

Town of Oakesdale
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
for
December 6, 2021

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Dennis Palmer called the council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Tom Crooks led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

- II. **ROLL CALL:** Mayor Dennis Palmer, Bill Auvil, Al Evans, Tom Crooks and Randy Robinson. Also present were Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer and Keith Cooper, Town Marshal.

- III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Pasha Rudenko, Roy Murphy and Roger Hagar

Roger said he read the minutes from the last council meeting and everything looks fantastic.

Pasha informed council he just purchased the old Scott's building on Steptoe Avenue which used to be a steak house and have apartments on the upper level. He has found an angle with Washington State Housing Trust Fund to get funds for renovating the building. The fund helps to bring certain kinds of buildings back to life. The funds need a match. Pasha asked council if the Town would help with the funding. He needs letters of support to apply for funding. He purchased the building cheap, but does not have deep pockets to remodel the building. His idea at the moment is to have retirement apartments upstairs and restaurant in the lower level. Tom asked Pasha if he has thought of doing a survey to see what the community needs before deciding what to renovate the building. Council encouraged Pasha to present more information and facts before we issue a letter of support. Town funds can't fund private business.

- IV. **STEVE MARSH, TD&H ENGINEERING:** He was not able to attend due to the road conditions.

- V. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** Council members reviewed November 15, 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.**

- VI. **TOWN MARSHAL REPORT:** Keith Cooper gave his department's report for November 2021. There were nine cases ranging from suspicious, trespassing, non-injury accidents, disorderly, 9-1-1 hang-up, attempted burg and traffic offense.

- VII. **PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:** Mary gave the Public Works report to council. Current projects completed are: replaced fire hydrant at Idaho & Steptoe (the old one could not be repaired), trimmed trees for plowing snow, all grinder controls have been moved above ground and in use, installed culvert in the alley off of Montana Street for new house construction, snowplow equipment is ready to roll and the sampler machines have been installed at the lagoons ready for discharge season. Pam is still finishing decorating the Town for Christmas.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. 2022 BUDGET** – No changes in budget since the last council meeting. Mary will be adjusting the 2022 budget for the water project since the project was suspended due to weather. The contractor will be back in the spring of 2022 to finish. The final budget hearing will be before our next council meeting on December 20th.
- B. WATER PROJECT UPDATE** – Council members were given a copy of a letter from our contractor, NNAC, suspending the contract based on Section 1-08.6 of the WSDOT Standard Specifications for Road, Bridge and Municipal Construction. They agree it's in the public's best interest to suspend the contract due to unsuitable weather which is preventing satisfactory and timely performance of the work. The contract will restart at or around March 22, 2022 depending upon weather and ground conditions. There are 0.5 working days remaining in the contract.

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. COUNCILMAN TOM JOHNSON PASSED AWAY 11-26-21** – Council members were informed Councilman Tom Johnson passed away the day after Thanksgiving. His service will be sometime in January 2022.
- B. ORDINANCE NO. 647 BUDGET AMMENDMENT** – Randy Robinson made the motion to dispense with the reading of Ordinance No. 647 amending the 2021 budget. Bill Auvil seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**. Randy Robinson made the motion to adopt Ordinance No. 647 amending Current Expense Fund 001 by \$69,333 to total \$211,475.92 for purchase of police car account 521.20.64.00 \$8,000 and ARPA funds account 597.38.63.00 transfer to Water/Sewer Fund 401 \$61,333. Al Evans seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**.

X. COUNCIL MEMBER'S BUSINESS:

RANDY – He asked Bill if he will fill in for Pam while she is gone to run the snowplow truck if it should snow several inches. Bill will come in tomorrow to ride with Pam in the truck to see how things are done. He will be the backup for Pam at the end of the week.

TOM – The wreaths and bells on the lamp posts look very nice for Christmas. His wife Linda loves the Christmas Trees on First Street in front of the businesses.

AL – He noticed Mary Jane Butters is taking more stuff out of the old mill. He hates to see that and wishes we could do something to stop it. Since the old mill is privately owned, there is nothing council can do. Ziplly Fiber will be hooking people up on the new and improved high speed internet at the end of the month.

BILL – He will be Pam's back-up to plow if it snows. The weather looks good and he probably won't be needed.

- XI. TREASURER'S REPORT/APPROVAL OF CHECKS:** Council members reviewed the Treasurer's Report, Check Register and Receipt Register for November 2021. Al Evans made the motion to approve paid checks #27779 - #27815 in the amount of \$415,559.18 for claims and \$11,531.69

for payroll totaling \$427,090.87 from November 17, 2021 through December 2, 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 7:59 p.m. Tom Crooks seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**.

DENNIS PALMER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

MARY DEGON, CLERK/TREASURER