

Town of Oakesdale
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
For
May 1, 2023

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Dennis Palmer called the council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Al Evans led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Mayor Dennis Palmer, Al Evans, Claudia Louk and Bruce Palmer. Councilmen Randy Robinson and Bill Auvil were not in attendance. Also present were Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer and Brad Sullivan, Public Works Director.
- III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Shon Eck
- IV. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** Council members reviewed April 3, 2023 minutes. Claudia Louk made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Al Evans seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**
- V. **TOWN MARSHAL REPORT:** None
- VI. **PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:** Brad gave council his report for last month. The streets have been swept, patched pot holes, repaired the Tiger mower, replaced City Hall’s front door, completed a DOH inspection of the water project on April 18th and replaced the fence on William & 6th Street where the culverts were cleaned out. Mowing season has started. The city shop is having the metal roof replaced in June. We are adding an old-style fence to the back of the courtyard. Flower boxes will be planted. Brad would like to see more RV’s and trailers moved off of the streets and city right-of-way’s. We need access to mow them and spray the weeds. Brad has been asked by a recent new hire for Whitman County Road Department if he can stay in the RV Park until they find a house to rent. He is from Alaska and is currently staying in an RV Park in Cheney. Our current code only allows someone to stay 28 days in the RV Park. Brad thought there was a clause added for construction work and workers can stay longer. Council’s consensus if there is a clause for construction work then he could stay longer until he found a rental house.
- VII. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - A. **SPRING CLEAN-UP** – It seemed like this topic was left undecided at our last meeting. After a bit of discussion, council member’s consensus was to leave it at the County level and not try to add dumpsters for a spring clean-up.
- VIII. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - A. **SLFRF COMPLIANCE REPORT** – In 2022, we received another \$61,333 from the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) established by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. The report was filed on April 26, 2023. The report shows we spent \$2,631.90 replacing the electrical panel on Well #4. We spent \$13,825.52 for

upgrades at the Treatment Plant by replacing the float meter for discharging, install a generator at the discharge station and improve mandatory chlorine treatment building and testing station site. We have a remainder of \$38,477.12 to spend this year on water and/or sewer infrastructure. Council members all received copies of the SLFRF Report. Brad asked if replacing old water meters would qualify for this funding. It would be nice to upgrade the remaining meters with electronic read meters. Yes, this would qualify for the grant funding.

- B. DWSRF CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION** – On April 18th we had a Construction Inspection from Department of Health for our Water System Improvements Phase I and Cost Overruns. We met with Jocelyne Gray from DOH along with Steve Marsh, TD&H Engineering to review items related to the work site and project management. The inspection went very well with no issues.
- C. 2023 SPECIAL LEVIES** – Mary informed council members that Whitman County Road Department will not be providing any road work assistance in 2024 to Oakesdale. Due to them working short handed and having projects of their own, they are limiting two Towns per District will be helped from Whitman County. Our road project was a 2-year phase and this will be completed in the summer of 2023. Therefore, we will not be asking the tax payers for a special levy of \$50,000 for crack and chip sealing. We will continue to have our public safety levy for \$14,000 to fund fire protection and emergency medical service from Whitman County Fire District #10. Council discussed our second levy for maintaining the streets and street lights. Costs have increased due to COVID pricing and the regular levy of \$41,000 is not covering all our costs. Council suggested increasing the street levy to \$60,000 since we will no longer have the third proposition on the ballot. We will be adopting the Resolution for the special levies at our next council meeting.
- D. SIX YEAR STREET PLAN** – Council members reviewed last year’s STIP and the only recommendation was to remove priority #6 completing the Rednour Street extension between 3rd & 4th Streets. The STIP was also emailed to Steve Marsh at TD&H Engineering for his comments. There will be a Public Hearing for the STIP at our next council meeting before adoption.
- E. VOTING BALLOT BOX** – Mayor Palmer and Mary will meet with Whitman County Auditor, Sandy Jamison, tomorrow at 9 a.m. to choose a site for the ballot box. Sandy has chosen Oakesdale to receive the first ballot drop off box in Whitman County per RCW 29A.40.170. It has been suggested to place the box over by the Oakesdale Library rather than City Hall due to the fact she wants it available for drive-by drop off. There would be too many delivery trucks blocking access to it at City Hall.

IX. COUNCIL MEMBER’S BUSINESS:

MAYOR PALMER – He had a request from Russ Kolber if council members would consider selling the old little gas station on the corner of Steptoe & HWY 27 along with the extra lot behind the building. This is a historic building for the Town and is used for Old Mill Days. Council consensus was to decline the request.

AL – He will be traveling back to Boston to visit his family and will miss a few council meetings.

CLAUDIA – Oakesdale resident Penny Rickett will be moving to Colfax and there are items that need to be removed from her property. This is not a Town problem and she will need to find the help she needs to move her belongings.

BRUCE – None

X. TREASURER’S REPORT/APPROVAL OF CHECKS: Council members reviewed the Treasurer’s Report, Check Register and Receipt Register for April 2023. Al Evans made the motion to approve paid checks #28477 - #28522 in the amount of \$19,920.55 for claims and \$19,718.50 for payroll totaling \$39,639.05 from April 5, 2023 through April 27, 2023. Claudia Louk seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

XI. ADJOURNMENT: Claudia Louk made the motion to adjourn the council meeting at 8:04 p.m. Bruce Palmer seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

MAYOR DENNIS PALMER

ATTEST:

MARY DEGON, CLERK/TREASURER