

*Town of Oakesdale*  
**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
*for*  
*March 21, 2022*

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Dennis Palmer called the council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Bill Auvil led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Mayor Dennis Palmer, Bill Auvil, Claudia Louk, Tom Crooks and Randy Robinson. Councilman Al Evans was not in attendance. Also present was Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer and Town Attorney, Eric Hanson.
- III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Roger Hagar
- IV. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** Council members reviewed March 7, 2022 minutes. Randy Robinson made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Tom Crooks seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**.
- V. **OLD BUSINESS:**
  - A. **DEPARTMENT OF RETIREMENT AUDIT** – Council members received copies of the Certification of Corrections showing that the 2 corrections needed were completed by Mary on March 10<sup>th</sup> through the DRS Portal. Members received an email from Melinda Duran with the Department of Retirement Systems Compliance Report, showing the recommendations and the corrections that needed to be submitted. Mary also gave council copies of the Electronic Payment Advice Summary that confirmed we paid the amount owed after making the corrections totaling \$5,728.22. Going forward, Brad Sullivan will receive retirement benefits when he works six months out of the year and Councilman Bill Auvil will need to be reported quarterly since he is a retired state worker with PERS2.
  - B. **FEDERAL AND STATE AUDIT** – No updates
  - C. **CODE VIOLATION – PIGS** – Council members received a copy of the letter that was sent to Thomas & Lyndsey Reid showing she signed the letter acknowledging receipt of the letter and do hereby agree to the deadline for the code violation of having pigs at their residence. The letter states the pigs will be removed or butchered for meat by May 6, 2022. Town Attorney, Eric Hanson, discussed with council on having a contract with Whitman County Court Services to process our Town Code violations. Eric had a call into Whitman County Court to see if an old contract already exists between the courts and the Town of Oakesdale. Mary has looked in the files at City Hall and did not find a current contract. If we do have an old contract, we will then have the teeth behind the code violations and the citizens can be held accountable. In most cases, our Town Attorney encouraged the Town to try to work with the code violators the way we are

now – by giving people a chance to come to council to discuss the violation and giving them a date to be back in compliance. Eric will get back to us as soon as he has received a call back from Whitman County Courts.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. SPRING/SUMMER MEETINGS** – Council members were reminded starting next month, council meetings go from twice a month to once a month from April through August. We will meet the first Monday of each of those months.
- B. PUBLIC WORKS HOURS** – Council discussed Brad Sullivan’s hours for Public Works when he returns from Arizona next month. Council would like to see Brad stay under 31 hours per week to maintain the part-time status he was hired for to assist Pam on Public Work projects.

**VII. COUNCIL MEMBER’S BUSINESS:**

**BILL** – He had a question for our Town Attorney – he wanted to purchase the small section of property from the Town where one of the old wells used to be back in the day. This small section of property is adjacent to his front yard of his new home. At the time, Eric looked into the property as it was donated to the Town for the well. The Town could not vacate the property as it is not an easement or right-of-way. The Town would need to surplus the property and sell it for fair market value at a public auction or private sale. Bill stated there was a letter from Eric discouraging the sale of the property. Eric said he would review the case since he does not remember what was discussed a few years ago.

**CLAUDIA** – None

**TOM** – None

**RANDY** – None

**VIII. TREASURER’S REPORT/APPROVAL OF CHECKS:** Council members reviewed the Treasurer’s Report for March 2022. Randy Robinson made the motion to approve paid checks #27941 - #27959 in the amount of \$8,774.91 for claims and \$9,628.13 for payroll totaling \$18,403.04 from March 09, 2022 through March 16, 2022. Bill Auvil seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT:** Claudia Louk made the motion to adjourn the council meeting at 7:45 p.m. Tom Crooks seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**.

ATTEST:

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**DENNIS PALMER, MAYOR**

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**MARY DEGON, CLERK/TREASURER**