

*Town of Oakesdale*  
**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
*For*  
*October 5, 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. Council members Al Evans and Tom Johnson were not in attendance. Also present were Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer; Keith Cooper, Town Marshal and Brad Sullivan, Public Works Director.
- III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** None
- IV. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** Council members reviewed September 21, 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.**
- V. **TOWN MARSHAL REPORT:** Keith Cooper gave his department’s report for the past seven months which contained 49 cases. Keith warned council members that there is an unemployment fraud happening for those who did not file for unemployment during the COVID pandemic. There is also a scam going around for small business administration disaster loans. Business owners are receiving confirmation on applying for this loan and when the payments are due when in fact, nothing was ever filed by them. Keith informed council that we are having trouble with roosters and ducks being in Town. Our code states in certain zones that poultry is allowed at 10 per lot. Keith would like to see that Town Code amended to state laying hens are allowed but no roosters, geese, or ducks. Laying hens must be kept in a coop, no free range. Council members agreed with Keith’s assessment on poultry and gave him the go to start making the changes and get it to our Town Attorney to be revised into an Ordinance.
- VI. **PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:** Brad Sullivan reported on the current projects completed and what upcoming project they will be working on in October and November. They need to finish repairing the fence around the treatment plant, build a hut over the flow machine at the treatment plant, re-deck bridge by the baseball field, replace the pump in the wet well at the lagoons, and continue Montana Street at the top of the hill. Brad asked council members to consider a new zero turn mower and to surplus the New Holland tractor. The current zero-turn mower is wearing down after eight years. We mow a ton of Town property that is rough and has been hard on the mower. We need to consider a zero-turn that is commercial grade. Brad obtained 3 quotes from Hartill’s Mountain Saw & Tractor that ranged from \$7,889 to \$9,593 on commercial zero turn mowers and is waiting on three quotes to come from Pape’ Machinery. Brad called the company we bought the New Holland from to get a value on the tractor and they said it was worth around \$14,000. This would help us with the purchase of the zero-turn mower if we declared the New Holland as surplus.

**VII. OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. AUVIL REQUEST FOR VACATE EASEMENT** – We are still waiting on our Town Attorney to receive the copies of the original deeds filed by the Town regarding the area of where Well#3 used to be.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. SEWER RATES** – Council members reviewed a rate sheet from our engineer, Steve Marsh, who showed the breakdown of the loan costs and how much we need to cover the loan payment. We had a conference call with DOE last week who pointed out our sewer rate has not been increased in 30 years and we have the lowest rate in the state. We will need to raise the monthly sewer rate by at least \$7.17 to cover the loan costs. The loan is for 5 years and costing \$94,500 plus interest. The original loan was \$189,000 but we received 50% forgiveness from DOE. Council members discussed rounding the increase to \$8 to cover costs. Randy Robinson made the motion to increase monthly sewer rates by \$8 per month making Residential go from \$25 to \$33, Businesses go from \$30 to \$38 and Schools & the pool go from \$190 to \$198 when in session. Tom Crooks seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**.
- B. BUDGET 2020** – Council members reviewed a “bare bones” budget for 2020 as we began budget talks. Mary is still waiting on many items to come in to make the necessary changes to the budget. No employee raises have been calculated into the budget yet. Randy Robinson asked Mary to budget a 3% employee wage increase to the full-time and part-time staff. Employee benefits for next year – medical received a 4% increase, no increase on dental or vision. Our liability insurance from AWC RMSA increased 5%. Each council meeting, the budget will get closer to being accurate and we will have our first budget hearing in November.
- C. FLAGS** – The service flags up the hill towards the school and the US flags on Steptoe Avenue have been removed due to poor condition. Mary has re-ordered the flags and we will put them back up in the spring.
- D. COUNCIL POSITION** – We have had three people contact City Hall to put their names in the hat for council member. This will be Dolores’s last council meeting as she has sold her home and will be moving to Spokane Valley.
- E. DOH CONTRACT** – Council members reviewed an email from Steve Marsh with TD&H Engineering asking council to give Mayor Palmer permission to sign the DOH Contract after it has been reviewed by both parties. The field work is starting to get a bit behind since the contract has been delayed due to COVID. There is quite a bit of field work to get completed before the snow flies. We should have received the contract in July, and we are still waiting. Council consensus was to allow the Mayor to sign the DOH contract upon approval by DOH, TD&H Engineering and the Town.

**IX. COUNCIL MEMBER’S BUSINESS:**

**DOLORES** – She tendered her resignation to the Mayor and council members effective October 6, 2020. She thanked the council for giving her the opportunity to serve for the past six years. Council members thanked Dolores for her service, and she will be missed.

**TOM C.** – None

**RANDY** – None

**X. TREASURER’S REPORT/APPROVAL OF CHECKS:** Council members reviewed the Treasurer’s Report, Check Register and Receipt Register for September 2020. Randy Robinson made the motion to approve paid checks #27133 - #27152 in the amount of \$3,748.75 for claims and \$12,031.83 for payroll totaling \$15,780.58 from September 23, 2020 through October 1, 2020. Dolores Haley seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

**XI. ADJOURNMENT:** Dolores Haley made the motion to adjourn the council meeting at 8:08 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**