

Town of Oakesdale
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
For
September 6, 2022

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Dennis Palmer called the council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Visitor Marletta Sisak led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Mayor Dennis Palmer, Randy Robinson, Tom Crooks, Claudia Louk and Al Evans. Councilman Bill Auvil was not in attendance. Also present were Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer; Brad Sullivan, PWD and Keith Cooper, Town Marshal.

III. **PAUL KIMMELL, AVISTA – LEVEL 2 VEHICLE CHARGER:** Absent

IV. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Pete Baljo, Roger Hager and Marletta Sisak

Marletta came tonight to promote Ruck for the Fallen. Her son Mitch Kriebel, will be getting deployed on October 1st so the Ruck was moved from October to September 24th. The March for our Heroes will step off at 7 a.m. from Steptoe Butte. There will be a 10K Ruck starting at RagonRd/Hume Rd at 10:30 a.m., a 5K Ruck from Huggins Rd/Hume Rd at 11:45 a.m. and the mini ruckers joining in on the last mile. They will be using the fire station to feed the ruckers and give people a place to rest. They have heroes coming from all over the United States and as far away as Chicago. There will be vendors starting at 10 a.m. on Steptoe Ave on the first business block. Marletta asked Public Works to close the first block on Steptoe Ave for the vendors. She asked Officer Cooper if he can help with traffic control on Hume Rd. He could not commit as they have been short staffed during the day. Marletta said they would have plenty of flaggers for the Ruck. Marletta asked council for their continued support of the Ruck being hosted in Oakesdale and it was a unanimous yes!

V. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** Council members reviewed July 5, 2022 minutes. Tom Crooks made the motion to approve the council minutes as written. Claudia Louk seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

VI. **TOWN MARSHAL REPORT:** Town Marshal, Keith Cooper gave council members his department’s report for July and August 2022. There were fifteen cases ranging from malicious mischief, domestic disputes, civil issue, drugs, suicidal person, traffic offense, welfare check, stray animal, animal problems and junk vehicles. Keith noted it has been a relatively quiet summer.

VII. **PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:** Public Works Director, Brad Sullivan gave his department’s report for August 2022. Several projects have been completed: replaced metal trim on Old Fire Station, replaced broken solar light above the south end welcome sign, prepping streets for paving, snow plow blade was repaired, calibration checked on all meters at the treatment plant, traffic rated meter lids were drilled for digital read, a flow meter was added to the closest man hole to

the lagoons for the infiltration study required by DOE, thunderstorm cleanup, reinforced the levy around lagoon ponds and removed dead tree at the end of McCoy Street. We will be having a site visit from DOE as we are getting a new permit writer on September 20th. Whitman Public Works will be laying asphalt mats on various streets getting them ready for chip seal next year. We are still waiting on electricians to replace the electrical panel in Well #4 and to wire in the generator at the discharge station at the lagoons.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. WATER PROJECT UPDATE** – Council members reviewed an email from TD&H Engineering stating we are in a final closeout with the contractors, NNAC. According to NNAC, 95% of the punch list has been completed. All concrete and pavement repairs have been completed. Marissa will be doing a site visit this Thursday to verify what is outstanding on the punch list.

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. RESOLUTION NO. 2022-416 TRANSFER FUNDS WITHIN THE BUDGET** – Randy Robinson made the motion to dispense with the reading of Resolution No. 2022-416 transferring the ARPA funds from Current to Water/Sewer. Al Evans seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**. Al Evans made the motion to adopt Resolution No. 2022-416 transferring \$61,333 ARPA funds from Fund# 001 Current Expense to Fund #401 Water/Sewer for improved infrastructure of the water and sewer system. Randy Robinson seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**.
- B. FEDERAL/FINANCIAL AUDIT 2021 RESULTS** – The Town will be receiving two findings from the Federal/Financial Audit regarding the water project funding. The first finding is regarding the Town’s procurement policy not meeting Federal procurement standards. Included in that finding is also the lack of verification of the engineers on the project for suspension or debarred status through SAM.gov. The second finding was the water project loan was not reported accurately on the 2021 financial statements for the SEFA and statement of liabilities. Mary did reach out to the state auditors office and the state website portal for advice on where to place a 100% forgivable loan on the annual report. Not enough information was obtained to put the loan on the correct reports. Mary has since corrected the errors and the report for 2021 is accurate. Council members reviewed the Town’s Corrective Action Plan for both findings and agree with the response.
- C. CP&P VERSATILE LOTS** – CP&P Versatile has their business, business office building and the extra lots for sale. They want to know if the Town wants to purchase the extra lots back. Council members were interested in purchasing the lots back for the same price we sold them for since there are no improvements on the lots and they are still as is when we sold them. Council consensus is to buy back the lots for the original purchase price to Ray O’Neal.
- D. BUSINESS INCUBATOR INTENT LETTER** – Council members received a copy of an intent letter from the Coleman Oil office branch in Oakesdale. The building they are leasing has

been listed for sale. They would like to lease the office in the business incubator. If approved, they would like to begin using the office spacing sometime in October of this year. The office space has been vacant for a few years and the office needs a few repairs. After much council discussion, Randy Robinson made the motion to lease the office space to Coleman Oil for \$400 per month as is. Al Evans seconded the motion, three council members voted yes and one council member voted no – **motion passed**.

- E. **PINE CREEK CONSERVATION DISTRICT** – Council members reviewed a landowner agreement for Conservation District Implemented Project. There are two problematic beaver dams on McCoy Creek along State Route 27 that are causing some localized and seasonal flooding. The Conservation District installed two beaver pond levelers and piping system to relocate the dam’s outlet and provide steady pond elevation along with beaver tree cages to protect individual trees.

X. **COUNCIL MEMBER’S BUSINESS:**

AL – He asked if council members read the article in the Whitman County Gazette a few weeks ago regarding the Old Mill and the facts he presented in the article about the owner of the mill dismantling the building from the inside out. He wanted to bring awareness to the community what the owner is doing to the historic old flour mill. He has notified state and national historic registers to see what are the guidelines for historic buildings. This is a landmark we need to protect. He would like to see the Town have a vision for the old mill.

CLAUDIA – None

TOM – None

RANDY – None

- XI. **TREASURER’S REPORT/APPROVAL OF CHECKS:** Council members reviewed the Treasurer’s Reports, Check Registers and Receipt Registers for July & August 2022. Randy Robinson made the motion to approve paid checks #28105 - #28188 in the amount of \$61,061.60 for claims and \$42,419.01 for payroll totaling \$103,480.61 from July 6, 2022 through August 31, 2022. Al Evans seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**.

- XII. **ADJOURNMENT:** Randy Robinson made the motion to adjourn the council meeting at 8:03 p.m. Tom Crooks seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**.

DENNIS PALMER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

MARY DEGON, CLERK/TREASURER