



Minutes
1336th Regular Council Meeting
June 12, 2019

6:00 p.m. Regular Council Meeting

Mayor Bob Poch called the 1336th regular meeting of the Coulee Dam Town Council to order at 6:00p.m.

Roll Call

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

Staff Present: Police Chief Paul Bowden, Public Works Superintendent Mike Steffens and Clerk/Treasurer Stefani Bowden. Engineers Kurt Holland and Daniel Cowger were also in attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance

Kurt Holland led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Input

None

Consent Agenda

Keith St. Jeor moved with Marcia Warnecke seconding to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried.

Minutes Regular Council Meeting – May 22, 2019

Vouchers: Claim Vouchers and Checks:
Claim Voucher No.'s 38242 through 38280 and EFT's dated June 12, 2019 in the total amount of \$ 55,227.33.

Payroll Checks: Payroll Check No.'s 38236 through 38241, EFT's and direct deposits dated May 15th and 31st 2019 in the total amount of \$ 85,597.83.

Bank Fees: May 2019 Invoice Cloud Fees

Action Agenda

- a. AB 2019-09, Ordinance 774, Wastewater Treatment Project Loan Revenue Bond
The draft Ordinance is still under review by USDA at this time. Mervin Schmidt moved and Marcia Warnecke seconded to table Ordinance No. 774. Motion carried.

- b. AB 2019-10, Resolution No. 2019-05, Wastewater Treatment Project Action Plan
The USDA Rural Development is requesting the Town to adopt an Action Plan regarding the repayment of the loans should Elmer City withdraw from the wastewater treatment agreement. Rural Development will not proceed with the supplemental funding application until they receive the council adopted Action Plan. Councilman Netzel had several concerns regarding the attached exhibits to the Action Plan. He stated that the council has not held any discussion regarding the dollar amounts for the loan application and the potential user rate fees that were included in the exhibit. He stated that the figures that council had discussed for the west side and east side lift stations were estimated at 3/4M dollars. Councilmembers Warnecke, Alling and St. Jeor all indicated that they were well aware of the figures and that they had been discussed. Engineer Daniel Cowger also reminded the council that the figures were included in the slide show presentation that took place a while ago during a council meeting. Mervin Schmidt felt he didn't have enough knowledge on the subject to vote in favor of it at this time. After lengthy discussion, Marcia Warnecke moved with Ben Alling seconding to approve Resolution No. 2019-05 adopting the Action Plan. Motion did not pass due to 3 votes against (Netzel, Schmidt, St. Jeor).
- c. AB 2019-11, Resolution No. 2019-06, Legal Opinion regarding Action Plan
Keith St. Jeor asked for more time for discussion before adopting the Resolution. Mayor moved the topic to the discussion agenda.

Discussion Agenda

- a. Resolution No. 2019-05 and 2019-06
Councilman Keith St. Jeor began the discussion with providing a summary of how the application for funding for the west side and east side lift stations came about. He also provided the history of how the Town came about the decision to construct a new wastewater treatment plant versus updating the existing one. The costs for upgrades to the existing treatment plant were nearly the same as constructing a new plant. Councilman Fred Netzel doesn't want to be obligated to the figures that were provided in the Exhibits presented in Action Plan. Mayor Poch, along with Engineer Daniel Cowger, tried to explain that the figures were "worst case scenarios" and were used as examples. The figures are no way set in stone. Rural Development is wanting the reassurance that the Town understands the obligation to repay loans, even if Elmer City withdraws. Alling, St. Jeor, Warnecke and Mayor Poch all expressed that this is just in the application stage. The Town isn't obligated to the funds until the offer has been made and the Town accepts it. At this time, no offer has been made. It is an opportunity for the Town to potentially be awarded some grant money. Alling stated that either the Town tries to get some grant and loan funds now or wait and end up footing the entire costs without help. The repairs and upgrades will have to be made regardless if the Town receives funding or not.

