



**Minutes**  
**1408<sup>th</sup> Regular Council Meeting**  
**March 22, 2023**

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**6:00 p.m. Regular Council Meeting**

Mayor Pro-Tem Keith St. Jeor called the 1408<sup>th</sup> regular meeting of the Coulee Dam Town Council to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Roll Call**

Council members present: Kevin Black, Merv Schmidt, Dale Rey, Larry Hall and Keith St. Jeor. Mayor Poch attended via teleconference.

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

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Dale Rey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Input/Presentations**

a. **GCDA Chamber of Commerce – 2023 Festivals**

Chamber of Commerce Executive Director April Gabbert and Rachael Anderson provided a summary of the 2023 festivals and asked the council for permission to move the Festival of America to the East Side of Coulee Dam near Freedom and Mead Parks. They would like to close off Mead Way for vendors, use the city parking lot in front of Harvest Foods for vendors, set up a beer garden in the Casino parking lot and use Freedom Park for the entertainment stage. The chamber informed that town that they have invested more into higher profile bands to draw more people. The festival will be held only one day, on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. The council asked the chamber to provide more detailed street closure maps for approval at a future council meeting.

b. **Economic Revitalization – April Gabbert**

April Gabbert provided an update on the economic development plan. An action plan has been completed and April will provide a copy of the plan to the City Clerk. They are also looking for volunteers and asked the council to help in recruiting volunteers to help with the action plan items.

c. **Theater Lease Interest**

Ben Dupree and James Pakootas inquired about the possibility of leasing the theater. They are wanting to re-open as a theater but also want to use it as office space for their

filmmaking business. They stated they work a lot with youth and want to provide a space for the youth and community. They estimate to take 5-6 months for renovations. The council was interested and asked them to put together a detailed proposal. There are some issues with the building that will need to be looked into also.

**Updates and Modifications to Agenda**

The Clerk requested to add the change of insurance agents to the Action Agenda. (m/s Schmidt/Rey) to approve the agenda with the changes. Motion carried.

**Consent Agenda**

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

Minutes                                      Regular Council Meeting – February 22, 2023  
Special Council Meeting – March 16, 2023.

Vouchers:                                      Claim Vouchers and Checks:

Claim Voucher No.'s 40732 through 40760 and EFTs dated March 8, 2023 in the total amount of \$ 102,196.68.

Claim Voucher No.'s 40761 through 40782 and EFTs dated March 22, 2023 in the total amount of \$ 118,894.65.

Manual Vouchers:                          Claim Voucher No.'s CPL3.6.23 , CPL3.06.23, CPL3.10.2023 and CPL3.14.2023 in the total amount of \$75.00 .

Payroll Checks:                              Payroll Check No.'s 40723 through 40731, EFT's and direct deposits dated February 15 and 28, 2023 in the total amount of \$ 105,549.20.

**Action Agenda**

a. Change in Insurance Agent

The Town was notified that the Town's insurance agent, Foisy and Kennedy, has sold and the new agency is Eastern Sky. (m/s St. Jeor/Rey) to approve the Insurance Agency change and the increase in agent fees. Motion carried.

b. Resolution No. 2023-01, Waiver of Bidding Requirements

(m/s Schmidt/Hall) to approve Resolution No. 2023-01. Motion carried.

c. 4<sup>th</sup> of July Festival

(m/s St. Jeor/Rey) to move forward with changing the location of the festival to the East Coulee Dam. Motion carried.

## **Discussion Agenda**

None

## **Staff, Council & Committee Report**

### Council

Dale Rey asked if there have been any updates regarding Elmer City and payment of new treatment plant. Dale had a discussion with Jimmer Tillman of Elmer City and got the feeling from him that Elmer City plans on paying their portion and continuing with a new agreement for treatment of their sewer. No formal meeting with any elected officials between the two towns has taken place.

### Public Works

Superintendent Steffens reported that 3 trees at the end of Stevens Street are likely causing a sewer back-up issue. Discussion took place as to who the responsibility lies on. Scott Hunter was present at the meeting and spoke up saying he was told by the property owners with the sewer back-up that it was not the tree roots that caused the plug.

Further discussion took place on how to address problem trees in the future. Keith St. Jeor feels that it is a maintenance issue and that the Superintendent and Mayor can make decisions on tree removals without council approval when it involves damage to town infrastructure. The rest of council agreed. (m/s Black/Schmidt) to give authority to Mayor and Superintendent to make decisions on removal of trees. Motion carried.

Steffens informed the council of the need for a new vehicle lift in the city shop. Currently, the town mechanic has to use ramps to service vehicles which is a safety hazard. The cost of installing a new lift is more than what was estimated at budget time. The Council was in support of the new lift and asked for updated bids to be obtained. Police Chief Paul Bowden commented that he was in favor of using some police department budget for the lifts as the town mechanic services the police vehicles. He also suggested that the town look into a tire machine/balancer in the future.

Steffens reported on the sewer plugs in the community building. The restaurant to the main is old iron pipe that has rusted out. The pipe is located under the concrete floor of the fire barn. One contractor has been out to take a look at it. Steffens will continue looking into other bids.

Steffens would like to have more discussions on the potential rental of the theater building. There will be some maintenance issues that need addressed.

## **Public Input**

None

**Adjournment**

(m/s Rey/Schmidt) to adjourn the meeting at 7:11p.m. Motion carried.

Mayor Pro-Tem Keith St. Jeor  
Keith St. Jeor

Clerk Stefani Bowden  
Stefani Bowden