

Town of Oakesdale
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
For
November 1, 2021

I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Dennis Palmer called the council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Al Evans 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 Keith Cooper, Town Marshal.

III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Roger Hagar and Sheri Hatley

He has some concern with his neighbor building a fence on the undeveloped streets of Jackson and 7th Streets. William Tate came to council requesting to extend his fence in his llama pasture. He would like to use 40 ft of Jackson and 40 ft of 7th Street. The Town's Attorney, Eric Hanson, submitted Resolution #2020-395 allowing Bill to extend his fence 40 ft on Jackson and 7th Street. Bill has completed the fence on Jackson. Roger stated he would not have access to his property off of 7th street if Bill puts his fence on 7th. Roger submitted a hand-drawn map that shows 7th Street to be only 40 ft wide and not 80 ft like Jackson. Roger has talked to an attorney and his attorney stated our Town Attorney did not handle the request to abandon the streets properly. Roger was reminded several times we did no such thing – we did not abandon any streets. Council only permitted a temporary fence on undeveloped streets to be erected upon half of the street his property abuts. If the Town should need to utilize those streets for municipal purposes or decides to use the streets for public travel, the fences shall be removed immediately by William Tate or his successors, assigns, agents or heirs. Roger voiced his opinion that the fence should be removed on Jackson and not be allowed on 7th Street. Tom Crooks asked Roger if he has already retained an attorney. Roger answered yes, then this conversation is done and not ethical. This will be discussed between each party's attorney from here on out.

IV. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** Council members reviewed October 4, 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:** Keith Cooper gave his department's report for October 2021. There were sixteen cases ranging from fuel spill, thefts, medical, animal problems, suspicious, DWLS arrest, agency assist, welfare checks, trespassing, 9-1-1 hang-up and fraud. Halloween night was quiet.

VI. **PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:** Mary gave the Public Works Report – current projects completed are shed built for samplers at the lagoon, grinder shed has power, painted trim and windows at the library, awning recovered at the Library, completed Cook's sewer connection, completed

Busch's water connection, and repaired the old generator from the lagoons to use while discharging the lagoons. The up-coming projects before Brad leaves for Arizona are to repair the fire hydrant off of Idaho St & Steptoe Ave, trim trees for snow removal equipment to get by, install old generator at discharge station at the lagoons, install a new electrical panel at Well #4, move the grinder controls above ground at the lagoons, install culvert in alley off of Montana St, get the snow removal equipment ready and replace metal trim on Old Fire Station shop. Brad leaves for Arizona this week and will not be back until April 2022. Pam will use Skippy when she needs any help to plow streets or work on a project.

VII. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. 2022 BUDGET** – Mary reviewed the changes to the 2022 budget – employee benefits have an increase of 5.8% for medical, 2% for dental and no increases on vision or Comp-Psych EAP. We completed annual time studies and for 2022 the Clerk/Treasurer's time will be coded 53% current and 47% water/sewer; Pam as Assistant PWD 65% water/sewer and 35% streets and Brad as PWD 68% water/sewer and 22% Streets. The budget was adjusted accordingly for the cost allocations. We will have our first budget hearing at the next council meeting.
- B. SUB CLERK HIRED** – Babbs Pfaff is our new sub for Mary when she needs to take time off. Her training starts this Thursday. Babbs will be a quick learner with her banking background.
- C. WATER PROJECT UPDATE** – Steve Marsh from TD&H sent council members an update on the water project via email. The contractor has installed all 8" water mains except for the section on Bartlett between the railroad crossing and Washington Street. The Tunneling Company is onsite to bore under the creek crossing. They are mobilizing additional equipment to bore through the rock. Contractor has installed all but 2 services lines. Services will be connected to existing water meters once water mains have been switched over to the new mains. Water main connections are ongoing. All trenched areas will be repaved. Paving is scheduled for November 3rd and November 10th. Meters setters, Meter boxes and water meters will be replaced in the spring. Contract is likely to be suspended due to supplies not being delivered in a timely matter. Work will be completed in Spring 2022.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. INNOVIA FOUNDATION DONOR** – We received an email from Jake Dingman, Oakesdale Schools, informing us Aaron McMurray from the Innovia Foundation in Spokane has a donor who wants to give back to the Oakesdale Community where he grew up. Jake was told it will be a significant financial contribution and Innovia will manage the endowment. The donor met with Mayor Palmer, Jake Dingman and Pastor Paul from the Community Presbyterian Church on October 18th at noon at City Hall. Mayor Palmer said the donor is Larry Stanley. Mayor Palmer has met with him before about ideas for Oakesdale. Larry has never forgotten when he was a young boy, Oakesdale rallied around his family when his father was ill and hospitalized. The community had fund

raisers for the family to help pay their medical bills. More information to come as Innovia aids Larry in his decision to donate his funds to Oakesdale.

B. RESOLUTION NO. 2021-406 – Al Evans made the motion to dispense with the reading of Resolution No. 2021-406 increasing the actual levy amount in 2022 by 1%. Tom Crooks seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**. Bill Auvil made the motion to adopt Resolution No. 2021-406 increasing the amount of property taxes we receive from Whitman County by 1% in 2022 which shall be \$546.62. Tom Crooks seconded the motion, two council members voted yes and one council member voted no – **motion passed**.

C. ARPA FUNDS – We have \$61,333 to spend on our water and/or sewer infrastructure this year. We added another aerator at the lagoon ponds, moving grinder control panel above ground at Treatment Plant, new electrical panel for Well #4 and installing a generator for discharging at the Treatment Plant. We are still getting quotes on a few of these projects.

IX. COUNCIL MEMBER’S BUSINESS:

TOM C. – None

AL – None

BILL – None

X. TREASURER’S REPORT/APPROVAL OF CHECKS: Council members reviewed the Treasurer’s Report, Check Register and Receipt Register for October 2021. Al Evans made the motion to approve paid checks #27711 - #27762 in the amount of \$404,061.52 for claims and \$23,763.83 for payroll totaling \$427,825.35 from October 7, 2021 through October 29, 2021. Bill Auvil seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**.

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

DENNIS PALMER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

MARY DEGON, CLERK/TREASURER