Merv Schmidt thanked the council for providing more information and stated he now felt comfortable in voting on the issue. Keith St. Jeor moved with Marcia Warnecke seconding to move Resolutions 2019-05 and 2019-06 back to the Action Agenda. Motion carried.

Action Agenda (continued)

- b. AB 2019-10, Resolution No. 2019-05, Wastewater Treatment Project Action Plan (continued)
Marcia Warnecke moved with Ben Alling seconding to approve Resolution No. 2019-05, adopting the Action Plan. Motion carried with 4 in favor and 1 opposed (Netzel).
- c. AB 2019-11, Resolution No. 2019-06, Legal Opinion regarding Action Plan
Marcia Warnecke moved with Keith St. Jeor seconding to approve Resolution No. 2019-06, accepting the legal opinion of Mick Howe regarding the action plan. Motion carried with 4 in favor and 1 opposed (Netzel).

Discussion Agenda continued

- a. Wastewater Treatment Plant Update, Varela & Associates
Engineer Daniel Cowger provided a project update to the council stating that the project is proving to be successful. Cowger gave praise to the Wastewater Operator and Public Works Superintendent. A slideshow was provided as a visual of the progress being made. A handout was also provided that included the progress and timeline of the project. There is approximately \$1.6M remaining under the existing contractor budget and \$160K remaining for engineering work. There is also \$30K remaining for inspection fees. Forthcoming contingency items are anticipated at \$71K.
- b. Sidewalks Grant
Engineer Kurt Holland and Councilman Fred Netzel informed the council the application for sidewalk grant was submitted on time. Application was for \$120,000 to be used for improvements to sidewalks on Ferry St. The town is required to provide a 13% match, but Holland feels that TIB funds could be applied for and used as the match dollars. Mayor Poch thanked Holland and Netzel for all their work on the project.
- c. Sewer Connection Ordinance
Keith St. Jeor provided the council with some proposed changes to the water and sewer ordinance at the previous council meeting. He and councilman Netzel have spent some time reviewing the ordinance and feels the changes are a good start to updating the existing ordinance. St. Jeor has not seen anything in writing as to the insurance provider's opinion and recommendations for ownership of lateral sewer lines. St. Jeor stated that he and Netzel are having a hard time seeing what the problem is. A requirement to install cleanouts was discussed. Council requested that the Ordinance be put on the next council meeting agenda for adoption.
- d. Energy Efficiency funds
Mayor and Clerk provided a brief summary of the funds that are available for energy efficiency projects and that a portion on the funds need to be used by end of September or they will be lost. In working with BPA, the suggestion was to provide a direct mailer of LED lightbulbs to all electric customers. Energy Efficient shower heads are another option. Council had no objection to Mayor and Clerk moving forward with the direct mailers.
- e. Ambulance
Meetings have been taking place between Coulee Dam and Grand Coulee Mayors along with

Grand Coulee Fire Chief regarding the desire to house a Grand Coulee Ambulance in the Coulee Dam Fire Department. Grand Coulee would like to have an agreement in place by July 1, 2019. Attorney Mick Howe is currently working on the agreement.

Staff, Council & Committee Report

Mayor

The Museum is requesting signage or speed bumps on their corner to slow traffic down. The museum recently moved and updated their ADA parking and the speed of cars around the corner is hazardous to vehicles pulling out of parking spaces. Mayor asked the Public Works Superintendent and Police Chief to review the issue.

Clerk

The Clerk stated that the Auditor has finished up onsite. An exit conference should be scheduled within the next few weeks.

Police

The new recruit, Josh Watkins will graduate the Police Academy next week on June 19th.

Councilmembers

Fred Netzel asked to look at alternatives for the west side lift station. Engineer Daniel Cowger said that he would provide copies of the Technical Memorandums.

Public Input

None

Adjournment

Mayor Poch adjourned the meeting at 7:33pm.

Mayor 
Bob Poch

Clerk 
Stefani Bowden