

Town of Oakesdale
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
For
September 7, 2021

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Dennis Palmer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Al Evans led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Mayor Dennis Palmer, Al Evans, Tom Crooks and Randy Robinson. Councilmen Bill Auvil and Tom Johnson were not in attendance. Also present were Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer and Keith Cooper, Town Marshal.
- III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Steve Marsh, TD&H Engineering and Marletta Sisak, Ruck for the Fallen
- IV. **STEVE MARSH, TD&H ENGINEERING:** Steve gave council members and update on the water project. As of now, the project is estimated to be completed mid-October. The contractor is running about a week behind. They have been able to get most of their parts except the meter setters. This is due to supply chain issues which in turn are from the pandemic. Direct drilling is stalled due to no directional drilling plan being submitted for approval from our engineers and Geo engineers. There will be a few more Change Orders coming across the Mayor's desk for approval.
- V. **RUCK FOR THE FALLEN:** Marletta Sisak announced to council members that there will be another Ruck event in Oakesdale on Saturday, October 2nd. The Ruck participants will start from Steptoe Butte and end in Oakesdale. There will be vendors, community wide yard sales, music and food. The event will be observing COVID guidelines. They would like to see Steptoe Ave blocked off between First & Second Streets and 2nd Street between Bartlett and Steptoe. They will be placing all vendors outside on those two street locations. They will also organize a mini-ruck for the kids. The Little Ruckers will step-off from the Fire Station for half a mile at noon. They would like to see the fire department host a feed at the station for the Ruck. This will be passed on to the Fire Chief, Cory Doneen. Anticipating around 150 or so for the event. Marletta has council's full support.
- VI. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** Council members reviewed August 2, 2021 minutes. Randy Robinson made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Al Evans seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**
- VII. **TOWN MARSHAL REPORT:** Keith Cooper gave council members a copy of his department's report for August 2021. There were 11 cases ranging from vicious animal, suspicious, animal problems, civil issue, trespassing, burglary, traffic offense, and welfare check. Keith informed council members there is a new statewide case management system for the Courts of Limited Jurisdiction which is cleaning up each court's local laws that have been entered into the current

case management system. Any local code a municipality wishes to cite and file with Whitman County District Court will now have to be approved and entered by AOC. Council members reviewed what the current charges will be above what the fine of the ticket charge is from the Town. The fees from the court vary from an additional \$52.50 and as high as \$1,025.00. Keith and Mary will work on the approved codes with AOC that we will need to use per our Town Code violations.

VIII. PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: Mary gave the report for Public Works for August 2021. No current projects were completed in August due to Pam taking time off to harvest. Brad stepped up and covered for Pam to just maintain the Town. Upcoming project for next month includes building a shed over the grinders and generator at the lagoons, moving the electronics of the grinders above ground, build a shed for the effluent machines at the lagoons, replace Library side door and repair the fire hydrant on East Steptoe Ave behind McGregor's Quonset shop. They continue to be available for the water project.

IX. OLD BUSINESS:

A. AL EVANS REQUEST TO LIVE IN COMMERCIAL BUILDING – Al submitted a letter of intent requesting to be given authorization to occupy his commercial property located at 113 N First Street for the purpose of have a retail shop to package and sell components for art frames and other art parts on the internet as well. Randy Robinson made the motion to refer the letter of intent to the Board of Adjustments. Tom Crooks seconded the motion, two council members voted yes and one council member abstained since it refers to his request – **motion passed.**

X. NEW BUSINESS:

A. WAIVER FROM PARTICIPATION IN 2022 ELECTION PAMPHLETS – Randy Robinson made the motion to request a waiver from participation in the Whitman County local voters' pamphlet for any election that will occur in 2022 due to the financial hardship would cause our municipality. Tom Crooks seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

B. NEU ADDITIONAL PAYMENT – Five cities either declined the funds or did not provide a response within the required timeframe. In accordance with the U.S. Treasury's guidance, the State of Washington will allocate the unclaimed funds from the five cities to the NEU's that accepted the funds and were within the 75% budget cap requirement. Oakesdale will receive an additional \$120.00 with \$60 payable now and \$60 in 2022. Our payment amount now totals \$122,666 for 2021/2022.

C. NEW STATEWIDE CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM – TOWN CODE VIOLATIONS – This was discussed under Section VII. Town Marshal Report.

D. LIBRARY CANOPIES - Mary obtained another quote from Vestis to recover the two half circle awnings on the library. The last bid we received from them was in 2019 for around \$2,000. The new quote is now \$4,675.29 thanks to inflation from the pandemic. Brad found a local upholstery business on the South Hill that would repair the awnings for

around \$1,500. Council members gave their approval for the least expensive option and go with the local upholstery shop on the South Hill.

- E. **2022 BUDGET** – Mary reminded council members that it’s that time of year again to start the budget process. Mary will have a very bare bones budget started by our next council meeting.
- F. **DOH LOAN** – Council members reviewed the contract face sheet for the additional loan from the Department of Health for \$400,000 to finish the water project due to COVID pricing on supplies. The loan is for 23 years with an interest rate of 1.75%.

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

XII. **TREASURER’S REPORT/APPROVAL OF CHECKS:** Al Evans made the motion to approve paid checks #27624 - #27666 in the amount of \$587,225.81 for claims and \$17,406.04 for claims totaling \$604,631.85 from August 3, 2021 through September 1, 2021. Randy Robinson seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

XIII. **ADJOURNMENT:** Tom Crooks made the motion to adjourn the council meeting at 8:05 p.m. Al Evans seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

DENNIS PALMER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer