

Town of Oakesdale
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
for
February 5, 2024

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Dennis Palmer called the council meeting to order at 7 p.m. Guest Frank Sabo 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:** Kris Johnson, Pete Baljo, Kim Anderson, Shon & Dee Eck and Frank Sabo.

Pete Baljo – Discussed the possibilities of asking Coleman Oil and PNW companies to make a donation towards purchasing the old flour mill.

Kim Anderson – She inquired about the Innovia Foundation and the old flour mill.
- IV. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** Council members reviewed January 2, 2024 minutes. Randy Robinson made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Bruce Palmer seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**
- V. **TOWN MARSHAL REPORT:** Keith Cooper gave council members his department’s report for January 2024. There were twelve cases ranging from domestic disputes, unattended death, welfare checks, adult protective services referral, abnormal behavior, DUI, civil, DWLS and animal problem. Keith has reported more coyotes have been seen inside City limits. The big dogs running at large in the early hours are probably coyotes.
- VI. **PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:** Mary gave the Public Works Report for January 2024. Christmas decorations have been taken down. Installed the required railroad crossing signs on Steptoe, Bartlett and Williams Streets per WUTC. We continue to monitor and discharge the lagoons. We retrieved the data off the flow meter, cleaned it and repositioned it back in the sewer main. This information will be used by our engineering firm for an infiltration study required by DOE for our small waste water system plan. Still plowing and sanding streets between snow storms.
- VII. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - A. **ANNUAL 3 YEAR ACCOUNTABILITY AUDIT** – The Auditor, Dylan Wharton, was present for two days last week to review our documents. The audit this time focused on:
 - Bank Statements
 - Treasurer’s Reports
 - Payroll

- Grants
- Small & Attractive Assets
- Fixed Assets

We are waiting for the auditor’s supervisor to review the documentation and schedule the exit conference.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. WA MAIN STREET PROGRAM** – Mayor Palmer and Mary joined a Zoom meeting with Washington State Main Street Program where they welcomed us as an affiliate. We discussed the obstacles we face with our old buildings in the commercial district sitting idle with owners not making any improvements and leaving them empty to rot basically. They would love to come and take a tour of Oakesdale in the spring and help give us some ideas in how to deal with the lack of motivation from those property owners. We also discussed the old flour mill and where the Innovia Foundation is in helping Oakesdale keep the mill. Council members received handouts from the WA State Main Street Program showing their services and support along with their Network Slack online communication tool that allows for synchronous and asynchronous conversations with other network members via topic-based “channels” direct messages and private groups. It was evident that as we learn more about the Main Street Program that we will need to have a committee that will focus on Oakesdale’s needs and how the program can benefit us. Pete Baljo said he has been reading up on the program and how well the program is working in Dayton, WA. He talked about Oakesdale being eligible for a portion of B&O taxes.
- B. WUTC RAILROAD SAFETY INSPECTION** – Council members received a copy of the Railroad Safety Inspection Defect Notices on the crossings located on Steptoe Avenue, Bartlett Street and Williams Street. Our Public Works team installed the required crossing signs on February 1st and WUTC has approved the corrections.
- C. 2023 ENDING BUDGET TOTALS** – Mary reviewed the ending balances of the 2023 budget:
- Fund 001 Current Expense – Remaining expenditures were \$6,024.70 with an ending balance of \$422,363.57
 - Fund 101 Streets – Remaining expenditures were \$1,231.69 with an ending balance of \$20,920.55
 - Fund 401 Water/Sewer – Remaining expenditures were \$169,625.18 with an ending balance of \$131,034.59

The reserve funds balances:

- Fund 002 Current Expense - \$131,089.24
- Fund 103 Streets - \$40,105.67
- Fund 409 Water/Sewer Replacement - \$67,808.96
- Fund 412 Reserve for Capital Equipment Purchases - \$75,370.04

IX. COUNCIL MEMBER’S BUSINESS:

BILL – None

CLAUDIA – None

BRUCE – None

RANDY – Good job on the budget Mary!

X. TREASURER’S REPORT/APPROVAL OF CHECKS: Council members reviewed the Treasurer’s Report, Check Register and Receipt Register for January 2024. Randy Robinson made the motion to approve paid checks #28857-#28863, #28866, #28868, #28871, #28880-#28881, and #28886 in the amount of \$23,239.02 for claims and \$0 for payroll totaling \$23,239.02 for December 31, 2023 and EFT to WA State DOR for \$801.68 for December 31, 2023; AND paid checks #28864 - #28865, #28867, #28869 - #28870, #28872 - #28879, #28882 - #28885, and #28887 - #28899 in the amount of \$28,088.19 for claims and \$23,189.10 for payroll totaling \$81,277.29 from January 2, 2024 through January 31, 2024. 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 7:28 p.m. Claudia Louk seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**.

DENNIS PALMER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

MARY DEGON, CLERK/TREASURER