



Minutes
1389th Regular Council Meeting
March 9, 2022

6:00 p.m. Regular Council Meeting

Mayor Bob Poch called the 1389th regular meeting of the Coulee Dam Town Council to order at 6:00p.m.

Roll Call

Council members present: Kevin Black, Merv Schmidt, Dale Rey, Larry Hall and Keith St. Jeor.

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

Public Input

Melissa Bulger was in attendance via teleconference to request council consideration of the allowance of short-term rental properties. She and her husband have been looking at investment properties for use as Airbnb, VRBO, etc. She feels there is a need for such types of accommodations in Coulee Dam. The council had questions regarding the length of stay for each rental. Bulger stated that any rental under 30 days is considered short-term. Discussion was held on potential issues that could arise from unruly guests and could cause a need for more policing. Mayor Poch stated that re-zoning is a long process and it would need to go through the Planning Commission. (m/s St. Jeor/Schmidt) to move the topic to the Discussion Agenda. Motion carried.

Updates and Modifications to Agenda

None

Consent Agenda

(m/s Schmidt/St. Jeor) to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried.

Minutes Regular Council Meeting – February 23, 2022

Vouchers: Claim Vouchers and Checks:
Claim Voucher No.'s 40021 through 40040 dated March 9, 2022 in the total amount of \$ 50,985.06.

Manual Claim Voucher EFT CPL-03.01.22 dated March 1, 2022 in the amount of \$ 36.00.

Payroll: Payroll Check No.'s 40014 through 40020, EFT's and direct deposits dated February 15 and 28, 2022 in the total amount of \$90,594.41.

Action Agenda

a. Parks Maintenance

Mayor Poch stated that, in his absence at the previous council meeting, he thinks that some councilmembers misunderstood his feelings regarding the maintenance of the parks. He made it clear to the council that he is in favor of hiring a full-time employee for parks maintenance and feels that the work can't be accomplished with a temporary or seasonal employee. He stated that "if we don't hire full-time, we won't be able to maintain".

Councilman Rey stated that he needs to be convinced that the job can't be done with a 30 hour per week seasonal employee. Councilman St. Jeor is not in favor of hiring a full-time employee. He stated that since the retirement of the previous Superintendent, who had electrical credentials, the town has to contract out services due to current staff not being certified. Superintendent Mike Steffens replied that his public works crew does still perform the same electrical work that was being done under previous Superintendent. St. Jeor also feels that the town needs a certified arborist to maintain trees. He can't justify the hiring of another employee when the town has the expense of contracting out for other specific services.

Rey would like to hire an employee with both electrical and tree trimming experience. Councilman Schmidt feels that the town needs the full-time parks employee to maintain the appearance of the town. Councilman Black agreed with Schmidt.

Discussion took place on the possibility of contracting out for parks maintenance. (m/s Rey/Schmidt) to obtain bids to contract out parks maintenance. If it turns out to not be feasible then hiring an employee will be looked into. Motion carried.

b. Selection of On-Call Engineer(s)

Mayor Poch informed the council that Statements of Qualifications were received from 7 Engineering firms for on-call engineering services. From those, 3 were selected for the council's consideration. Mayor told the council that it is acceptable for the Town to have multiple on-call engineers, which gives the town more flexibility when selecting engineers for general town projects. (m/s St. Jeor/Black) to award on-call engineering agreements with TD&H Engineering, Century West Engineering, and Varela Engineering and Management. Motion carried. (m/s Rey/Black) to authorize the Mayor to execute agreements with the three engineers. Motion carried.

c. AB 2022-03, Ordinance No. 802, Budget Amendment

A budget amendment in the amount of \$3000 was presented to provide necessary security system upgrades to the Police Department. (m/s St. Jeor/Schmidt) to adopt Ordinance No. 802, Budget Amendment. Motion carried.

Discussion Agenda

a. Text My Gov – Community Notification System

Clerk Stefani Bowden reported on a demonstration she attended along with the Electric City Clerk regarding a community notification system done through cell phone texting. The

system could be used for a multitude of reasons. It would provide a way for citizens to quickly report an issue such as potholes, street light outages, utility outages etc. and would also provide a means for the City to quickly notify citizens of the same types of issues and also provide notifications of meetings and alerts. Since we are small towns and in the same general community, the Text My Gov company has offered for Coulee Dam and Electric City to split the cost of the system. Each town would have its own notification system, but if both town's join, they are willing to provide the service at a 50% savings to each town. Grand Coulee and Elmer City have also been asked to join, but they haven't indicated interest in it. Discussion was held on the different types of uses the system could provide. The council consensus was to continue perusing it and would be willing to give it a try if Electric City is on board.

b. Short-Term Rental Properties

Discussion continued following the citizen request during Public Input time. The council would like to research it for further consideration. (m/s St. Jeor/Schmidt) to table the topic until further information is received. Motion carried.

c. Police Officer – Additional Hire

Councilman Rey has been in contact with the Tribe and they are willing to have a meeting between the Tribe's Law Enforcement Council, Chief Bowden, Mayor Poch and himself regarding a shared Police Officer. Councilman Hall stated that this has been tried in the past and there were issues with qualifications and liability.

Mayor Poch asked Councilman Rey to proceed with scheduling a meeting with the Tribe.

Staff, Council & Committee Report

Council


St. Jeor asked when the sewer issues will be wrapping up regarding Elmer City's payments. Mayor stated that the project is still being wrapped up with the contractor.

Public Input

None

Adjournment

(m/s St. Jeor/Rey) to adjourn the meeting at 7:32pm.

Mayor 
Bob Poch

Clerk 
Stefani Bowden