

Town of Oakesdale
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
For
July 17, 2023

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Dennis Palmer called the council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Dennis led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

- III. **ROLL CALL:** Mayor Palmer, Bill Auvil, Claudia Louk and Bruce Palmer. Councilmen Randy Robinson and Al Evans were not in attendance. Also present was Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer.

- III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Shon & Darien Eck

- IV. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** Council members reviewed June 5, 2023 minutes. Bill Auvil made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Bruce Palmer seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

- V. **TOWN MARSHAL REPORT:** None

- VI. **PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:** Mary gave the report for June 2023. Whitman County Road Department completed the chip sealing of various streets in Town. We will be sweeping the streets to remove the excess gravel. The roof on the city shop is complete. Brad, Pam, and Skip are busy prepping for Old Mill Days by washing the streets down, cleaning out the Old Fire Station Shop for their use and putting up the barricades. The wet wells were cleaned out at the grinders. The fire hydrant at Steptoe & 6th Street was repaired. The recommended bridge repair by the bridge inspector on the East Bartlett Bridge was completed. Mayor Palmer thanked the crew for all their hard work in getting the Town ready for its celebration.

- VII. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - A. **LANIUS DAMAGE SUIT** - We received a letter from Kirkpatrick & Startzel that Patrick Harwood will now be the lawyer representing our liability insurance company on our behalf. A Notice of Withdrawal and Substitution of Counsel has been filed on the Town's behalf. This claim is now insurance company against insurance company.

- VIII. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - A. **OLD FLOUR MILL** – The Town did not purchase the flour mill. The organization Innovia has a vision to purchase, preserve and protect this iconic structure. To restore it to its former stature, representing early agriculture industry in rural America. To not only showcase the past, but also incorporate today's opportunities for sustainability. There will be information about the mill revealed at Old Mill Days. More funding sources are needed to purchase the old mill. Fundraising efforts are under way. Over \$100,000 received in commitments to date.

IX. COUNCIL MEMBER’S BUSINESS:

BILL – Can we condemn the house on the corner of Steptoe & Second? The Building Inspector already issued a letter to the property owner that he needed to bring the house into compliance or demolish the house. He knows the Town has mowed some private lots for fire hazard. He is glad they are doing it, but we should be able to charge the property owners for our time. We need to ask the Town Attorney for some guidance on this issue. He asked how much is the average cost for water. It is \$1.00 per 1,000 gallons of water used.

CLAUDIA – None

BRUCE – He was asked during Old Mill Days if we had any public restrooms. The only public restrooms are in the park when the pool is open. This is just a thought, but maybe we need to add a public restroom and have a local company sponsor it since it is hard to get funding for such a project. He said the Oakesdale FFA did a great job with the pancake feed!

Visitors Shon & Darien – They had some ideas on what to do next year for Old Mill Days. Move the vendors over by the library for more shade and Wi-Fi access for use of their Square software to complete transactions. There needs to be restroom signs and where to go for vendors. There were porta potties brought in, but not sure of where they were placed.

X. TREASURER’S REPORT/APPROVAL OF CHECKS: Council members reviewed the Treasurer’s Report, check Register and Receipt Register for June 2023. Claudia Louk made the motion to approve paid checks #28575 - #28630 in the amount of \$30,284.59 for claims and \$29,413.17 for payroll totaling \$59,697.76 from June 6, 2023 through July 12, 2023. Bruce Palmer seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**.

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

DENNIS PALMER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

MARY DEGON, CLERK/TREASURER