank Sabo
- Chris was concerned about his neighbor, Kellie Berntgen, who is living in Colleen Rose’s rental, has been burning garbage at night and it is like a smudge pot all night. They sleep with their bedroom windows open and it’s been pretty bad a few times. The Town does have a burning ban in place through September and it is illegal to burn garbage. Kelli also has a blue heeler dog that barks nonstop...day or night and it has become a terrible nuisance. Both complaints will be referred to our Town Marshal. He asked council if they would consider the triangle grass patch next to his shop which is plotted as 5<sup>th</sup> Street, to allow him to have that area. Council would need to go look at the area in question before making any decisions and to consult with our Town Attorney. Chris also complimented Pam, PWD, for all her hard work and making the Town look so good.
- Frank came to council for the same two reasons Chris did – burning garbage and dog barking. He agreed with what Chris reported to council.
- IV. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** Council members reviewed September 8, 2020 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. **AUVIL REQUEST FOR VACATE EASEMENT** – Our Town Attorney, Eric Hanson, is attempting to get copies of the original easement that was filed on behalf of the Town before filing any documentation.
- VI. **NEW BUSINESS:**
- A. **DOE/EPA** – Council members received copies of an email and handout from Kim Prisock with Department of Ecology who is in charge of our waste water discharge permit for the lagoons. There are some changes coming to towns who have lagoons and she is informing us what we can expect. The EPA is now getting more involved with DOE to improve surface water quality and reduce potential impacts on drinking water. The EPA and states are focusing increased attention on all individually permitted Clean Water Act

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit holders in significant non-compliance. In summary, you can not have more than 3 violations per month when discharging. In our permit we have target goals for chlorine levels and Ph levels. We are in the process of receiving funding from DOE to have our engineers complete a sewer treatment plan, studies of infiltration of the lagoons and new testing equipment. Once the plan is in place, we will have the means to update our facility to meet the requirements of our discharge permit.

**B. BUDGET 2020 ITEMS** – Public Works put a list of items together for budget consideration:

- New zero turn mower
- Sell or trade the New Holland tractor in on a mower
- Roll up shop door for the back of the shop to replace the old slider door
- New brooms for the sweeper
- Surplus the old orange dump truck
- Purchase a used four-wheeler for spraying, reading meters, etc.
- Compressor

Council would like to see Public Works submit two to three quotes on a new zero turn mower and to get the value of the New Holland Tractor. The other budget items are the increase in water and sewer rates due to DOH and DOE loans.

**C. PROPERTY VALUES** – City Hall has been getting inquires to why everyone’s property taxes have seen a significant increase for 2021. The Whitman County Assessor’s office has re-evaluated all properties in Oakesdale using a new formula for land being valued at \$0.75 a square foot. The new evaluation has increased property values 3 to 4 times the previous value.

**VII. COUNCIL MEMBERS’S BUSINESS:**

**DOLORES** – She asked if her neighbor can use his storage building that was just built for a garage too? The owner did obtain a proper building permit for his structure and if he wants to use his pole building as a garage/storage shed he can do so.

**AL** – None

**TOM C.** – None

**RANDY** – None

**VIII. TREASURER’S REPORT:** Council members reviewed the Treasurer’s Report, Receipt Register and Check Register for September 2020. Al Evans made the motion to approve paid checks #27114 - #27132 in the amount of \$41,521.88 for claims and \$3,995.38 for payroll totaling \$45,517.26 from September 10, 2020 through September 17, 2020. Randy Robinson seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

**IX. ADJOURNMENT:** Dolores Haley made the motion to adjourn the council meeting at 7:50 p.m. Randy Robinson seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

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**DENNIS PALMER, MAYOR**

**ATTEST:**

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**Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer**