

Town of Oakesdale
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
For
November 6, 2023

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Dennis Palmer called the council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Randy Robinson led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Mayor Dennis Palmer, Bill Auvil, Al Evans, Bruce Palmer, and Randy Robinson. Council member Claudia Louk was not in attendance. Also present were Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer and Keith Cooper, Town Marshal.
- III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Kris Johnson and Kim Anderson

Kim is going to be a substitute to record the meetings when Kris is not available. Kris attended Rosalia’s council meeting recently and did not feel warmly greeted.
- IV. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** Council members reviewed October 16, 2023 minutes. Randy Robinson made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Bill Auvil seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**.
- V. **TOWN MARSHAL’S REPORT:** Keith Cooper gave his department’s report for October 2023. There were ten cases ranging from welfare checks, civil issues, animal problem, parking problem, suspicious, and traffic offense.
- VI. **PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:** Mary gave the report for Pam for current projects completed last month: purchased aluminum boat for lagoons, cleaned all the ditches on McCoy St, installed culvert extensions on McCoy St, insulated water meter boxes, lagoons are ready for discharging, patched the library/business incubator roof, replaced the stove pipe for the furnace in the old fire station, replaced bottom panel on the rollup door at the old fire station, final water meter read, new tires on the backhoe and trees removed on Montana Street. The old generator we were repurposing for the discharge station is not usable. It will not hold a steady current. We may replace it with a propane generator. Pam is gearing up for Christmas decorating and all equipment is ready for plowing snow.
- VII. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - A. **2024 BUDGET** – Beginning and Ending balances were added to each fund. We will have our preliminary budget hearing at our next council meeting. We are down to adjusting costs for each fund. The ARPA funds we have remaining will be added to the 2024 budget. We will be using these funds probably to replace the generator at the discharge station.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. VARIANCE FOR A LOT FOR SALE** – There is an interested buyer for the lot for sale on First Street down by the Oakesdale RV Park. The property is in the Commercial/Industrial Zone and the potential buyer is also interested in possibly building a house on that lot. Mary inquired this request to our Town Attorney, Eric Hanson if a variance could be made for the lot to be also classified as High Density. Since the lot behind it is the same size, and there is already a home placed on the lot, a variance could be considered. Randy Robinson made the motion to allow said property to also be considered as High Density. Bruce Palmer seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**
- B. YEARLY PORT-A-POTTY** – Bill Auvil presented council members with a few options to have a port-a-potty year-round and maintained. The monthly costs were between \$250 - \$450 a month. Claudia Louk had asked Brad Sullivan if we could put it on his property by the RV park. At the time, he said yes. However, the more he thought about it he changed his mind and said no. Bill had to admit after working for WSDOT and having to maintain the public restroom by Rosalia...the traveling public are pigs! Yes, it is a great idea but not what we want to see in Oakesdale. It was suggested to ask Coleman Oil if they would consider having one by the card lock. They have public bathrooms at many of their locations. There was no council support on this issue.
- C. PROPERTY AT 115 W STEPTOE – CORRECTION NOTICE** – Council members reviewed a copy of the correction notice that was issued back in May 16, 2023 for said property to bring it up to code within 3 months. Back in December 2020 the owner pulled two building permits for windows, siding and roofing the house. None of these improvements were every done. The owner was a no show to the meeting with the Building Inspector to discuss his options. The owner will not return the messages left by our Building Inspector. We referred this situation to our Town Attorney and he advised us if this was considered a dangerous building, then the Building Inspector can proceed under the “Abatement of Dangerous Buildings” code. If the building does not meet the requirements, then there’s not much we can do. Council would like Eric to make a site visit to get his opinion on the property. The Building Inspector was going to review the procedure and get back to Mary with his thoughts.
- D. 3RD QUARTER 2023 BUDGET** – Council members reviewed the 2023 budget for 3rd quarter figures. Current Expense Fund 001 has spent \$133,080.47 with a remainder of \$28,599.42 left of its budget; Water/Sewer Fund has spent \$709,914.00 with a remainder of \$217,921.00 left of its budget; and Street Fund 101 has spent \$124,803.17 with a remainder of \$12,728.83 left of its budget. At this moment, we do not require any budget amendments.

IX. COUNCIL MEMBER’S BUSINESS:

RANDY – We need to get the RV’s, trailers and basketball hoops off the streets before we have to start plowing snow. Randy & Bill will drive around and make a list for Keith. Then we can have

Keith visit each person to encourage them to move their stuff onto their property and off our streets.

BRUCE – None

AL – None

BILL – None

- X. **TREASURER’S REPORT/APPROVAL OF CHECKS:** Council members reviewed the Treasurer’s Report, Receipt Register and Check Register for October 2023. Al Evans made the motion to approve paid checks# 28760 - #28780 in the amount of \$6,988.77 for claims and \$14,180.38 for payroll totaling \$21,169.15 from October 18, 2023 through November 1, 2023. Bruce Palmer seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**
- XI. **ADJOURNMENT:** Randy Robinson made the motion to adjourn the council meeting at 7:44 p.m. Bill Auvil seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

DENNIS PALMER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

MARY DEGON, CLERK/TREASURER