

*Town of Oakesdale*  
**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
*for*  
*September 16, 2024*

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Dennis Palmer called the council meeting to order at 7 p.m. Brad Sullivan led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Mayor Dennis Palmer, Bill Auvil, Bruce Palmer and Randy Robinson. Councilman Al Evans joined us by phone. Councilwoman Claudia Louk was not in attendance. Also present were Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer and Brad Sullivan, Public Works Director.
- III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Kris Johnson, Pete Baljo, and Kim Anderson.
- IV. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** Council members reviewed August 5, 2024 minutes. Bill Auvil 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 was on duty for the County and was not able to attend the council meeting. There were nine cases ranging from stray animal, fraud, juvenile problems, domestic disputes, suicidal person, and welfare check.
- VI. **PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:** Brad Sullivan gave his department’s report for August verbally to council members. They installed a traffic rated water meter lid at 309 S Front (Devin Claussen); we had our Department of Health five-year inspection on the water system which included both wells and the storage tank – passed! We replaced water service lines at 104 E McCoy (James Holbert) and 101 E Pearl (Tanner Mobley).
- VII. **OLD BUSINESS:** None
- VIII. **NEW BUSINESS:**
  - A. **RESOLUTION NO. 2024-431 BUILDING VARIANCE** – Randy Robinson asked Bill Auvil if he went up to this property to verify the 10 feet variance does not impede the street. Bill acknowledged he did visit the property and there is no problem what soever over the ten feet variance. Randy Robinson made the motion to dispense with the reading of Resolution No. 2024-431 requesting a building variance at 407 W Jackson. Bruce Palmer seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.** Randy Robinson made the motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-431 granting a variance for the front yard setback at 407 W Jackson from twenty feet to ten feet. Bill Auvil seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**
  - B. **WAIVER FROM 2025 VOTERS’ PAMPHLET** – Council members reviewed a letter sent from Sandy Jamison, Whitman County Auditor informing council pursuant to RCW 29A.32.270 requires every jurisdiction that is either filing a resolution or has candidates

on the ballot must share in the cost of the printing and publishing of the local voters' pamphlet. There is a clause in RCW29A.32.220(2) that allows a jurisdiction to petition the legislative authority to waive this cost if it would cause "undue hardship" to the jurisdiction. We already pay over \$3,000 in election costs as it is let alone the cost of printing and publishing the voters' pamphlet. Randy Robinson made the motion to request the waiver from participation in any 2025 elections local voters' pamphlet. Bruce Palmer seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**.

- C. **WEBSITE REMODEL** – Ben Crossett with Palouse Software & Support is in the process of remodeling our Town's website. There is a new look coming soon!
- D. **OLD MILL UPDATE** – The Innovia Foundation is working with the Port of Whitman to eventually take ownership of the Old Mill. We are taking baby steps to make sure this is a right fit. We are hoping some of the machinery equipment come back.
- E. **2025 BUDGET** – The "bare bones" budget was presented to council for 2025. As the budget sits now, Current Expense Fund 001 is \$19,997.58 to the good; Street Fund 101 is \$12,468.08 to the good and Water/Sewer Fund 401 is \$6,446.80 to the good. The budget figures presently reflect all our levies passing and getting approved on our TIB application for ADA sidewalk replacement and funding from the WA State Public Works Board. Projects mentioned were the shop door replacement on the north side and replacing the flooring at City Hall and paint the walls and ceiling. The budget will continue to change at each council meetings as we get the information we are waiting for and some line items get adjusted.

**IX. COUNCIL MEMBER'S BUSINESS:**

**BILL** – The rental house at 606 W Steptoe continues to have horrible garbage on the right-of-way of the alley. Refer to Keith Cooper to deal with the owner of the property rather than the renter.

**AL** – He noticed the house on the corner of First & Williams had been torn down and wondered what they were doing. Mary gave Al the update about the owner's insurance company condemned the house after their accident and the house was to be torn down. They are getting a manufactured home to be placed on the other side of their property.

**BRUCE** – None

**RANDY** – None

- X. **TREASURER'S REPORT/APPROVAL OF CHECKS:** Council members reviewed the Treasurer's Report, Receipt Register, and Check Register for August 2024. Randy Robinson made the motion to approve paid checks #29149 - #29203 in the amount of \$45,119.65 for claims and \$28,667.89 for payroll totaling \$73,787.54 from August 06, 2024 through September 05, 2024. Bruce Palmer seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**.

- XI. **ADJOURNMENT:** Al Evans made the motion to adjourn the council meeting at 7:42 p.m. Bill Auvil seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**.

---

**DENNIS PALMER, MAYOR**

**ATTEST:**

---

**MARY DEGON, CLERK/TREASURER**