

Town of Oakesdale
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
for
July 2, 2025

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Dennis Palmer called the council meeting to order at 7 p.m. Guest Kris Johnson led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Mayor Dennis Palmer, Shon Eck, Claudia Louk and Bruce Palmer. Councilmen Randy Robinson and Bill Auvil were not in attendance. Also present were Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer; Brad Sullivan, Public Works Director and Ali Palmer, Honorary dog.
- III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Kris Johnson, Kim Anderson, Pete Baljo and Frank Sabo.

Pete – He asked if council members plan to get involved in the plans of the old flour mill. The reason he is asking, the berm in the back of the old mill property to the eastside needs to be purchased from the railroad. Why doesn't the city purchase that right-of-way from the railroad? It is not up to the Town to purchase that right-of-way since we do not own the old mill. The Port of Whitman will have to pursue that possibility since they own the mill.
- IV. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** Council members reviewed June 2, 2025 minutes. Claudia Louk 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 gave his department's report for June 2025. There were eight cases ranging from disabled vehicle, adult protective service referral, message delivery, welfare check, civil issue, animal problem, traffic offense and fireworks.
- VI. **PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:** Brad Sullivan gave the Public Works report for projects completed last month. They cleaned off the embankment at 7th & Steptoe removing the rock so it can be mowed and weeds trimmed up; trimmed the maple trees on 4th & Jackson St; pre-washed the streets for Old Mill Days – they will be washed again this Wednesday; repaired a water leak behind the Post Office; installed new water service line and meter 309 N Roberts; gearing up for Old Mill Days; continue to mow, spray & trim weeds and load outdoor recyclable retainer.

Mayor Palmer thanked Brad, Pam, Skip, Ruby and Steve for how good the Town looks for Old Mill Days and it just always looks darn good!
- VII. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - A. **WIFIBER FRANCHISE AGREEMENT** – No updates

- B. OLD MILL DAYS** – Kris Johnson asked Public Works to place all the road signs, barriers and cones behind City Hall and they will get them all put up that morning of Old Mill Days. The flags will go back up along the sidewalk on First Street. Kris asked for the sprinkler system in the courtyard and over by the little gas station be turned off the night before so those two-event areas don't get everyone wet. Kris asked if Ben could create a guest portal on Friday & Saturday for them to use for movie night. There will be a museum meeting this Wednesday night if anyone wants to attend for the final planning of Old Mills Day...otherwise we are ready to go!
- C. TIB 2025 SEAL COAT PROJECT** – Council members received a copy of a letter we received from WA Transportation Improvement Board based on our updated cost estimate for this project, our authorized TIB funds have been increased by \$18,000 bringing the total to \$1,018,000 and we may now award the construction contract to Central Washington Asphalt. The TIB Updated Cost Estimate form and Notice of Award were attached to the letter from TIB. TD&H Engineering will be awarded \$125,00 for design and construction phase; Central Washington will be awarded \$943,000 for construction contractor. The Town will use their \$50,000 Street Levy funds towards this project to match the funding needed to complete the project. Bruce Palmer made the motion to allow Mayor Palmer to sign the contract between the Town and Central Washington Asphalt for the 2025 Seal Coat Project. Shon Eck seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. PORT OF WHITMAN PROJECT INPUT** – The Port is seeking community input regarding goals and outcomes for the Mill site. The Port was awarded grant funds from Washington State Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) to assess the suitability of the site for development and to explore potential future uses for the space. Oakesdale Mill Planning Study Public Surveys are available at City Hall and the Post Office or you can scan the QR Code or go to www.portwhitman.com/projects/oakesdaleflourmill to complete the survey. It was also mentioned that as JUB Engineering digs deeper into this feasibility study they found an alley or street that goes right through the middle of the Old Mill property where the old flat house used to be. Was this ever vacated? We will check into this and see what is on file with Whitman County.
- B. CITY HALL ROOF BID** – Council members reviewed the bid results for our City Hall Roof project. We received only one bid from Pacific Federal Construction in the amount of \$33,895.28. Bruce Palmer made the motion to accept the single bid with the option of exploring value engineering options that was mentioned in the email to help bring the project within budget. Shon Eck seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

X. **COUNCIL MEMBER’S BUSINESS:**

SHON – None

CLAUDIA – None

BRUCE – Next Wednesday he will be attending a meeting in Malden regarding empty buildings policies and hopes to bring back some ideas for the council to consider putting together an Ordinance for the empty buildings we have in our community. It promotes a code establishing maintenance of vacant commercial space in our commercial/industrial zone.

XI. **TREASURER’S REPORT/APPROVAL OF CHECKS:** Council members reviewed the Treasurer’s Report, Check Register and Receipt Register for June 2025. Claudia Louk made the motion to approve paid checks #29530 - #29572 in the amount of \$23,831.53 for claims and \$26,217.63 for payroll totaling \$50,049.16 from June 4, 2025 through July 1, 2025. Bruce Palmer seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

XII. **ADJOURNMENT:** Claudia Louk made the motion to adjourn the council meeting at 7:29 p.m. Shon Eck seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

DENNIS PALMER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

MARY DEGON, CLERK/TREASURER