



Minutes
1357th Regular Council Meeting
July 8, 2020
(TELECONFERENCE)

6:00 p.m. Regular Council Meeting

In the absence of Mayor Poch, Mayor Pro-Tem Keith St. Jeor called the 1357th regular meeting of the Coulee Dam Town Council to order at 6:01p.m. via teleconference.

Roll Call

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

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

Public Hearing

Mayor Pro-Tem St. Jeor opened the Public Hearing to accept public comment on the proposed 2021-2026 Six Year Transportation Improvement Plan at 6:02 pm. With no comments received, then hearing closed at 6:03pm.

Public Input

Daniel Moomaw provided specifications on his proposed coffee stand building and asked the council to move forward with making a decision. He stated to the council once again that he is open to suggestions for locations of the business. If the current location is not ideal, he is willing to provide a location that the city feels best. Councilman Dale Rey asked Moomaw if he had talked with the Tribe yet stating that it is required to notify adjacent property owners when a permit is issued. Pro-Tem St. Jeor commented that it has been no secret that Moomaw is proposing the business and what the location is. It has been in the newspaper. Councilman Netzel asked if the Town is doing a “story” in the newspaper in regards to the issue. Fred Netzel moved with Dale Rey seconding to request Mayor Poch to discuss the proposal with the Tribe. Motion carried.

Kasey Garvin submitted a request to put in a coffee stand in the parking lot in front of Harvest Foods, which is Town owned property. Garvin provided a detailed business plan and stated that she had put in for a lease with the Tribe in 2017 but it was not approved. She had spoken with previous Mayor a couple of years ago and at that time he suggested an alternate location on River Drive. Councilman Schmidt complimented Garvin on putting together a good business plan and asked if she was aware that Daniel Moomaw has also put in a request to place a coffee stand on another Town owned property nearby. Schmidt voiced his concern about having two coffee stands in close proximity and was concerned whether it is viable. He asked the council to take some time to discuss. Councilman Netzel asked Garvin if costs have been researched for utility connections. Garvin pointed out utilities that were nearby and felt that it wouldn't be a problem. Public Works Superintendent Mike Steffens

stated that there is no sewer available at the proposed location. The nearest would be across the street which would require cutting the street. There is no hydraulics and the drop isn't enough. Garvin asked about the River Drive location that was mentioned to her in the past. Steffens informed the council that the location had been researched in the past. The area that the Town owns is very small and not large enough to put a coffee stand on. The utilities would be very difficult to connect to because they are about 300 feet away. Garvin asked to meet with Steffens to discuss utility connections.

Updates and Modifications to Agenda

Clerk Stefani Bowden asked to add the WSDOT Pedestrian and Bicycle Program and the Safe Routes to School Program to the Action Agenda.

Consent Agenda

Mervin Schmidt moved with Dale Rey seconding to approve the consent agenda pending voucher review from Keith St. Jeor. Motion carried.

Minutes Regular Council Meeting – June 24, 2020

Vouchers: Claim Vouchers and Checks:
Claim Voucher No.'s 38967 through 38985 and EFT's dated July 8, 2020 in the total amount of \$ 39,125.02 .

Manual Claim Vouchers and Checks:
Claim Voucher No. 38960 dated June 25, 2020 in the amount of \$ 1090.00 .

Payroll Checks: Payroll Check No.'s 38961 through 38966 , EFT's and direct deposits dated June 15 and 30, 2020 in the total amount of \$ 91,672.40 .

Bank Fees: June 2020 Invoice Cloud fees in the amount of \$ 86.20 .

Action Agenda

a. WSDOT Pedestrian and Bicycle Program

Clerk Stefani Bowden informed the council of the grant application that was being prepared by Varela and Associates for the WSDOT Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Program. The projects being submitted are the top two priority projects identified in the Town's Pedestrian Priority Improvements Plan which are Fir Street and Mead Way. The project cost is estimated at \$150,000 to \$200,000. Mayor Poch has reviewed and gave authorization to move forward with the application. He asked the Clerk to notify the council of the intent to apply. Dale Rey asked what it committed the Town to. At this point it is just the application and there is no commitment. Dale Rey moved with Mervin Schmidt seconding to authorize the Clerk to submit the application for the WSDOT Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Program. Fred Netzel stated that the council needed discussion before taking a vote. Netzel said he had a "problem that this stuff shows up" and the council has a couple of days to decide whether or not to apply. He felt the town doesn't need to put very much money into the sidewalks on Fir and Mead because there are other sidewalks in town that need to be fixed worse than those. He listed off a few sidewalks in terrible shape including areas in West Coulee Dam. Netzel

said he doesn't "know how we keep finding ourselves in this proposition" that paperwork has to be submitted in a couple days and the council is forced into a position of "take it or leave it". Schmidt asked if the Town could substitute projects later on if the town was awarded so that the funds could be used on different streets. Clerk responded with "no". There are certain criteria that had to be met in order for the streets to qualify to apply for funds. Clerk reminded the council that this is not a TIB grant that the Town typically applies for. It is a WSDOT grant that the Town doesn't always apply for and it is very specific about meeting certain criteria. The application does not commit the Town to any matching funds and is asking for 100% grant. Clerk made a comment "if we get it, great...if we don't, we don't". It isn't committing the Town to any funds. Netzel responded that he takes a different look than "if we get it great, if not, that's just the way it goes" because ultimately it is tax payer dollar and the citizens of this town are tax payers. He said he is "tired of this business of here comes a grant and the first time the council knows anything about it is two days before it is due. There is no reason for it". Dale Rey agreed and feels that the council should set up a policy for future applications and shares in the concerns that council isn't given much opportunity to decide before it is due. Rey stated he left his motion on the table. Schmidt said he didn't see a problem because the council can decide whether or not to accept it if it is awarded stating "we can either use it or lose it" and doesn't understand why that presents a problem. Schmidt stated he stands by his second of the motion. Motion carried with 3 (Schmidt, Rey, St. Jeor) in favor and 1 (Netzel) opposed.

