

Town of Oakesdale
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
For
August 7, 2023

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Dennis Palmer called the council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Guest Chris Ellis led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Mayor Dennis 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:** Chris Ellis, Frank Sabo, Pete Baljo and Shon & Darien Eck

Chris wanted to know when the Town was going to do something about the pigs at his neighbor's house (Dawna Chappell). Officer Cooper dealt with that issue three weeks ago and the pigs have been removed.

Darien asked if this is where she would bring up ideas and suggestions for Old Mill Days. She was referred to the Oakesdale Historical Society who oversees our Town celebration.

Pete asked if there were any updates from the meeting with the Port of Whitman. There really was not much to share. They wanted to introduce themselves as our contact with the Port. They inquired about our water and sewer system and the updates. They will be receiving some federal funding in the future that may or may not be of interest to us. They may have a program to help us with our empty commercial buildings. It would take getting the owners of those buildings to participate in the program to move forward in repairs or demolition.
- IV. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** Council members reviewed July 17, 2023 minutes. Claudia Louk made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Bill Auvil seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**
- V. **TOWN MARSHAL REPORT:** Keith Cooper submitted his department's report for July 2023. Keith was not able to be in person to give the report. The cases ranged from animal noise, 9-1-1 hang-up, driving while suspended, domestic disputes, drugs, sex offense, welfare check, gunshot, unsecure premises, traffic offense, and civil issue.
- VI. **PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:** Mary gave the Public Works Report for July 2023. The required sludge and metal testing of the lagoon pond was completed for DOE. Council members received copies of the report explaining how it was completed and the results. This report also reviewed the sludge depth profile. It appears our lagoon is 43% full of sludge. Thirty-six individual samples were used for establishing the average sludge depth. Our flow meter data has been retrieved by TD&H Engineering for the required report needed for DOE on infiltration to the lagoon. They have started replacing the meter heads on the older water meters with the electronic read heads. We have about 50 water meters that will require new water meters as the model of the

meter is too old and the meter heads can not be replaced. They completed the culvert extension on Steptoe & Idaho Streets.

VII. OLD BUSINESS:

A. LANIUS DAMAGE SUIT – Council reviewed a copy of a letter from the attorney handling the Lanius Suit requesting Production of Documents. The information they are wanting will be provided by our engineers, TD&H Engineering.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

A. 2024 BUDGET PROCESS BEGINS – Preparing of the 2024 budget will begin in September. The first presentation of the budget will be a “bare bones” budget and it will improve over each council meeting. The budget process will be a part of each council meeting until adopted in December of this year.

B. ARPA FUNDS – AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT \$38,477.12 REMAINING – We have ARPA funds that need to be spent in 2023. We have spent about \$18,000 on new water meters and electronic replacement heads for the rest of our water system that did not get upgrade in the water project. The remaining funds would like to be spent on an aerator for the water tank so the top of it does not freeze during the winter. Bruce asked if we could go sonar reading for the probe communication between the wells and the tank. Mary would have to ask Public Works what we have now.

IX. COUNCIL MEMBER’S BUSINESS:

BILL – He would like to see if we can get a process in place for the people who do not maintain their empty lots by mowing them. We should be able to charge those property owners for the Town mowing those empty lots for fire prevention. This has been referred to our Town Attorney.

CLAUDIA – None

BRUCE – None

X. TREASURER’S REPORT/APPROVAL OF CHECKS: Council members reviewed the Treasurer’s Report, Check Register and Receipt Register for July 2023. Bruce Palmer made the motion to approve paid checks# 28631 - #28652 in the amount of \$7,547.54 for claims and \$13,281.67 for payroll totaling \$20,826.21 from July 18, 2023 through August 2, 2023. Bill Auvil seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

XI. **ADJOURNMENT:** Claudia Louk made the motion to adjourn the council meeting at 7:53 p.m. Bruce Palmer seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

DENNIS PALMER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

MARY DEGON, CLERK/TREASURER