

Town of Oakesdale
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
For
October 17, 2022

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Dennis Palmer called the council meeting to order at 7 p.m. Claudia Louk 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 was Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer.
- III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Pete Baljo

Pete asked council members if anyone knew who owned the old railroad bed behind the flour mill. It is still owned by the railroad, but no one knew which railroad.
- IV. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** Council members reviewed October 3, 2022 minutes. Al Evans 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. **2023 BUDGET** – Mary reported the changes to the 2023 budget since the last council meeting. Employee benefits have been updated – medical had an increase of 4.5% while dental and vision premiums had no changes. Tom Crooks discussed employee wage increases for 2023. Tom’s recommendation for employee raises would be 5.5 – 6%. He checked the inflation stats, consumer price index, state school employee projected raises, Whitman County and called the City of Tekoa who did not return his call. Mary prepared an employee wage scale for council members and the past five years of increases. Council members discussed a fair wage increase of 6% unless they have other facts that would give them a different percentage to consider. Randy Robinson made the motion to approve a 6% wage increase for employees in 2023 across the board except for the Certified Water Operator position. Claudia Louk seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**
- VI. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - A. **STATE BANK CD’S** – The bank contacted Mary last week that they would not be renewing our two Certificate of Deposits in the amount of \$435,935.59 due to liability of the FDIC insurance due to those accounts and our checking account total over one million dollars. The bank suggested moving the two CD’s to a Certificate of Deposit Account Registry Service (CDARS) where the two CD’s could earn 3.78% interest instead of the ongoing 0.50%. Council consensus agreed with the bank’s suggestion to move both CD’s to the CDARS effective 10/19/22.

- B. **STREET WORK** – Whitman County was done laying street mats last Monday on our streets where they were badly alligator cracking. If our street levy passes for chip seal in 2023 then the County will come back and chip seal the streets where the mats were done.
- C. **FLOUR MILL** – Mayor Dennis Palmer met with the relator today who has the flour mill listed for sale. He could not believe how the building has been “guttled” from most of the machinery to the internal doors. It’s just a shell of its self now. Tom Crooks reminded Mayor Palmer that the flour mill is privately owned and the owner did what she wanted to do with the contents of the mill. This is not a council issue but it is hard to see the old mill for sale since it represents the Town’s identity.

VII. **COUNCIL MEMBER’S BUSINESS:**

AL – None

CLAUDIA – None

TOM – None

RANDY – None

VIII. **TREASURER’S REPORT/APPROVAL OF CHECKS:** Council members reviewed the Treasurer’s Report for October 2022. Randy Robinson made the motion to approve paid checks #28238 - #28259 in the amount of \$11,328.45 for claims and \$14,096.35 for payroll totaling \$25,424.80 from October 4, 2022 through October 14, 2022.

IX. **ADJOURNMENT:** Claudia Louk made the motion to adjourn the council meeting at 7:40 p.m. Tom Crooks seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

DENNIS PALMER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

MARY DEGON, CLERK/TREASURER