b. Safe Routes to School Program

Clerk notified the council that there is a second WSDOT grant that is due on July 20, 2020 which is before the next council meeting. This one is for the Safe Routes to School Program and the application is being prepared for flashing crosswalk signs for Columbia at Douglas, Crest and Camas, and Central and Crest. Clerk stated that since this is a Safe Routes to School, it has to be in conjunction to a school route. St. Jeor and Rey inquired as to what type of sign would be installed. They are the push button activated flashing lights. St. Jeor asked if the Town has to contribute any matching funds. The application will be submitted as a request for 100% grant. Fred Netzel asked if the Town had the opportunity to add funds to increase the chances of success. Clerk stated that would help but the Town doesn't have adequate funds at this time and is concerned with the projected loss of revenues due to the COVID-19 situation. Netzel disagreed stating that the Town has money in the Street Fund and Street Reserve Fund. Clerk replied with "not much" but it is council's decision. She was not comfortable with obligating funds at this time with the uncertainty of future revenues. Schmidt asked what kind of dollars the City would be putting up. Clerk said there is no set amount. Netzel suggested putting up \$5000 to "sweeten the pot". Netzel stated "again it is the same point of here we go...we have to decide tonight" and said "this stuff's just got to stop"! Dale Rey asked if there was a reason why the council keeps getting the short notice for grant requests. Clerk reminded the council that this was brought up and briefly discussed at a council meeting a few months ago and these are grants that are always due the same time every year. TIB is always due in August and WSDOT usually in July. Rey felt that if it was mentioned at a previous council meeting, it should have been put on the agenda and pursued it at that time so the council wouldn't have to make a decision on such short notice. Rey feels it is a worthwhile grant and would be a great asset to the Town but is concerned about the process. Keith St. Jeor told Rey that this grant has been brought up in the past before Rey was on council and was discussed pretty extensively due to a parent's concern regarding safety of children walking to school. The Town at that same time decided to work with WSDOT in

changing speed limits for the safety of the children. The Police Department has been working with WSDOT and the school for quite some time regarding this and it has been an ongoing issue. This is an opportunity to get the crosswalk signs. St. Jeor felt that six months ago the Clerk probably would not have been able to tell the council that the Town had the opportunity to apply for the grant. It is every year but until the end, the Clerk doesn't know what funds will be eligible to apply for. St. Jeor reminded Netzel that he had the same frustrations a year ago with TIB grants and Netzel brought up the fact that the council needed to sit down and prioritize the streets and sidewalks. St. Jeor felt that the council left it up to Netzel at that point to take the lead. Netzel responded that the prioritization of the streets and sidewalks isn't the issue. Netzel stated that City Hall is notified of application due dates and feels that is the time the council should be notified of the dates as well and schedule on the council agenda six weeks out. Netzel stated "City Hall knows these grants are coming due, and we don't find out about it until it is time to vote on it". Netzel asked the council if they want to call a special meeting before the next council meeting to vote on whether or not to add funds to "the pot". Rey stated that he agrees with Netzel and understands his frustration but feels the grant satisfies a need. He feels that this issue needs to be addressed moving forward but the issue on the table needs to be addressed tonight. Dale Rey moved with Mervin Schmidt seconding to authorize the Clerk to submit application to WSDOT for the Safe Routes to School Program for the crosswalk signs outlined in the proposal. Motion carried.

- c. Resolution No. 2020-02, 2021-2026 Six Year Transportation Improvement Program
The 2021-2026 Six Year Street Plan was presented for consideration. There was discussion on the estimates for the Sixth Street Project, which has been and is likely to be included in TIB grant applications. Mayor Pro-Tem asked Councilman Netzel his thoughts on the Street Plan, noting his prior concerns. Netzel stated he had the opportunity to sit down with the Superintendent to talk about the plan and it appears that the State doesn't really care about what is included in project descriptions and costs. Many other cities, quite a bit larger than Coulee Dam, submit the plan without costs included. The State is mainly concerned that when we put in for a TIB grant, that particular project should be listed as our number one priority in the plan.

Fred Netzel moved with Dale Rey seconding to approve Resolution No. 2020-02, adopting the 2021-2026 Six Year Transportation Improvement Plan with updated cost estimates included for the Sixth Street project. Motion carried.

- d. Selection of Mayor Pro-Tem
Dale Rey asked to be excluded from consideration. Mervin Schmidt nominated Keith St. Jeor with Fred Netzel seconding. Motion carried with 3 (Netzel, Schmidt, Rey). St. Jeor abstained.

Discussion Agenda

None

Staff, Council & Committee Report

Council

Mervin Schmidt inquired about the status of the restaurant lease. The Clerk and Mayor have

both attempted to make contact with the prospective lessee but are unable to get a response.

Fred Netzel requested that the City send a letter of thanks to Electric City, Elmer City and the USBR for assistance on the fire behind the sand pile.

Dale Rey stated he would stay out of the discussions regarding his daughter's (Kasey Garvin) request to put in a coffee shop.

Public Input

None

Adjournment

Mervin Schmidt moved and Fred Netzel seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:09pm. Motion carried.

Mayor Pro-Tem 
Keith St. Jeor

Clerk 
Stefani Bowden