

*Town of Oakesdale*  
**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
*for*  
**February 20, 2024**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Dennis Palmer called the council meeting to order at 7 p.m. Guest Kim Anderson 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 was Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer.
- III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Kris Johnson, Kim Anderson, Shon Eck, Pete Baljo, and Frank Sabo.  
Pete – We will need an Economical Development Coordinator for WA Main Street Program.
- IV. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** Council members reviewed February 5, 2024 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. **OLD BUSINESS:**
  - A. **ANNUAL 3 YEAR ACCOUNTABILITY AUDIT** – Mayor Palmer, Claudia Louk and Mary will be attending the Exit Conference with the State Auditor’s office by a Zoom meeting this Thursday. The audit went very well and Mary appreciated having the auditor on site to review all the required documents instead of completing the audit off-site. The State Auditor’s only had one exit recommendation for us to consider. Exit recommendations are not referenced in the final audit report. They recommend the Town classifies its debt balances (loans) reported on the Schedule 9 of Liabilities from a general obligation to a revenue obligation. Mary will make the suggested correction this week on the 2022 Annual Report and going forward to the 2023 Annual Report.
- VI. **NEW BUSINESS:**
  - A. **MAYOR PRO-TEM** – Mary mentioned to council members that this is an item that should have been discussed last month. Claudia Louk is our current Mayor Pro-tem and we review this position each year. Council members’ consensus is to allow Claudia to serve in that capacity for 2024. Claudia accepted the support of her fellow councilmembers.
  - B. **BACKHOE** – Mary brought to council member’s attention that our 2008 John Deere backhoe has over 5,500 plus hours and is a piece of equipment this Town uses almost daily in many capacities. Would council consider the possibilities of trading it in on a gently used backhoe that is just a few years old. Council members seemed open to the suggestion and would like more information in the future on what those needs should be. Kris Johnson said we had a question from a Facebook Live viewer asking why don’t we just purchase another plow truck instead of trading the backhoe in for a newer

model. Council members preceded to explain how much the backhoe is used for water leak repair, snow removal, outdoor recycling maintenance, water meter replacement installations and the list goes on and on.

**VII. COUNCIL MEMBER’S BUSINESS:**

**BILL** – He thanked Claudia for continuing to be Mayor Pro-tem.

**CLAUDIA** – None

**BRUCE** – None

**RANDY** – He would like to see our Town Marshal enforce the Junk Vehicle Ordinance in Town. We need to patrol around this spring and try to get people to take care of those junk vehicles. Bill volunteered to ride around with Randy to help make a list for Keith. Randy asked Mary to add the Junk Vehicle Town Code to the next newsletter and include what classifies an automotive as a junk vehicle. Randy asked council members if we should consider getting a dumpster to help with spring cleanup. Would having a dumpster help or hurt the Town? We have talked about this topic before and Whitman County Landfill Director, David Nails even came up here to look at a location to put a dumpster. The site we chose did not work for their trucks, it was not a big enough area to load and unload a dumpster. No further comments were made. Bill did add there seems to be a person making a big pile of junk in the alley up from him. That is on city property and right-of-way, it will be referred to Keith Cooper.

**VIII. TREASURER’S REPORT/APPROVAL OF CHECKS:** Council members reviewed the Treasurer’s Report for February 2024. Randy Robinson made the motion to approve paid checks #28900 - #28922 in the amount of \$30,369.23 for claims and \$4,218.66 for payroll totaling \$34,587.89 from February 7, 2024 through February 15, 2024. Bruce Palmer seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT:** Claudia Louk made the motion to adjourn the council meeting at 7:20 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**