

*Town of Oakesdale*  
**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
*For*  
*November 7, 2022*

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Dennis Palmer called the council meeting to order at 7 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 were Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer and Keith Cooper, Town Marshal.
- III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Roger Hagar  

Roger asked if the Town will be getting a charging station for electric cars. Yes – Paul Kimmell from Avista will be attending our next council meeting to discuss the grant for a charging station.
- IV. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** Council members reviewed October 17, 2022 minutes. Randy Robinson made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Bill Auvil seconded the motion, all members voted yes – **motion passed.**
- V. **TOWN MARSHAL REPORT:** Keith Cooper gave his department’s report for October 2022. There were thirteen cases ranging from communication problems with automatic 9-1-1 dialing, warrant arrest, burglary, animal problems, civil issues, and welfare check. Halloween was busy with yards getting forked and toilet papered. There are several send-offs for school teams in playoffs.
- VI. **PUBLIC WORK REPORT:** Mary gave the Public Works Report for October 2022. Current projects completed; new electrical panel in Well #4, new switchboard at the grinders, cleaned wet wells at the lagoons, cleaned culverts and added more culvert on 6<sup>th</sup> Street and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, lagoon is ready for discharge season, last water meter reading in October, insulated water meter boxes, snow plow equipment is ready to go and we are going to try using a salt/sand mix on the streets instead of rock chips. We still need the old generator installed at the discharge station of the lagoons, a new flow meter for discharging and to remove the damaged sheetrock in the old fire station and replace it with tin.
- VII. **OLD BUSINESS:**
  - A. **2023 BUDGET** – Mary reviewed the changes to the 2023 budget since the last council meeting. The 6% employee wage increase has been added, employee benefit amounts, employee cost allocations for 2023, and software maintenance and support. We are still needing budget information from our liability insurance carrier. We will have the

Preliminary 2023 Budget Hearing at our next council meeting before it starts. The Preliminary Budget will have beginning and ending balances added to each fund.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. RESOLUTION NO. 2022-417** – Randy Robinson made the motion to dispense with the reading of Resolution No. 2022-417 increasing the actual levy amount from Whitman County by 1% from the previous tax year. Claudia Louk seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**. Randy Robinson made the motion to adopt Resolution No. 2022-417 increasing the actual levy amount by \$551.69 from Whitman County. Bill Auvil seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**.
- B. LEVY CERTIFICATION** – Council members reviewed the Levy Certification that included the Regular Levy from property taxes to be \$55,208.94, and Town Levies totaling \$105,000.00 which includes the Safety Levy of \$14,000, Street Levy of \$41,000 and the Chip Seal Street Levy of \$50,000. Bill Auvil made the motion to approve the Levy Certification for 2023. Tom Crooks seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**.
- C. HOPS DAMAGE** – Council members reviewed an email and photo from William Tate Jr claiming he lost most of his Hop’s crop after the Town’s Tiger mower arm cut down brush and weeds along 6<sup>th</sup> Street on Town right-of-way. Mr. Tate’s Hops had grown over his fence and volunteer Hops grew onto Town right-of-way. Randy Robinson did go look at the damaged Hops and that was precisely what had happened. Mr. Tate is asking for the Town to replace a few of the Hop plants in the spring. Council consensus is to wait until spring to see if any of the Hops do come back.
- D. WATER LEAK PETITION** – Council members were presented with a copy of an email from Jared Smith who is petitioning council for a reprieve in his water bill due to an unforeseen water leak. Our Public Works staff found the water leak while reading meters on October 25<sup>th</sup>. The water leak was after the water meter on Mr. Smith’s side. The water leak added an extra \$152.11 to his normal water bill of \$49.74. Due to the severity of the leak and Mr. Smith not able to find the leak, Public Works capped the line on the T-post so Mr. Smith would still have water at the house. Council members consensus was not to approve any reprieve to the water bill since Public Works took care of the problem and not the home owner. A letter will be sent to Mr. Smith detailing councils’ decision.

**IX. COUNCIL MEMBER’S BUSINESS:**

**BILL** – None

**CLAUDIA** – None

**TOM** – None

**RANDY** – None

- X. **TREASURER'S REPORT/APPROVAL OF CHECKS:** Council members reviewed the Treasurer's Report, Receipt Register and Check Register for October 2022. Randy Robinson made the motion to approve paid checks #28260 - #28282 in the amount of \$15,633.22 for claims and \$13,017.64 for payroll totaling \$28,650.86 from October 18, 2022 through November 2, 2022. Claudia Louk seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**
- XI. **ADJOURNMENT:** Bill Auvil made the motion to adjourn the council meeting at 7:28 p.m. Tom Crooks seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

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**DENNIS PALMER, MAYOR**

**ATTEST:**

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**MARY DEGON, CLERK/TREASURER**