

Town of Oakesdale
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
For
September 5, 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, Bill Auvil, Al Evans, Claudia Louk, Bruce Palmer, and Randy Robinson. Also present were Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer and Keith Cooper, Town Marshal.
- III. **KRISTINE JOHNSON – Facebook Live/Oakesdale.WA:** She has created an Oakesdale.WA Facebook page and wants to stream our council meetings live to post on the page.
- IV. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Kris Johnson, Pete Baljo and Shon & Dee Eck.

Pete said it is an exciting time for the Old Flour Mill.
- V. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** Council members reviewed August 7, 2023 minutes. Al Evans 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 departments report for August 2023. There were eight cases ranging from unsecured premises, agency assist, communication problems, animal noise, welfare check and animal problems. Keith said this was a super slow month.
- VII. **PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:** None – Brad and Pam worked late on a water leak on Steptoe today.
- VIII. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - A. **2024 BUDGET** – Council members reviewed a “bare bones” budget that had beginning and ending balances omitted to show what we truly spend and what we receive in income. Each council meeting the budget will have more information to review. At this moment Fund 001 Current Expense has an excess of \$50,049.11, Fund 101 Streets has an excess of \$23,418 and Fund 401 Water/Sewer has an excess of \$59,265. Our reserve funds remain steady with Fund 002 Current Expense Reserve Fund at \$131,09.24, Fund 103 Street Reserve Fund at \$40,105.67, Fund 409 Water/Sewer Replacement at \$67,808.96 and Fund 412 Reserved for capital equipment at \$75,370.04.
 - B. **VOTER’S BOX – Installed** – Our Public Works Department installed the Voter’s Box over by the library facing Steptoe Avenue. Whitman County Auditor, Sandy Jamison was there to confirm placement of the box. There will be skins put on the box to make it look official. Sandy wants the box ready to be used for the General Election in November. We are the first town in Whitman County to receive a voter’s box in 2023.

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

A. PINE CREEK APPLICATION FOR FIRE RESILIENCY – Council members reviewed an email from Casey Lowder with Pine Creek Conservation regarding an application for funding through the Conservation Commissioner’s new program for community wildfire resiliency. The funding can support a wide variety of work including:

- Conducting home ignition zone risk assessments
- Assisting communities with the Firewise USA program
- Education and outreach about wildfire resiliency
- Home/community ignition zone defensible space projects

Casey did not realize we have an outdoor recycling center for our citizens to use which is a great tool to avoid citizens burning debris. Council member would like to talk to Casey to learn more about this funding opportunity. Mary will invite him to the next council meeting.

B. WA STATE MAIN STREET PROGRAM APPLICATION – We have been encouraged by the Inovia Foundation to apply for Main Street Affiliate status. This can help open doors to funding sources for our downtown area and the old flour mill. Council members asked for this to be tabled so they can review the application.

C. WIRELESS TOWER – VERIZON – A land service company, Ryka, has been hired by Verizon Wireless to provide the best possible locations for a tower to be placed in Oakesdale. They have narrowed their search down to our water tower and the cemetery. They have asked us if it would be permitted to collocate on the existing water tank. They noticed First Step has equipment on our water tower already. Reviewing the contract between the Town and First Step, that would be allowed. Mary reached out to First Step to confirm Verizon could collocate on the existing tower and they said yes. Council was encouraged by the possibility of a cell tower in Oakesdale!

X. COUNCIL MEMBER’S BUSINESS:

BILL – He inquired where we are on the correction notice issued to the home owner at Steptoe & Third Street by the Building Inspector. The owner did not show up for the scheduled meeting with our building inspector. Our building inspector will give him one more chance at a meeting before we have to take matters further.

AL - None

CLAUDIA – She said the signs in the outdoor recycling center look good. However, somebody placed lumber in there again!

BRUCE – There is a street light out at Steptoe & 4th Street.

RANDY – We need to start getting the emphasis out on getting RV’s and extra vehicles off city right of ways before the snow flies. That is no fun to plow snow around all those obstacles. We

will have Officer Cooper help get the word out to those people and it will be in the Town's newsletter again as a reminder.

- XI. **TREASURER'S REPORT/APPROVAL OF CHECKS:** Council members reviewed the Treasurer's Report, Check Register and Receipt Register for August 2023. Randy Robinson made the motion to approve paid checks# 28653 - #28689 in the amount of \$46,972.17 for claims and \$14,483.24 for payroll totaling \$61,455.41 from August 09, 2023 through August 31, 2023. Claudia Louk seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

- XII. **ADJOURNMENT:** Al Evans 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