



Town of Coulee Dam
Green Oasis at the Foot of Grand Coulee Dam

Minutes
1308th Regular Council Meeting
January 10, 2018

6:00 p.m. Regular Council Meeting

Mayor Price called the 1308th regular meeting of the Coulee Dam Town Council to order at 6:02 p.m.

Oath of Office

Clerk Stefani Bowden administered the Oath of Office to Mayor Larry Price and councilmembers Fred Netzel, Bob Poch and Marcia Warnecke. Price and the newly elected council members were officially sworn into office on December 28, 2017.

Roll Call

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

Staff Present: Police Chief Paul Bowden and Clerk/Treasurer Stefani Bowden.

Pledge of Allegiance

Marcia Warnecke led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Input

Ed Bartley welcomed the new Mayor and council members

Agenda updates & modifications

Councilman Keith St. Jeor requested to add Action Item to repeal Ordinance No. 755. There were no objections to the addition.

Consent Agenda

Ben Alling moved with Bob Poch seconding to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried.

Minutes Regular Council Meeting – December 13, 2017
 Special Meeting – December 20, 2017

Vouchers: Claim Vouchers and Checks:
 Claim Voucher No.'s 37090 through 37107, and EFT's dated
 December 27, 2017 in the total amount of \$158,082.64

 Claim Voucher No.'s 37117 through 37145, and EFT's dated
 December 31, 2017 in the total amount of \$65,487.33

Claim Voucher No.'s 37146 through 37156, and EFT's dated January 10, 2018 in the total amount of \$18,896.13

Manual Checks

Claim Voucher No. 37049, 37088, 37089 and 37116 in the total amount of \$193,616.60

Bank Fees: December 12, 2017 customer NSF Fees in the amount of \$2.00

Transfers: December 2017 Rent and B&O Transfers

Payroll: Payroll Check No.'s 37108 through 37115 EFT's and direct deposits dated December 15th and 29th, 2017 in the total amount of \$72,303.11

Action Agenda

A. Selection of Mayor Pro Tempore, January through June 2018

Ben Alling nominated and moved to appoint Bob Poch to serve as Pro Tem from January through June. Marcia Warnecke seconded. Mayor asked if there were any other nominations. With none, a unanimous vote was taken. Motion carried.

B. Ordinance No. 755, Repealed

Keith St. Jeor moved with Bob Poch seconding to repeal Ordinance No. 755, amending the discount percentage for low income seniors and disability utility customers. St. Jeor provided the council with a review of the passage of the Ordinance 755 stating it was a tie vote that the previous Mayor had broken. There were four council members present at that meeting, one of which was by phone. St. Jeor is not sure if all the discussion was heard by the council member attending by phone. The two in favor of passage along with the Mayor at the time are no longer in office. St. Jeor reminded the council that the Town needs to be sure that the discounted rates are not under what the cost to provide the utility is. It could be a gifting of funds and is very illegal, stated St. Jeor. Further discussion was held on a multitude of issues surrounding the topic such as reserve fund balances, B&O taxes and classes of services. The Town needs to consider modifying what is needed from customers to prove they are eligible. A Social Security statement is not enough. There are other State programs such as DSHS that could be used in making a determination as well. Clerk restated the motion and second that was on the table. Motion carried.

Discussion Agenda

A. Varela & Associates, Daniel Cowger

Daniel Cowger of Varela & Associates was in attendance to provide an update on the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project. The project is underway and progress is being made on the treatment basins. It is running a little behind schedule due to some unforeseen issues and the weather. Original completion was scheduled for August or September but it's

looking like it will be pushed into October at this point. Councilman Fred Netzel asked if we are on track with costs. Cowger indicated that with the planned contingency budgeted into project that he feels pretty comfortable with the overall costs. There are a couple change orders that have been executed and one pending. At this point they equate to about \$6000.00.

Cowger moved on to discussion regarding the Elmer City lift station. He provided the new councilmembers with some history regarding the need for the upgrades and relocation of the lift station. The new treatment plant sits at a higher elevation and requires a new pump to lift the waste to the new plant. A memo was issued by Varela some time ago explaining the decision to place the new plant at the higher elevation. Odor has been an issue with the current situation.

The West Coulee Dam lift station has gone through some extensive studies to determine where approximately 50,000 gallons of unaccounted for flow is coming from. A new meter was purchased to determine accuracy of amount of flow. The flow from the USBR has been researched and was found to be a portion of the cause but certainly not all. The cause could be from inflow and infiltration (I&I) due to old deteriorated pipes. Cowger feels that enough information has been gathered now to make a recommendation and grant funding will be looked into.

The Town has been awarded a Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) project for repairs to streets and sidewalks around the school. The project is currently out to bid for construction with a bid opening set for January 16th. Varela will tabulate the bids and make a recommendation to the Town.

A Pedestrian Priority Improvement Plan was prepared by Varela with the help of a former councilmember and former Mayor and was presented at the last council meeting. The plan will now be used to seek out grant funding.

The Water System Model was prepared when questions came up around the Casino expansion and the school relating to fire flow. The model presents available flow capacity.

