

Town of Oakesdale
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
for
February 18, 2025

- 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, Shon Eck, Claudia Louk, Bruce Palmer, and Randy Robinson. Also present was Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer and Ali Palmer, honorary dog.
- III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Kris Johnson, Pete Baljo, Kim Anderson, and Frank Sabo
Mayor Palmer thanked Kris for streaming the council meetings. He has heard from several people who like watching them.
- IV. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** Council members reviewed February 3, 2025 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. **WIFIBER FRANCHISE AGREEMENT** – We have not received the revised agreement yet.
- B. **WATER/SEWER RATES** – Council members received copies of the estimated loan repayment schedule for our funding we received for the small sewer system plan and infiltration study required by Department of Ecology. The loan amount is \$94,500.00 payable over five years starting in 2025 at an interest rate of 0.600% requiring two payments a year totaling \$18,444.94. We have 204 sewer connections between residential, businesses, school and pool. Bruce did a quick figure of \$7.83 per connection is what the monthly sewer rate increase should be to cover the payment of the loan. That figure does not give us any room to put some of the funds in our reserves. Bill said he goes with Bruce on raising the sewer rate to keep what we have in reserves. Shon asked how do you put a life span on that increase. He would like to see us take a smaller bite and increase the monthly sewer rate by \$5. Claudia agrees we need to do some kind of increase. Randy noted the water and sewer rates getting raised over time is always going to be never ending. Our reserves are used for emergencies. He is not opposed to the smaller rate increase. Maybe we consider revisiting this next year. He does not want it to look like we are piling it on. Guest Kim Anderson asked why we don't consider raising the sewer and water at \$10 a month. Put the \$7.83 towards sewer and the remainder \$2.17 towards water. Bruce Palmer made the motion to increase the monthly

sewer rate by five dollars a month on all connections effective July 1, 2025. Shon Eck seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – motion passed.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. ORDINANCE NO 654 FIREWORKS** – Randy Robinson made the motion to dispense with the reading of Ordinance No. 654 amending the restriction of fireworks being discharged in City limits. Bill Auvil seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**. Claudia Louk made the motion to adopt Ordinance No. 654 amending the use of fireworks between the hours of 8pm to 12:30 am upon December 31st (New Year's Eve). Shon Eck seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**.

VII. COUNCIL MEMBER'S BUSINESS:

BILL – He has been talking to WSDOT about helping us lay asphalt mats for needed street repairs and it looks like May or June would be the time frame for that project. We are still waiting for numbers from WSDOT to see how much work we can get done for our \$50,000 levy.

SHON – None

CLAUDIA – None

BRUCE – None

RANDY – None

- VIII. TREASURER'S REPORT/APPROVAL OF CHECKS:** Council members reviewed the Treasurer Report for February 2025. Randy Robinson made the motion to approve paid checks #29380 - #29400 in the amount of \$13,913.88 for claims and \$12,901.71 for payroll totaling \$26,815.59 from February 04, 2025 through February 12, 2025. Claudia Louk seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**.

- IX. ADJOURNMENT:** Claudia Louk made the motion to adjourn the council meeting at 7:32 p.m. Shon Eck seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**.

DENNIS PALMER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

MARY DEGON, CLERK/TREASURER