



Minutes
1375th Regular Council Meeting
June 9, 2021
(TELECONFERENCE)

5:30 Executive Session

- a. **Estimated time of 30 minutes** – under RCW 42.30.110 (1) (h) *to evaluate the qualifications of a candidate for appointment to elective office. However, any interview of such candidate and final action appointing a candidate to elective office shall be in a meeting open to the public.*

6:00 p.m. Regular Council Meeting

Mayor Bob Poch called the 1375th regular meeting of the Coulee Dam Town Council to order at 6:02p.m. via teleconference.

Roll Call

Council members present: Mervin Schmidt, Dale Rey, Larry Hall and Keith St. Jeor.

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

Also in attendance were Sherelle Cleveland, Dallas Palmanteer and Engineers Kurt Holland and Daniel Cowger.

Public Input

- a. Sherelle Cleveland and Dallas Palmanteer – Request to use town owned property
Dallas Palmanteer submitted a request to place a shave ice stand in the parking lot next to Harvest Foods.

Councilman Schmidt asked what facilities would be needed such as water, sewer and electricity. Sherelle Cleveland stated that the stand is fully self-contained for water and power. Councilman Rey was not in favor of the location due to another business previously being turned down to use that location. Cleveland stated that the business that was turned down was a permanent type structure. Their proposed stand is mobile and could be towed away at any moment. Councilman St. Jeor stated that there was an issue with restrooms not being within a health department allowable distance at that location and was one of the reasons for denial of previous business along with traffic and parking issues.

Cleveland stated that the stand could be moved every night if necessary and asked if there would be a better location to place it. It was suggested to use the parking area near the restrooms at Mead Park since there is already an approval in place to allow the mobile food truck to park in that location. Palmanteer and Cleveland were agreeable to that location.

After more discussion, the council and Palmanteer agreed that a rental amount of \$325 per month would be reasonable. The stand would need to be moved, at a minimum, every two

nights. (m/s Schmidt/Hall) to authorize the Mayor to execute an agreement with Palmanteer to use the parking area near Mead Park for temporary placement of a shaved ice stand based on details from the discussion. Motion carried.

Updates and Modifications to Agenda

Mayor Poch added appointment to council position to Action Agenda. Clerk requested to add Coronavirus Relief Funding to the Discussion Agenda. Dale Rey asked for discussion time for the police vehicle, water pressure and water usage/consumption billing.

Consent Agenda

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

Minutes Regular Council Meeting – May 26, 2021

Vouchers: Claim Vouchers and Checks:
Claim Voucher No.'s 39564 through 39582, and EFT's dated June 9, 2021 in the total amount of \$ 44,264.30

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

Payroll: Payroll Check No.'s 39558 through 39563, EFT's and direct deposits dated May 14 and 28, 2021 in the total amount of \$91,541.67

Action Agenda

a. Appointment to Vacant Council Position No. 1

A brief discussion took place regarding two applicants for the appointment to Council Position No. 1, formerly held by Fred Netzel. Councilman Rey stated that both candidates were very qualified for the position and either one would serve the town well. One candidate had a significant amount of experience with utilities and Rey felt that would be valuable to the town at the current moment due to some major projects that are underway. Schmidt, Hall and St. Jeor agreed. (m/s Rey/Schmidt) to appoint Kevin Black to Council Position No. 1. Motion carried.

Discussion Agenda

a. Wastewater Treatment Plant Project Update – Varela Engineering

Mayor Poch asked engineers Kurt Holland and Daniel Cowger to provide a project update.

Cowger informed the council that bids for the West Side Lift Station Project were opened on May 12th. The low bidder was JR Construction out of Post Falls, Idaho but all bids came in much higher than expected. There is not enough budget funds to award the project at this time and Cowger is recommending that the town reject all bids. Cowger feels the town would have a better understanding of what funds would be available after the wastewater treatment plant is finalized. At that time, the town could go back to Rural Development to seek additional funding.

Kurt Holland informed the council that the contractor has been onsite at the treatment plant,

finishing up some painting and working on the missing metals issue. Holland suggests giving the contractor until the end of the month to see if they follow through with completion of punch list items. Some discussion took place regarding valves and whether they were manual or meter operated and the accessibility and depth of them. Holland stated that the valves are deep enough that the city couldn't replace them on our own.

Cowger is working on wrapping up the budget and stated he is impressed with where the final numbers are landing. The contractor budget is just slightly over. A 5% overage is common and expected. A comment was made by the council that we may be within budget but the time schedule is way overdue.

b. Department of Licensing Lease

A draft lease agreement has been proposed from the Department of Licensing for continued use of the office space in Town Hall. Councilman Schmidt has taken the time to review the proposed lease and feels that they have a lot of demands for the amount of rent they are paying. DOL has requested a list of items they would like repaired and cleaned. Council feels for the little of amount of rent that is charged, the repairs seemed a bit excessive. The rent also covers utilities and janitorial for the office space. The Clerk has sent a response to DOL stating that the demands seemed excessive and is waiting to hear back.

c. ARPA – Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

The Town of Coulee Dam is being allotted \$304,480 in Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. The first half will be received within the month with the second half being distributed in 2022. There are still lots of details to work through but a couple of areas the funds can be used for are recoupment of lost revenues specifically caused by COVID-19 and water and sewer infrastructure improvements. (m/s Rey/St. Jeor) to authorize the Mayor to accept the funds. Motion carried.

d. Police Vehicle Status

Councilman Rey asked about the status of the police vehicle. The Chief had no updates at the moment. He has had some conversations with the seller regarding availability of and installation of some of the equipment. The equipment has been ordered but a delivery date has not yet been set.

e. Water Pressure

Councilman Rey asked if water pressure has been reduced. He has been experiencing low pressure at his home. Superintendent Steffens stated there has been no change on the Town's side. Rey will be in contact with Steffens.

f. Water Consumption – inequity between East and West Coulee Dam

Councilman Rey would like to continue discussions on finding a more equitable solution to rates for East Coulee Dam versus West Coulee Dam. Currently, West Coulee Dam receives non-potable water for irrigation purposes. East Coulee Dam does not have access to non-potable water and has to pay to use treated water for irrigation. The current rates cover up to 10,000 cubic feet of water under the base rate. Anything over 10,000 is charged \$0.61 per 100 cubic feet. Rey would like to eliminate the overage charges. St. Jeor was in agreement for fairness but feels that the elimination of overage charges should apply only to residential customers and not commercial. St. Jeor suggested that the usage amount be doubled and

included in the flat rate. The Mayor and Clerk will do some research and work on rate changes to present to the council.

Staff, Council & Committee Report

Committees

Dale Rey stated that labor union negotiations will start back up.

Police

Chief Bowden announced that during this meeting, he received a message from the seller of the patrol car. It is due to be ready for delivery on the 21st of this month.

Public Input

None

Adjournment

Mayor Bob Poch adjourned the meeting at 7:13pm.

Mayor 
Bob Poch

Clerk 
Stefani Bowden