

*Town of Oakesdale*  
**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
*For*  
*December 4, 2023*

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

Pete Baljo asked if we have had any updates on the Mainstream Program. Mary answered no we have not. He feels 2024 will be an exciting year for Oakesdale.

Kim Anderson asked if the old pharmacy building is habitable or not? Most of council members told her they did not think so.
- IV. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** Council members reviewed November 20, 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.**
- V. **TOWN MARSHAL REPORT:** Keith Cooper gave his department’s report for November 2023. There were twelve cases ranging from civil issues, traffic hazard, suspicious, welfare check, fraud, traffic offenses, animal problem and parking problems. Keith has spoken to most of the property owners who were identified on the list Randy & Bill gave Keith to help get RV’s, trailers, and basketball hoops off the street and/or city right-of-way so they will not be an obstacle for plowing snow.
- VI. **PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:** Mary gave the Public Works Report for November 2023. The Christmas décor is up! Mayor Palmer thanked Pam, Randy, and Steve DeGon for getting the Christmas Trees for the sidewalks on First Street. They look really nice! New brakes and rotors have been replaced on Brad’s PW pickup. New tires and brakes have been replaced on Pam’s pickup. Pam trimmed the hillside going up to the school before decorating it. Pam did get the leaves picked up around Town. Pot holes were filled with the help of Randy & Pam. We have already started plowing snow and sanding streets. We are still waiting for a quote from M&M Harrison on the replacement generator at the discharge station.
- VII. **OLD BUSINESS:**
  - A. **2024 BUDGET:** There are no new changes to the budget since our last Public Hearing for the Preliminary Budget. Numbers will get tighter and we will have the Final Budget Hearing before the regular council meeting on Monday, December 18, 2023 at 7 p.m.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. 2024 AWC RMSA ASSESSMENT** – Council members reviewed a letter from AWC Risk Management Service regarding the initial 2024 assessments and considered lower impact options. The AWC RMSA Board has approved reducing the 2024 overall rate from 15% increase to a 12% increase with a cap for each member at a maximum contribution increase of 25%. The assessment provided in October was \$39,926. With this new rating method, the Town of Oakesdale’s assessment will be \$37,585. Overall, that is a budget savings of \$2,341.00. Mary felt for that small of an adjustment it would take longer to redo the breakdown amongst all the expense lines for each fund. Council consensus was to let it stay as first budgeted. We can show a saving in 2024 for those expenses.
- B. ELECTED OFFICIAL’S ESSENTIALS WORKSHOP** – Mary has registered Mayor Palmer, Bruce Palmer, Claudia Louk and Bill Auvil for the workshop on Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Fairfield Community Center. The cost of attending the workshop has been paid.

**IX. COUNCIL MEMBER’S BUSINESS:**

**BILL** – None

**CLAUDIA** – None

**BRUCE** – None

**RANDY** – None

**MAYOR PALMER** – He thanked Skip, Ruby, Pam, and Randy for all the help decorating the Town.

- X. TREASURER’S REPORT/APPROVAL OF CHECKS:** Council members reviewed the Treasurer’s Report, Receipt Register and Check Register for November 2023. Randy Robinson made the motion to approve paid checks #28799 -#28811 in the amount of \$2102.67 for claims and \$8,875.35 for payroll totaling \$10,978.02 from November 21, 2023 through November 28, 2023. Bruce Palmer seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**.
- XI. ADJOURNMENT:** Claudia Louk made the motion to adjourn the council meeting at 7:27 p.m. Bill Auvil seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**.

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**DENNIS PALMER, MAYOR**

**ATTEST:**

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**MARY DEGON, CLERK/TREASURER**