

Town of Oakesdale
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
For
October 4, 2021

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Dennis Palmer called the council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Randy Robinson led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Mayor Dennis Palmer, Bill Auvil, Al Evans, Tom Crooks and Randy Robinson. Councilman Tom Johnson was not in attendance. Also present were Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer and Brad Sullivan, Public Works Director.
- III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** None
- IV. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** Council members reviewed September 20, 2021 minutes. Al Evans made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Bill Auvil seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**
- V. **TOWN MARSHAL REPORT:** None
- VI. **PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:** Brad reported the bridge on east Bartlett has been repaired. They have been busy trimming trees along the streets on city right-of-way that are too long and hit the plowing equipment when plowing snow. The generator shed is completed at the lagoons. We are getting an electrical bid to move the grinders control panel above ground using our American Rescue Plan Act Funds (ARPA).
- VII. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - A. **2022 BUDGET** – Mary reviewed the very preliminary 2022 budget with council members. For the first go around, Current Expense Fund 001 is in the black by \$26,931.72 if our Safety levy passes; Street Fund 101 shows a deficit of \$5,003.28 – the expenditures will be reviewed and the belt tightened; Water/Sewer Fund 401 is in the black by \$35,804.40. There will be more expenses adjusted and added by the next budget review. Council members were reminded we will have a Federal Audit in 2022 due to the water project. We will request our state audit be completed at the same time even though it's a year earlier than scheduled. By having both audits at the same time it will save the Town some money.
- VIII. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - A. **WATER PROJECT UPDATE** – Steve Marsh, TD&H Engineering could not be present tonight to give council an update on the water project due to his father passing away. Steve did send council members an email with the project's status. The contractor is installing the 8" water main on Bartlett from the railroad crossing towards the creek. They have a sub-contractor coming mid-October to jack & bore under the creek

crossing. This is the last portion of water main to be installed. Contractor is installing water service lines and fire hydrants throughout town in preparation for switching over to the new water mains. Water service lines to be connected to existing water meters until the new water meters and meter setters are delivered in early November. Contractor has until October 15th to reach substantial completion based on contract working days (65) plus 7.5 days extension approved with Change Order #2. However, we anticipate another time extension request from the contractor this week with Change Order #3. Contract will likely be suspended due to non-critical material delivery timing. Work to be completed late fall and potentially spring 2022 for final cleanup and hydroseeding. Total project costs have increased by approximately \$94,000. However, we anticipate additional bid item overruns for asphalt paving and gravel for road repairs.

- B. WSDL SAFETY COMMITTEE HEARING – 11/10/21** – The contractor, NNAC, on our water project broke Joe Baljo’s sewer service line by placing the new water main over the top of it. This caused his sewer to back up into his house. Joe’s insurance has filed for damages and is requesting \$5,000 to cover those damages to his bathroom. NNAC wants to see the Town pay for these damages. Therefore, NNAC has filed a complaint against the Town with Washington State Dig Law (WSDL) for not marking that sewer service line. In the pre-con meeting, it was noted the Town is not responsible for sewer service lines from the residence to the main, the home owner is responsible. The sewer service lines are not even on our sewer map. There will be a Zoom hearing on November 10th at 8:30 a.m. to review the damages that were caused by an unlocated service line. NNAC is hoping the committee will be in favor of their claim and make the Town pay for the damages they caused.
- C. KELLY & JORDYN COOK SEWER CONNECTION** – Randy Robinson received a sealed envelope from Kelly & Jordyn Cook addressed to the Town Council regarding the construction of their new home at 112 N Montana Street and the intent to connect to our sewer main. Due to the location of their new home, they could connect to a sewer main on Montana or Bartlett Streets. Kelly preferred to connect to Bartlett which would also give him access for installation of an RV dump site below their house. The sewer main on Bartlett is 6 feet deeper than he claims to have been told by Public Works staff. His contractor is charging an additional \$5,000 to go 6ft deeper for sewer connection. He would prefer to tie into the man hole on Bartlett instead of the main. He had two contractors express that is what they would do. We have one connection like that now in Oakesdale and the sewage doesn’t flow down to the main from the main hole. We do not want to be in that situation again. They are requesting to tie in to that manhole. Council discussed the contents of the letter. Council supports Public Works and agree that they need to connect to the sewer main, not the manhole.
- D. SUB CLERK NEEDED** – Mary will be on vacation from October 15th thru October 21st. Claudia will not be available. We need to hire another sub to cover Mary’s days off. Several council members mentioned Babbs Pfaff would be a great option. Mary will contact Babbs to see if she would be interested.

X. **COUNCIL MEMBER’S BUSINESS:**

BILL – None

AL – The solar light above the welcome sign at the north end of Town does not seem to be working right. The street light that is right by it is sending the solar light mixed messages. We forgot about the street light being so close to that sign.

TOM C. – The construction crew may need to shut the water off at the school this Wednesday, unless more shut-off valves can be located before then. They need to install a new fire hydrant.

RANDY – He thanked council for supporting our Public Works crew. They have a thankless job and council needs to show we have their backs!

XI. **TREASURER’S REPORT/APPROVAL OF CHECKS:** Council members reviewed September’s Treasurer’s Report, Check Register and Receipt Register. Al Evans made the motion to approve paid checks #27688 - #27709 in the amount of \$421,458.00 for claims and \$6,028.29 for payroll totaling \$427,486.29 from September 22, 2021 through September 23, 2021. 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 8:05 p.m. Bill Auvil seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

DENNIS PALMER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

MARY DEGON, CLERK/TREASURER