

Town of Oakesdale
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
for
April 7, 2025

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

Pete had attended the Port of Whitman meeting and the engineer for Whitman County was present. He is projecting the project portion of the Hume Road from Oakesdale will begin April-May of 2026. The road could be closed for a month during part of the construction.
- IV. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** Council members reviewed March 17, 2025 minutes. Claudia Louk made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Shon Eck seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**
- V. **TOWN MARSHAL REPORT:** Keith Cooper gave his department’s report for March 2025. There were seven cases ranging from suspicious, (2) trespassing, traffic hazard, domestic dispute, DWLS and traffic offense.
- VI. **PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:** Mary gave the Public Works Report for March 2025. Repaired a water leak at 307 W Pearl St, repaired a water leak at 208 N 4th St, repaired street sweeper, finished sweeping streets, weekly discharge samples to lab, monthly water test to lab and TIB meeting on March 11th for flood damage streets and bridges. We are still working on rebuilding access road to the grinder shed, clean up flood debris, do the six-month water meter read around the 25th of this month, remove old apple trees at city shop and...**WELCOME BACK BRAD!**
- VII. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - A. **WIFIBER FRANCHISE AGREEMENT** – No response from WiFiber yet.
 - B. **ORDINANCE NO. 655 SEWER RATE INCREASE** – No response from our Town Attorney yet.
 - C. **CRITICAL ALERTS SIGN-UP – BEN CROSSETT, PALOUSE SOFTWARE & SUPPORT** – Ben gave an updated on the response to the Critical Alerts forms that have been submitted

thus far...we have received around 50. Ben has created an alert page on our website and should we need to alert our community to an emergency – those that have signed up will receive an email with the alert. Councilman Randy Robison asked how many responses could we receive? We send out around 240 water/sewer bills and if you consider husband and wife each have their own emails – easily over 400. There is no limit how many contacts we can add to the notification list. Customers continue to have two ways to sign-up – by submitting the form to City Hall or submit the form on-line at our website.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. TIB BOARD OUT-OF-CALL FUNDING** – As we touched briefly under Public Works Report – Mary reached out to the Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) a few days after the February 2025 flood event. Mary had a zoom meeting to discuss the damages we received to our streets and bridges after the flood waters receded. She asked if there were any emergency funds to help aid in street repairs or even funds to purchase more gravel to fill in all the washed-out shoulders and parts of the edge of the pavement. This conversation was the first they had heard of Whitman County flooding. TIB requested flood videos and pictures to be sent via email, then they scheduled a Zoom meeting to discuss our request further and decided to make a visit on March 11th to see the damages for themselves. Chris Workman, Deputy Director of TIB and Jonathan Heusman, SE Region Engineer for TIB surveyed the damages with Mayor Palmer, Pam and Steve DeGon. Chris said we were the first Town/City to reach out to them for assistance. The TIB Board would be meeting in a few weeks and he will make a presentation to the board on our behalf. He was hoping they could help us with \$250,000 in funding and use the Town’s \$50,000 street repair levy funds to get the needed street repairs done. On Friday, March 28th we received emails from both Chris and Jonathan that the board decided to approve “out of call” funding for the Town of Oakesdale in the amount of \$1 million dollars! The work is to be completed this year and we will go out to bid on this project in May. TIB has designated \$125,000 for engineering for TD&H. Chris says he realizes the estimate repairs needed to the majority of our streets goes over the \$1 million dollars, but they have the ability to add funding if bids come in higher. Some repair items that are considered low priority could be placed as an alternate. The TIB Board did not make the \$50,000 levy funds as a required match.
- B. TIB CONSULTANT AGREEMENT** – Randy Robinson made the motion to allow Mayor Palmer to sign the TIB Consultant Agreement for TIB Project# 2-E-915(005)-1 for 2025 Seal Coat with TD&H Engineering for a lump sum of \$125,000 for design and construction administration. Bruce Palmer seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**.
- C. FEMA PUBLIC OPEN HOUSES** – FEMA has rescheduled their public open house to Thursday, May 1st from 6 to 7 p.m. at Pullman City Council Chambers and Thursday, May

8th from 6 to 7 p.m. at Whitman County Public Works Auditorium in Colfax. These open houses are a great chance for community members to talk with FEMA, state, and their local officials about flood risk. Learn how to reduce your risk and how the new flood map may affect your property once it has been adopted.

- D. **COUNCIL MEETINGS (APRIL – AUGUST)** – Mary reminded council members that starting this month of April, our council meeting go to once a month through August. We will meet on the first Monday of the month at 7 p.m.

IX. **COUNCIL MEMBER’S BUSINESS:**

RANDY – None

BRUCE – None

CLAUDIA – None

SHON – None

MAYOR PALMER – He thanked Mary & Steve, Skip & Ruby, Pam and our Fire Chief Dylan Doneen for all their time and effort over the weekend they tackled the water leak on 4th & Jackson. Randy said don’t hesitate to call on a council member for the extra help in situations like this.

- X. **TREASURER’S REPORT/APPROVAL OF CHECKS:** Council members reviewed the Treasurer’s Report, Check Register and Receipt Register for March 2025. Bruce Palmer made the motion to approve paid checks #29437 - #29462 in the amount of \$9,816.58 for claims and \$17,735.74 for payroll totaling \$27,552.32 from March 19, 2025 through April 2, 2025. Claudia Louk seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

- XI. **ADJOURNMENT:** Randy Robinson made the motion to adjourn the council meeting at 7:18 p.m. Claudia Louk seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

DENNIS PALMER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

MARY DEGON, CLERK/TREASURER