

Town of Oakesdale
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
for
March 7, 2022

I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Dennis Palmer called the council meeting to order at 7 p.m. Mayor Palmer asked our guest, Roger Hagar, to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Roger Hagar and Lyndsey Reid

Lyndsey arrived at the end of the council meeting to address council about the certified letter she received from our Town Marshal, Keith Cooper, regarding the Town Code violation of raising pigs. Lyndsey feels that everyone who lives in Oakesdale is breaking one or more Town Codes. She does not understand why she can't raise pigs for food in a farming community. Council members addressed the violation – she lives in Urban Residential Zone. The Town Code for that particular zone only allows the raising of a horse, cow, sheep or goat provided there shall be a minimum of one-half acre per animal accessible with year-round vegetation in a fenced area. The Code reads what animals you are allowed to have NOT what you can't have. Council stated the Code book would be as big as the City Hall building if they had to list the animals you could not have within city limits. Lyndsey just sees several of the Town Codes are ridiculous. Town Codes continue to be complaint driven. We have received two complaints about the pigs from neighbors. Councilman Randy Robinson tried to explain to Lyndsey that this has happen before, people raising pigs for FFA or for food without checking first with the Town Codes to see if it's permitted. Pigs are not permitted anywhere in city limits. They are a very offending animal when it comes to odors. Council asked Lyndsey when did they plan to butcher the pigs. She said they are not even a year old yet and would probably be having it done 3 to 4 months. Council said they would meet her half way and give her 2 months. Lyndsey stated she needed her tax refund to pay for the processing of the pigs. Council consensus was to allow the pigs to remain for 2 more months, then they must be butchered or removed. Mayor Palmer will send a letter to her following up on tonight's conversation confirming the removal of the pigs within 2 months. Lyndsey stated she understood. Council thanked her for coming tonight to discuss the Code violation.

IV. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** Council members reviewed February 22, 2022 minutes. Tom Crooks 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 February 2022. There were eight cases ranging from civil issues, warrant, 9-1-1 hang-up, animal problems, welfare check and theft. Keith discussed the Town Code for violation of raising pigs within city limits. He

would like to see more teeth put behind this code. We will ask our Town Attorney, Eric Hanson, to attend our next council meeting to help us review the Town Codes regarding animals not prohibited within city limits.

VI. PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: Mary gave the Public's Work Report for February 2022. Nothing has changed on the upcoming projects list since last month. Pam has started a marathon on sweeping the streets of the sanding rock we used this winter. It will take weeks to get all the streets clean of the sanding rock.

VII. OLD BUSINESS:

A. DEPARTMENT OF RETIREMENT AUDIT – Council members reviewed the Exit Conference Summary from the Department of Retirement. The compliance review tested data for eligibility, retirees and reporting. The audit found an issue with our part-time Public Works person, Brad Sullivan and the number of hours he worked since his hire in 2017. Per the PERS rules – positions that normally require 70 or more hours in at least 5 months of a calendar year for two consecutive years are eligible for PERS membership. The employer must report the employee back to the first date of eligibility. We are required to make those correction on Brad effective 02/01/19. We will be responsible for paying what is owed over the past 3 years. Elected officials are to be given the option for membership into PERS. The employer must give this option for PERS membership to all current and future elected officials. Council members received the DRS form and completed it at the council meeting. A copy will be placed in their employee file and the original form returned to DOR systems. Since Bill Auvil retired from a state employer where he had state retirement, he has to be reported to the DRS system for being employed by the Town as a council member. Bill will need to be reported effective 11/2/20 but no funds will be paid as the hours and amount will not qualify. There were no issues found in the reporting verification on the current eligible employees.

B. FEDERAL AND STATE AUDIT – No updates

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

A. CODE VIOLATION – PIGS – Council members received a copy of the code violation letter from our Town Marshal to Thomas & Lyndsey Reid at 308 W Jackson Street regarding the two pigs they are raising. Discussion was handled under Section III. Introduction of Guests with Lyndsey Reid.

B. WATER PROJECT – The contractor was by last week and anticipates the work to our water system to start up again around late April or May. No updates from the engineers.

IX. COUNCIL MEMBER'S BUSINESS:

RANDY – None

TOM – None

CLAUDIA – None

AL – None

BILL – None

- X. **TREASURER’S REPORT/APPROVAL OF CHECKS:** Council members reviewed the Treasurer’s Report, Receipt Register and Check Register for February 2022. Randy made the motion to approve paid checks #27922 - #27940 in the amount of \$12,003.48 for claims and \$11,311.83 for payroll totaling \$23,315.31 from February 23, 2022 through March 2, 2022. Bill Auvil seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**
- XI. **ADJOURNMENT:** Randy Robinson made the motion to adjourn the council meeting at 8:03 p.m. Claudia Louk seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

DENNIS PALMER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

MARY DEGON, CLERK/TREASURER