

*Town of Oakesdale*  
**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
*for*  
*October 16, 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, Bruce Palmer, and Randy Robinson. Also present was Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer.
- III. **LEAGUE OF WOMENS' VOTERS:** We were honored with the presentation from Mary Collins, Karen Kiesling and Sue Heniz on behalf of the Pullman, WA branch. They presented us with a certificate recognizing women's leadership in Whitman County in a century following the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America which gave women the right to vote. Over the past 100 years we had Mayor Katherine Seville and council members Dolores Haley, Shirley Hayer, Shiree Hodges, Kelli Meserve, Gretchen Peringer and Anna Ripley who served on Oakesdale's council. They wanted to make the presentation back in August 2020, but COVID restrictions changed all of that.
- IV. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Kris Johnson and Pete Baljo
- V. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** Council members reviewed October 2, 2023 minutes. Bill Auvil made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Claudia Louk seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**
- VI. **OLD BUSINESS:**
  - A. **2024 BUDGET** – Council members reviewed budget changes from the last council meeting. The liability insurance from AWC RMSA, employee wage increases of five percent, and line item increases to the water/sewer fund. The budget will have beginning and ending balances by our next meeting.
  - B. **AVISTA EV CHARGER** – Council members reviewed an email from Paul Kimmell trying to address some of the questions they had for him from our last discussion of installing a Level 2 EV Charger in our community. Avista pays 100% of the installation of the charger and maintains the equipment. The Town would be responsible for the monthly energy costs which he is anticipating \$30 a month. There are options to recoup those costs. You can do it the old fashion way of by donations. Avista can help us set up an account and provide us the QR code and have drivers donate by that method. The charger will be a non-networked unit which will not have the ability to require payment for use of the station. If the Town wants networked units, that is an option, but we would be responsible for the annual networking fees which are about \$700-\$800 for a 2-port station. Paul gave examples of what other

communities pay in annual energy costs. Randy does not want to see the Town have to occur an expense for this type of “community” service. The owner of the vehicle who is using the charger should have to pay for the energy costs and not the Town. Council consensus was not to have a Level 2 EV Charger at this moment.

**C. ELECTED OFFICIALS’ ESSENTIAL WORKSHOP** – Mary registered Mayor Palmer, Claudia Louk, Bruce Palmer, and Bill Auvil for the workshop in Fairfield, WA on December 9<sup>th</sup>.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. ALUMINUM BOAT FOR LAGOONS PURCHAED** – Bob Adams said he had the perfect boat for our lagoons and he would sell us the boat for \$400 – SOLD! Brad and Pam said it is a nice boat and perfect for what we need. We will have to buy a set of oars for it.

**B. 3 YEAR STATE AUDIT** – The State Auditor’s office finally reached out to us to schedule our annual three-year accountability audit in late November or mid-December. We have been ready since the end of January.

**VIII. COUNCIL MEMBER’S BUSINESS:**

**BILL** – He asked about the house on Steptoe and where we are in the Correction Notice we issued many months ago. This was referred to our Town Attorney to see what is the next step for us.

**AL** – He asked who owns the old tavern? It’s still Jon Kirwin as far as we know.

**CLAUDIA** – None

**BRUCE** – None

**RANDY** – He and Bill would be glad to be Pam’s backup for plowing snow if she needs the help. He reminded Mary to include in the next Town’s newsletter to get the RV’s and trailers off of city streets and city right-of-ways. Nothing makes plowing snow more miserable than all those obstacles!

**IX. TREASURER’S REPORT/APPROVAL OF CHECKS:** Council members reviewed the Treasurer’s Report for October 2023. Al Evans made the motion to approve paid checks #28742 - #28759 in the amount of \$16,977.70 for claims and \$15,190.69 for payroll totaling \$32,168.39 from October 3, 2023 through October 13, 2023. Bill Auvil seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**.

**X. ADJOURNMENT:** Randy Robinson made the motion to adjourn the council meeting at 7:34 p.m. Bruce Palmer seconded the motion, all council members voted yes - **motion passed**.

**ATTEST:**

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**DENNIS PALMER, MAYOR**

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**MARY DEGON, CLERK/TREASURER**