

*Town of Oakesdale*  
**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
*for*  
*May 5, 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, Bill Auvil, Shon Eck, Claudia Louk, Bruce Palmer and Randy Robinson. Also present were Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer and Brad Sullivan, Public Works Director.
- III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Kim Anderson, Pete Baljo, Frank Sabo and by ZOOM -Steve Marsh, TD&H Engineering.
- IV. **STEVE MARSH, TD&H -By ZOOM:** Steve was in Montana and joined our council meeting by ZOOM. He wanted to discuss the 2025 SEAL COAT project and the ADA Replacement Ramp Project. Steve said the Seal Coat project nearly completes all our streets. He tried to review all the streets involved in the project on the computer screen which was difficult to see. There will be various street maintenance work that will be done – single chip seal, double chip seal, scrub seal and pavement pulverization. Council members asked questions along the way as the maps were being reviewed. There were a few questions about extending the project out to June Crow’s house and Idaho Rd between Bartlett Street and Roberts Road. Cory Doneen had a couple of questions from Facebook Live involving the same locations – why wouldn’t we chip seal Idaho Road so it would be good access to develop some lots off of that road? The majority of council members were satisfied with it being graded and extra rock being added due to it being a farm access road for the most part. Cory’s other question was to stop wasting county tax payers’ money on maintaining Steptoe Ave which turns into Trestle Creek Rd beyond city limits. Whitman County Road Department starts grading the road right from the County Shop. Mary asked Steve if 7<sup>th</sup> Street between Steptoe and Bartlett is on the plan for asphalt work. This is the street that gives access to the water tower and also serves access to 4 residential homes. At this point, it was not on the plans. Steve asked Mary to call Chris Workman with TIB tomorrow to discuss the changes that were mentioned in the review with Steve. The project will go to bid on May 8<sup>th</sup> and bids will be opened on June 5<sup>th</sup> at 11 am at City Hall. Looking at starting construction around July 14<sup>th</sup> and ending before August 15<sup>th</sup>. The contract is for 15 days but that could be a tight window. The ADA ramp project will go to construction in 2026.
- V. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** Council members reviewed April 7, 2025 minutes. Bill Auvil made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Bruce Palmer seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

VI. **TOWN MARSHAL REPORT:** Keith Cooper was not able to be with us tonight as he was working for the County. He did submit his department's report for April 2025 which recorded nine cases ranging from driving while license suspended, traffic offense, citizen dispute, disorderly, domestic dispute with arrest, protection order violation with arrest, trespassing, harassment and animal problem.

VII. **PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:** Brad Sullivan gave his department's report verbally to council members for April 2025. We officially were done discharging the lagoons for the permit season on April 15<sup>th</sup>. All the equipment and weaver area have been cleaned up. The discharge pumps need to be checked to see if they need an overhaul. Still trimming trees that are overgrown on city right-of-way's. Continue to fix washouts from the flood. Lots of mowing and weed spraying as the weather gets warmer. Loading outdoor recycling containers every other week. Three fir trees were removed on McCoy by Avista due to power lines running through them. Avista's crew cut them down and our PW team cleaned up the logs and mess. We are going to make a chain dragging device to use off of the row boat to stir up the lagoon pond.

VIII. **OLD BUSINESS:**

A. **WIFIBER FRANCHISE AGREEMENT** – No response from them yet.

B. **ORDINANCE NO. 655 SEWER RATE INCREASE** – Town Attorney submitted the rate increase in a Resolution format rather than an Ordinance. Mary returned his message asking him why the format change.

IX. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. **TIB 2025 SEAL COAT PROJECT #2-E-915(005)-1** – Council members received a copy of the TIB Bid Authorization Form for our Seal Coat project where it gave the project description of 51,330 square yards of single chip seal, 18,527 square yards of double chip seal, 12,870 square yards of scrub sealing, 4,845 square yards of pavement pulverization, 1,639 square yards of chip patch and 87,572 square yards of fog seal and other miscellaneous items of work with a total project cost of \$1,041,400. Claudia Louk made the motion to allow Mayor Palmer to sign the TIB Small City Preservation Program (SCPP) Bid Authorization Form for Project No. 2-E-915(005)-1. Bruce Palmer seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed**.

B. **TIB ADA RAMP REPLACEMENT PROJECT #C-E-915(001)-1** – TD&H Engineering has begun the design phase for this project in 2025 and expects to go to construction late this fall or in the spring of 2026.

C. **OLD MILL DAYS** – Kim Anderson handed out a schedule of events, a map showing the location of the events and a summary of changes. This year's Old Mill Days features the All Class Reunion from 1-5 p.m. Vendors will be moved to the bus barn this year. There will be no car show at the Old Mill. We are hoping the Port will allow a peek into the mill but no word on that yet. Innovia would like to sponsor an all-day swim at our pool. Egg

toss will follow after the parade. Beer gardens remain in the same location on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street by the bus barn and park. Bingo on Friday may be outside in the Courtyard if we have nice weather, otherwise in the museum. The food vendor is still at the little gas station. Fun run will start at the park and go out Oakesdale Rd. The Pancake feed will be in the same location at Steptoe & First Street. Parade at 11 with the same route.

**D. PORT OF WHITMAN MEDIA RELEASE – GRANT FOR “CHARGE WHERE YOU ARE” AT THE OLD MILL** – The Port of Whitman County signed a contract with the Washington State Department of Ecology for a \$40,000 “Charge Where You Are” grant. The grant fund will fund the installation of electric vehicle chargers at the Port’s Oakesdale Mill site. The Port plans to install 2 dual port EV charging stations.

**E. CITY HALL ROOF REPAIR – GOING OUT TO BID IN MAY** – Mary is planning on getting the bid written up at the end of this month with Brad’s help to go out to bid for the repair of the roof at City Hall. After a core sample was taken of the rubberized roof material, it was to be determined we can go one more layer on top of the current roof. The estimated cost of this project was \$30,000.

**F. CITY HALL FLOORING** – The completion of the flooring will be mid – June.

**X. COUNCIL MEMBER’S BUSINESS:**

**BILL** – None

**SHON** – None

**CLAUDIA** – None

**BRUCE** – He attended an INP meeting in Colfax on behalf of the Heart & Soul program last month. The Mayor of Medical Lake was in attendance and discussed passing an ordinance in their business district on dialect buildings. Bruce felt we have a baseline to go on to see if we can make pieces of the ordinance work for us. A copy of the ordinance was forwarded from Bruce to all council members for their review and input. He would like to see it sent to the Town Attorney as well. It would be good if a few council members attended the next meeting in Malden on July 19<sup>th</sup>, then start discussing it at our August council meeting.

**RANDY** – He asked if the Port is setting a precedence where the old mill grounds will no longer be available for Old Mill Days due to liability reasons.

**XI. TREASURER’S REPORT/APPROVAL OF CHECKS:** Council members reviewed the Treasurer’s Report, Check Register and Receipt Register for April 2025. Randy Robinson made the motion to approve paid checks #29463 - #29490 in the amount of \$15,004.31 for claims and \$17,896.22 for payroll totaling \$32,900.53 from April 8, 2025 through April 30, 2025. Shon Eck seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

**XII. ADJOURNMENT:** Claudia Louk made the motion to adjourn the council meeting at 7:55 p.m. Bill Auvil seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

---

**DENNIS PALMER, MAYOR**

**ATTEST:**

---

**MARY DEGON, CLERK/TREASURER**