

Town of Oakesdale
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
For
October 19, 2020

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Dennis Palmer called the council meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Mayor Dennis Palmer, Al Evans, Tom Crooks and Randy Robinson. Councilman Tom Johnson was not in attendance. Also present was Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer. Randy led us in the pledge of allegiance.
- III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Shelly Elkins, Pete Baljo and Bill Auvil. They are all here to be interviewed for the council position #2 vacated by Dolores Haley.
- IV. **INTERVIEWS FOR COUNCIL POSITION #2:** Each prospective candidate were given a questionnaire to answer verbally for council members. Council members were then allowed to ask questions of all three candidates. All the candidate had excellent interviews and all would like to serve their community.
- V. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Mayor Palmer declared council would be entering into Executive Session at 7:50 p.m. to discuss the potential council member candidates. The guests were informed the Executive Session would take approximately 10 minutes and the regular meeting would resume by 8:00 p.m. Executive Session was exited at 7:57 p.m. and the council meeting was resumed at 7:58 p.m.
- VI. **CANDIDATE VOTE:** Randy Robinson thanked the three candidates for showing so much interest in serving on council. There are times it is hard to replace a position and this time it was nice to see more than one person interested in serving their community. All three candidate have something to offer and did a great job in the interviews. Mayor Palmer explained each council member can only vote once for the candidate they so choose. Mayor Palmer said each candidate's name – Bill Auvil received 2 votes, Shelly Elkins received 1 vote and Pete Baljo received none. Bill Auvil will be sworn in at the next council meeting on Monday, November 3rd at 7 p.m.
- VII. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** Council members reviewed October 10, 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.**
- VIII. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - A. **AUVIL REQUEST FOR VACATE EASEMENT** – Council members reviewed an email from our Town Attorney, Eric Hanson, along with copies of deeds dated August 26, 1909 and July 25, 1938 that show the property in question does not have an easement but rather the property was quit claimed to the Town from F.A. Darnielle and his wife Georgia

Darnielle. This sheds a different light on the property where the old well#3 used to be. Council asked Bill if he would be okay with a variance to use said property that is attached to the property he recently bought. Bill was good with that and we will refer this to our attorney for advice.

- B. 2020 BUDGET** – Mary reviewed the budget changes since our last council meeting. The .09 Funding grant from Whitman County was added to the revenue side of Current Expense Fund 001. The staff raises at 3% have been added. The potential surplus sale of the New Holland tractor at \$14,000 has been added to the revenue of the Street Fund 101 and the purchase of a zero-turn mower for \$9,000 has been added to the expenditure of the Street Fund 101. A 5% rate increase in liability insurance from AWC RMSA has been adjusted to all funds. Council reviewed estimates to replace the torn awning on City Hall and the two-half circle awnings on the library. The awning on City Hall will cost \$1,444.52 including tax. The awnings at the Library would cost \$2,531.14 including tax. Council consensus was to repair the awning at City Hall now and budget the awnings for the Library in the 2021 budget. Council reviewed 3 quotes from Pape Machinery for zero turn mowers and 3 quotes from Hartill’s Mountain Saw & Tractor for zero turn mowers. Between all the quotes the price for a commercial zero turn is around \$9,000. We are still waiting on a few more budget items to come in before we tighten our belt.

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. ORDINANCE NO. 642** – Randy Robinson made the motion to dispense with the reading of Ordinance No. 642 amending the monthly sewer rate. Tom Crooks seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**. Randy Robinson made the motion to adopt Ordinance No. 642 increasing the monthly sewer rate to \$33 for residential, \$38 for businesses and \$198 for the school and pool when in session. Tom Crooks seconded the motion, two council members voted yes and one council member voted no – **motion passed**.
- B. REQUEST FOR RIGHT-OF-WAY FENCE BY CORY & MEGHAN DONEEN** – Council members reviewed the request and map of the area that show where they would like to put a fence on part of the city right-of-way on streets that were never developed for use. Council members need more information and want to look at the area before discussing the request. This was table for our next meeting.
- C. REQUEST FOR STREET VACATE BY CHRIS ELLIS** – Chris made this request a few council meetings ago asking that a small triangle shaped piece of property that appears to be 6th Street, had the street crossed the creek. The said area needs to be verified that it is probably city right-of-way, or part of 6th street or possible private property before any discussion can take place.
- D. RISK MANAGEMENT AWARD** – Council members received copies of a media release from our liability insurance group, AWC RMSA, showing the Town of Oakesdale was recognized at its annual meeting for our dedication to good risk management practices and recognized as one of this year’s Safety Award winner.

X. COUNCIL MEMBER’S BUSINESS:

AL – He acknowledged the south end welcome sign is all fixed up and back in place.

TOM C. – The big rocks that Public Works put along Second Street in groupings looks good. The old hotel/steak house building has bricks in bad shape towards the top of the building.

RANDY – He welcomed Bill Auvil aboard the council. He would like to see council take a look at the junk vehicle Ordinance and proceed with asking Keith to issue code violations.

XI. TREASURER’S REPORT/APPROVAL OF CHECKS: Council members reviewed the Treasurer’s Report for October 2020. Al Evans made the motion to approve paid checks #27153 - #27176 in the amount of \$16,647.63 for claims and \$7,871.18 for payroll totaling \$24,518.81 from October 7, 2020 through October 19, 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 8:50 p.m. Tom Crooks seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

DENNIS PALMER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer