

Minutes
1327th Regular Council Meeting
January 9, 2019

6:00 p.m. Regular Council Meeting

Mayor Pro-Tem Bob Poch called the 1327th regular meeting of the Coulee Dam Town Council to order at 6:00p.m.

Roll Call

Council members present: Fred Netzel, Bob Poch, Marcia Warnecke, Ben Alling and Keith St. Jeor.

Staff Present: Public Works Superintendent Mike Steffens, Police Chief Paul Bowden and Clerk/Treasurer Stefani Bowden.

Pledge of Allegiance

Keith St. Jeor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Executive Session

Mayor Pro-Tem Bob Poch recessed the regular council meeting at 6:01pm to enter into an executive session under *RCW 42.30.110 (h) To evaluate the qualifications of a candidate for appointment to elective office*. Session is estimated at approximately 5 minutes.

6:06pm, Poch re-opened the regular council meeting.

Mayor Appointment

Ben Alling moved with Keith St. Jeor seconding to nominate Bob Poch to fill the vacant Mayor's position. With no other nominations, the motion carried.

Clerk Stefani Bowden administered the Oath of Office to Mayor Bob Poch.

Public Input

Kimberly Christensen asked for permission to be able to check out a key for the theater building. The key will be checked out with the Clerk for individual days, during business hours. The key will not be checked out for overnight or weekend use. Christensen will provide the council with bi-weekly reports on the progress and status.

Kimberly Christensen asked if the Town administers or participates in a "community announcement board". A brief discussion was held regarding social media and participation in community wide announcement boards, pages and websites.

The Council asked the Clerk to advertise for applications for appointment to the vacant council position. Applications will be reviewed at the February 13, 2019 meeting and the council is hopeful to make an appointment at the same time.

Discussion Agenda

a. Paid Family and Medical Leave Act

The Clerk notified the council of the new state mandate for premium contribution into Paid Family and Medical Leave. Due to the size of our entity, there is no requirement for the employer portion of the premium. Only the employee portion is required. The employer has the option to cover the employee share if they wish, but ultimately it falls on the employee to contribute their portion. The council felt that because the city already provides a substantial benefit package to the employee that they would not pick up this additional cost. They are willing to revisit the issue when the Labor Union Agreement is re-negotiated.

b. Non-conforming Land Use - 605 Tulip Street

The city's planner has reviewed, along with the attorney, the non-conforming land use application from Charter Communications to conduct business in a residential zone. The conclusion was that the use existed before the zoning was established in the area; therefore there is no issue with the continuation of the same type of use and the planner is recommending allowing the use. Council had no objections.

c. AB 2019-01, Ordinance No. 771 Amending CDMC 13.05

Discussion was held over the proposed Ordinance to change the owner versus town responsibility of for maintenance of water and sewer lines. As the Ordinance is today, the property owner assumes responsibility up to the property line. The proposed Ordinance would amend that to read that the owner is responsible to the main connection. Superintendent Mike Steffens stated that this would create uniformity for all property owners. It is difficult to determine exact property lines and in many cases the City ends up paying for repairs that could be on the private side due to the inability to establish the exact location. There is also a large variance between properties on how far the lateral lines run. Councilman Fred Netzel asked to see a cost of what the City is putting into for repairs and maintenance of the side sewers and doesn't want to make a decision until further information is received. The Clerk noted that many claims have been submitted to the insurance due to sewer back-ups caused by lateral lines. The insurance provider has made many comments that most cities and towns require the property owner to take responsibility at the main and suggested that Coulee Dam do the same. Several councilmembers feel that with the recent rate increase, the change would put another burden on property owners. Keith St. Jeor moved and Marcia Warnecke seconded to table the Ordinance for further review, information and discussion. Motion carried.

Staff, Council & Committee Report

Clerk

Clerk asked for approval to add newly appointed Mayor Bob Poch to the bank account. There were no objections.

Police

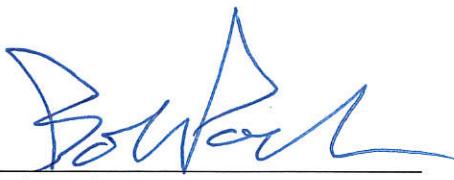
The surplused police vehicles are going back on the auction website the following day with no minimum purchase amount.

Public Input

None

Adjournment

Ben Alling moved with Keith St. Jeor seconding to adjourn at 7:09pm. Motion carried.

Mayor 
Bob Poch

Clerk 
Stefani Bowden