

Town of Oakesdale
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
For
April 3, 2023

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Dennis Palmer called the council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Bruce Palmer led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Mayor Dennis Palmer, Bill Auvil, Al Evans, Claudia Louk and Randy Robinson. Also present were Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer, Keith Cooper, Town Marshal and council appointed Bruce Palmer.
- III. **OATH OF OFFICE:** Mayor Palmer swore in Bruce Palmer appointed by council into office administering the Oath of Office for Council Position #3 replacing Tom Crooks.
- IV. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Russ Kobler and Shon Eck

Russ reminded council members that he has spent his entire life in business and 45 years of that in Las Vegas. The Town's website is not that great and still needs updating. He suggested we ask the school to see if a class could build a better website for the Town. He is shocked that the agenda shows no Old Business tonight. He feels management failed when it comes to items that need to be on the agenda. He would like to have the option to pay his water/sewer bill on-line. It was explained that the software we use for the utility side does not have that option at this time. That would require an upgrade that would cost the Town several thousands of dollars. It has been council's opinion the upgrade is not worth the cost for only 240 accounts. It opens the concern of cyber attacks or hacks on the system. He and his girlfriend Roni would like to open up a local business here in Oakesdale for a place to eat. He thought the Town owned the Masonic Lodge Hall and council corrected him that the Masons do own their own building. He would like to talk to Councilman Al Evans about his gas station building and if they could work something out to use that building.

Shon just wants to start getting more involved in our community as he counts down the days to retirement.

- V. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** Council members reviewed March 20, 2023 minutes. Randy Robinson made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Bill Auvil seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**
- VI. **TOWN MARSHAL REPORT:** Keith Cooper gave his department's report for March 2023. There were nine cases ranging from domestic disputes, trespassing, burglary, non-injury accident, threatening, suspicious person and suicide attempt. Bill Auvil asked Keith if Darin & Sara Berntgen are still violating the Town code with the horse. Keith confirmed they are still in violation of the Town Code and the violation is being sent to Whitman County District Court system.

VII. PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: Mary gave the Public Works Report for March 2023. We continue to discharge the lagoons through April. The Old Fire Station remodel is done and the ceiling looks great! New patio lights and furniture have been added to the courtyard. The flags are back on display on Steptoe Ave and up the sidewalk hill to the school. The dump truck's airlines and clutch have been repaired. Pam will start street sweeping this week. We will be reading water meters this month. Brad is back from Arizona and started working part-time again for us today. There will be a DOH inspection of the water project on April 18th. Most of the information they are needing will come from our engineers at TD&H. Steve Marsh will be here for the inspection.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS: None

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

A. 2022 ANNUAL REPORT PREP – Mary will be attending a software workshop for prepping for the 2022 Annual Report due to the State by the end of May 2023. The workshop will take place in Spokane at the old BIAS building.

B. SPRING CLEAN UP – A resident has made a suggestion that the Town should have their own Spring Clean Up and bring in a huge dumpster for residents to use. She has noticed her neighborhood on McCoy Street is getting pretty junked up. Whitman County is having their annual Spring Clean Up from April 7th through April 15th with a \$55 per ton minimum. In the past, we have taken old appliances to the County Landfill, but we do not have the capabilities of taking all that down to the landfill. Our dump truck is not big enough to haul all the appliances. The County used to have a Tire Amnesty Program where they would take car and pickup truck tires for free, but that program lost its funding years ago.

C. 1Q BUDGET FOR 2023 – Council members received copies of the 2023 Budget Position. Council members had no questions at this time about the budget report.

D. WATER PROJECT – Council members received a copy of an email from Steve Marsh at TD&H Engineering regarding the status of closing out the water project. The contractor NNAC has proposed that we write off the liquidated damages in exchange they will write off the extra quantities. The net change of this is \$49,241 in favor of the Town. The engineers are recommending that Council accepts this proposal. Change Order #5 will reflect these changes if approved by Council. Randy Robinson made the motion to approve Mayor Palmer to sign Change Order #5 for a net change of \$89,783.38. Bill Auvil seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**.

X. COUNCIL MEMBER'S BUSINESS:

RANDY – He did take a drive down McCoy St and it is a mess. What is going to be the best way to address it? We cannot have Ordinances that tell people how to live on their own property. We have already addressed this issue several times with our Town Attorney.

BRUCE – None

CLAUDIA – None

AL – None

BILL – Keith Cooper answered his question about the status of the code violation with Darin & Sara Berntgen under Town Marshal Report.

XI. TREASURER’S REPORT/APPROVAL OF CHECKS: Council members reviewed the Treasurer’s Report, Check Register and Receipt Register for March 2023. Al Evans made the motion to approve paid checks #28455 - #28476 in the amount of \$4,797.06 for claims and \$6,188.98 for payroll totaling \$10,986.04 from March 21, 2023 through March 30, 2023. Claudia Louk seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

XII. ADJOURNMENT: Randy Robinson made the motion to adjourn the council meeting at 8:06 p.m. Claudia Louk seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

DENNIS PALMER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

MARY DEGON, CLERK/TREASURER