



Minutes
1373rd Regular Council Meeting
May 12, 2021
(TELECONFERENCE)

6:00 p.m. Regular Council Meeting

Mayor Bob Poch called the 1372nd regular meeting of the Coulee Dam Town Council to order at 6:03p.m. via teleconference.

Roll Call

Council members present: Mervin Schmidt, Dale Rey and Keith St. Jeor. Larry Hall joined at 6:40p.m.

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

Public Input

None

Updates and Modifications to Agenda

Mayor Poch added the potential purchase of a police vehicle to the Action Agenda. Councilman Rey stated that he asked the Police Chief to prepare a presentation for the council.

Consent Agenda

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

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Vouchers: Claim Vouchers and Checks:
 Claim Voucher No.'s 39520 through 39547, and EFT's dated May 12, 2021 in the total amount of \$ 55,352.05

Bank Fees: April 2021 Invoice Cloud Fees in the amount of \$88.60

Payroll: Payroll Check No.'s 39514 through 39519 EFT's and direct deposits dated April 15 and 30 , 2021 in the total amount of \$88,412.42

Action Agenda

- a. Community Building – Colville Tribes request to purchase
Mayor Poch asked the council to share their thoughts and opinions regarding the request that was received from the Colville Tribes regarding the purchase of the community building. Councilman Schmidt would like more information as to what the Tribe's plan is for the building and if the town would make any revenue before making a decision. Councilman St. Jeor stated that the town does generate some revenue from the businesses that are currently

leasing space in the building and feels it is more beneficial for the Town to keep the building. The Town needs to focus more on unfinished issues at this time. St. Jeor also had some concerns regarding the fire station being located in that building. Councilman Rey stated that he had mixed feelings. He also wanted to know what the Tribe's plan was for the building. Are they planning on keeping it as is with the businesses that it currently houses or do they plan to tear it down and build a hotel? The issue of the fire department could potentially be worked out through a long term lease. Rey asked if the Town would receive taxes from a hotel owned by the Tribe. The Clerk stated that she did not believe the town would receive any tax revenue. Rey agreed with Schmidt that more information is needed before a decision can be made. (m/s Rey/Schmidt) to table the discussion until further information is available to satisfy the council's questions. Motion carried.

b. AB 2021-05, Ordinance No. 793, 2021 Budget Amendment

Mayor Poch asked Superintendent Mike Steffens to provide the council with information regarding the need for a budget amendment in the water fund. Steffens explained that the computers for the water treatment plant had to be replaced last year due to failure. In doing so, the old program to operate the SCADA system was not compatible with the new computers. A new software license agreement is needed to allow the SCADA system to operate on the new computers.

Councilman Rey asked Steffens if this was due to a hardware failure. Steffens stated that it was due to previous computer failure which led to purchasing new computers. Now the software needs updated to be compatible with the new computers. Rey questioned the long-term viability of the programs and what will happen at the end of the 3 year license agreement. Rey also felt that it was quite expensive for a software program and asked if there were any cheaper options. Steffens explained that this is what the engineers and the IT people said was our only option to operate the SCADA system. Rey and Schmidt feel that other options should be explored in the future.

(m/s Schmidt/Rey) to adopt Ordinance No. 793, budget amendment. Motion carried.

c. Police Patrol Car Purchase

Chief Bowden provided the council with information that he received regarding a dealer that sells used patrol cars. The dealer acquires wrecked and damaged cars, rebuilds them, and sells them in like-new condition for much less than new. Information was provided to the council regarding a 2020 Ford Explorer SUV with approximately 6000 miles on it that had some front end damage. The dealer will repair the vehicle and install all the necessary equipment prior to selling to the Town. The vehicle still has factory warranty left on it.

Chief Bowden has checked references on the dealer which is based out of Missouri. All references came back with great reviews. The dealer is willing to ship the vehicle to Coulee Dam for an estimate of \$1400. The cost of the vehicle, with all necessary equipment installed, will be \$36,300 which is almost a \$20,000 savings from purchasing new.

Councilman Rey had some concerns about being able to inspect the vehicle prior to purchasing and did not want to release final payment until a final inspection had been completed at delivery. Schmidt asked Rey what kind of inspection he was inquiring about. Rey stated a visual and drive inspection would be needed to make sure the vehicle is

operational and is satisfactory for the use of the police department. Discussion continued on the need for test drive and inspection. The council suggested that the Police Chief travel to Missouri to inspect the vehicle before making the decision to purchase.

(m/s St. Jeor/Schmidt) to authorize the Police Chief to travel to Missouri to inspect the vehicle and give him the authority to enter into a purchase agreement if it meets his needs. Motion carried.

Discussion Agenda

None

Staff, Council & Committee Report

Public Works

Mike Steffens is looking into bids to remove a dead tree from Douglas Park, which was caused by pine beetles.

Council

Keith St. Jeor informed the council that it is almost time to re-visit labor union negotiations. Medical insurance costs will be a topic for discussion. St. Jeor also had some questions regarding a “seasonal” position that turned into a full-time position. When the decision to replace the wastewater treatment plant was made, the council was told that the new plant would be more efficient and would require less time from an employee to operate; therefore creating more time for the operator to work in other areas. St. Jeor thanked the employees for “sticking in with us” and being patient during negotiations. Mike Steffens wanted to clarify that the statement made by previous administration that the wastewater treatment plant would take less to operate is completely false. The new plant takes considerably more man hours to operate than the old one did.

Public Input

None

Adjournment

Mayor Bob Poch adjourned the meeting at 6:53pm.

Mayor 
Bob Poch

Clerk 
Stefani Bowden