Fred Netzel told Cowger and the Council that he feels the sidewalk plan is not complete and the plan was not formally adopted by the council. Cowger stated that the plan is easily adaptable and could work with the Town to make whatever necessary changes are needed. Councilman St. Jeor suggested that Netzel be on a committee for sidewalk improvements. He agreed to serve along with councilmember Bob Poch.

Mr. Netzel asked Cowger how much of the 50,000 gallons of unaccounted for flow is attributed to the USBR. Cowger estimated around 25% but it is too early to make an accurate determination. Could be closer to 30-40% but definitely feels it is well under 50%.

Fred Netzel asked if the Town is done paying for the Water Model. Cowger said yes, as far as the plan goes. Any further monitoring would be extra billed to the Town.

Councilman Ben Alling asked Daniel Cowger if Varela has been working on anything relating to upgrades or modifications to the water treatment plant. Cowger stated that he had been asked to look into it but nothing has been done yet. It was just discussion.

Citizen Rob Loch asked if there is a penalty for the month and a half delay in the project. Cowger stated the Contractor is subject to liquidated damages penalties if the project is not completed within the timeframe outlined in the Contract documents plus any additional time granted by the Town due to unforeseen delays to the Contractor. Some or all of the delays discussed thus far may be justifiable resulting in additional Contract time. If that is the case, the delays will not result in penalties at this time.

Citizen Bonnie Femling asked about the tree roots causing issues to the sidewalks in front of her house will be fixed. Cowger indicated that protection of the tree is of high priority when repairing the sidewalks.

Staff, Council & Committee Report

Public Works

Public Works Superintendent Mike Steffens was not present.

Keith St. Jeor asked to remain on Public Works Committee. He brought up the issue of the leaky roof at the community building again stating that it needs addressed. Old air handlers need to be removed and roof needs patched. He suggested the Town look into a rubber roof. The roof on the Water Tower is also in need of repair. The Town needs to come up with a plan to address it. With the recent acquisition of the Fiber Optic system, Keith will be looking into options as to how to move forward. A phone meeting has been arranged to speak with the consultant who surveyed the system earlier in the year.

Ben Alling asked Bob Poch if he knew about the status of the transformers located in the Credit Union and Harvest Foods and if they were posing any dangerous PCB issues. Bob Poch said that they have needed replacement for some time but are not causing an immediate danger. Alling stated that they have been a budgeted item for a number of years.

Marcia Warnecke reminded the council that the public works issues need to be run through Mike Steffens as he is probably already aware of the situations and may know how to resolve them.

Police Department

Chief Paul Bowden is looking into updating some very old Ordinances.

Clerk

A liquor licenses renewal request has been received for two businesses; Melody Restaurant and Riverview Lanes Bowling Alley. Any objections need to be received by the end of March.

Councilmembers

Fred Netzel asked Marcia Warnecke if she would look into grants for ball fields. Marcia stated that there is no town property to be used for ball fields and the Town cannot get grants for school owned ball fields. Has to be Town owned property.

Mayor Price has been asked about where and what the condition of the fish statue is. He will look into it. Brief discussion was held as to why it was taken down. Structural safety issues may have been the cause. Price stated that maybe it can be re-used somewhere else. St. Jeor commented that a lot of shade was taken away from the park when the tree that was used for the statue fell. It could be a good Arbor Day project to plant a tree in that location.

The Parks and Natural Resources Board is not fully staffed. Fred Netzel requested it be on the next council agenda to address. Keith St. Jeor feels that we need to be following all the studies that have been completed and put plans in place. Netzel asked the Clerk what the status is of the plan that Gen Dial is working on. The Clerk stated that invoices have been paid. The plan was being worked on between the Board and the prior Mayor. The Clerk is not aware of the current status.

Citizen Carol Netzel spoke about a tree on Columbia that was approved for removal. There is a tree removal request located on Fir but ownership is yet to be determined. Ben Alling asked about the process for citizens to get their requests to the council. It seems that the process has stopped someplace between the recommendations from the Tree Board to the Parks and Natural Resources Board and the final recommendation by the Parks and Natural Resources Board to the Town Council. If the Board doesn't act, the citizens should have a right to go to the council. Clerk stated that the council does have the authority to make the decision. The Board is supposed to make the recommendation to the council.

Announcements

None

Public Input

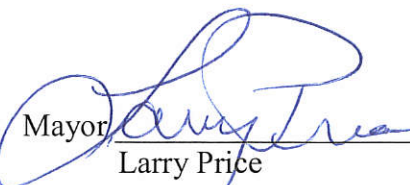
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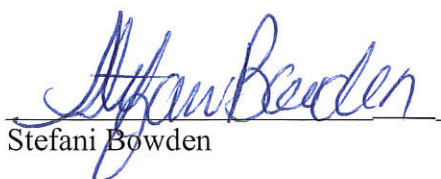
Executive Session

None

Adjournment

Councilmember Ben Alling motioned with Keith St. Jeor seconding to adjourn Council Meeting #1308 at 7:14p.m. Motion carried.

Mayor 
Larry Price

Clerk 
Stefani Bowden