



**Town of Coulee Dam**  
*Green Oasis at the Foot of Grand Coulee Dam*

**Minutes**  
**1285<sup>th</sup> Regular Council Meeting**  
**July 13, 2016**

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

Mayor Wilder called the 1285<sup>th</sup> regular meeting of the Coulee Dam Town Council to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Roll Call**

Council members present: Gayle Swagerty, Ben Alling and Keith St. Jeor.  
Excused Absent: David Schmidt and Duane Johnson.

Staff Present: Public Works Acting Superintendent Mike Steffens and Clerk/Treasurer Stefani Bowden.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Ben Alling led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Hearing**

Mayor Wilder opened the public hearing at 6:02pm to take comments on the Six Year Transportation Improvement Plan. An overview of the requirement to file the plan with Washington State Department of Transportation was presented by the Mayor. The plan is necessary in order for the Town to apply for grants and other funding for street projects. Councilmember Gayle Swagerty wanted the council to consider alley improvements, sooner than later.

Citizen Fred Netzel provided a written comment regarding the need for updates to the sidewalks. He verbally "recommended" putting sidewalks in higher priority. He stated the problem seems to be getting worse, could cause insurance issues and would like the council to consider making changes to the plan before adopting it.

Mayor Wilder explained that repairs are driven by eligible grant funding. He commended the previous Mayor on being able to obtain such grants.

Councilmember Swagerty asked if a sidewalk inventory has been completed. Acting Superintendent Mike Steffens confirmed that it has.

Citizen Bonnie Femling asked if the tree root that is causing the sidewalk to heave in front of her house could be removed by herself or would the town crew need to do it. Mayor Wilder mentioned that this is not the appropriate time to discuss tree matters. The focus is on the street

plan. Ms. Femling was advised by the Clerk to make her request in writing at the Town Hall office.

With no further comments, the hearing was closed at 6:16pm.

### **Public Input**

Elmer City Mayor, Gail Morin, informed the council that Elmer City will begin their wastewater alternatives study next week. She received a copy of the letter that was addressed to the Town of Coulee Dam from the Department of Ecology regarding the approval of the Preliminary Engineering Report and asked if the comments made by DOE will affect them. Mayor stated that the plan was approved and he will be asking DOE to meet with Coulee Dam face to face to go over the statements and comments. Mayor Morin is concerned with the comment made by DOE that the proposed treatment plant is not in the Town's best interest. Mayor Wilder stated, again, that DOE did approve the plan and it has met Rural Development satisfaction.

Bonnie Femling agreed with Morin's comment that the previous plan was well done.

Engineers from Varela and Associates were present to over each bullet item listed in DOE's comments in the letter. Engineer Kurt Holland stated that the new plan takes a look at overall user fees that would be in the best interest for all users. The original plan presented a much higher user fee.

Mayor Wilder reminded the council and public of the pH level violations that were occurring during the drafting of the previous plan, under the previous Mayor's term. The violations were immediately resolved within the first month of Mayor Wilder taking office. The new project will address pH levels in a more cost effective manner.

Holland understands why the public has concerns regarding the comments made in the letter. He feels that DOE didn't give proper attention to the information contained in the new report and made unfair recommendations.

Citizen Jan Williams asked why the population estimate in the first report was so high when demographically there is no room for the town to grow. Holland and Wilder agreed. That was a major consideration when preparing the new report, with a much more accurate growth projection. The current funding, USDA Rural Development, will not pay for growth capacity through the grant.

Former Mayor, Quincy Snow, stated that an Alternatives Analysis was completed in previous years. Mayor Wilder responded by saying that it was not. No documentation has been provided that it was ever done prior to the most recent update.

Councilman Alling said that the previous plan was for a \$5,000,000 project and asked what the new total project cost will be. Mayor responded that the old plan was initially much higher, but DOE only funded just under the five million through a loan. Mr. Snow wanted to know where \$549,000 funding was coming from listed in the report. Mr. Holland assured him that it was

being encompassed within the loan portion of the RD funding. The RD funding requires the town to contribute a little over \$200,000 of town funds.

Councilman St. Jeor feels that we shouldn't build a way oversized plant. The users should not have to pay for the potential of growth that will never occur.

Mayor Wilder called an end to the subject and asked if there were any other public input before the meeting continues.

Jan Williams asked who is responsible for the shrubbery around the community building. It is difficult to see around them at intersection and is causing a safety issue. Mayor stated that they are the Town's responsibility and asked Superintendent Mike Steffens to put it on the schedule for trimming.

**Agenda updates & modifications**

Mayor Wilder addressed some changes in the agenda. Agenda Bill 2016-014, Pole Rental Rates, is being struck from agenda per the advice of the town attorney. Discussion items of Coulee Dam Casino and Melody Restaurant HVAC are being added. Ben Alling moved and Keith St. Jeor seconded to approve the agenda modification. Motion carried.

**Consent Agenda**

Gayle Swagerty moved and Ben Alling seconded to accept the Consent Agenda. Motion carried.

Minutes Regular Council Meeting – June 8, 2016

Vouchers: Claim Vouchers and Checks:

Claim Voucher No.'s 35887 through 35911 and EFT's dated June 22, 2016 in the total amount of \$81,903.78.

Claim Voucher No.'s 35920 through 35965 and EFT's dated July 13, 2016 in the total amount of \$74,074.65.

Manual Checks Claim Voucher No.'s 35886 dated 6/30/2016 in the amount of \$300.00 and EFT dated 7/5/16 in the amount of \$500.00

Transfers: June 2016 Rent and Utility Tax Transfers in the amount of \$16,915.81

Payroll Vouchers: Payroll Voucher No.'s 35857, 35912 through 35919 and Direct Deposits and EFT's dated June 15, 2016 and June 30, 2016 in the total amount of \$69,123.20

Bank Fees: June 2016 Bank fees in the total amount of \$191.94

Voided Checks: None

## **Action Agenda**

A. AB 2016-012, Resolution 2016-009, Six Year Transportation Improvement Program for the Years 2017-2022

Ben Alling moved and Gayle Swagerty seconded to approve Resolution 2016-009, adopting the Revised and Extended Six Year Transportation Improvement Plan for Years 2017-2022. Motion carried.

B. AB 2016-013, RBOM Addendum to Solid Waste Contract with Sunrise Disposal

Keith St. Jeor moved and Gayle Swagerty seconded to accept the Addendum to the Regional Board of Mayors Contract for Solid Waste Collection Services as presented. Motion carried.

C. Electrical Tree Trimming

Clerk Stefani Bowden and Superintendent Mike Steffens requested the council consider re-allotting budgeted funds to perform some much needed tree trimming to clear electrical lines. \$100,000 in capital expenditures was budgeted for transformers but \$50,000 could be postponed until the next budget year. Keith St. Jeor stated that he would be in favor of spending the money on electrical tree trimming only if the council and citizens agree to not get involved in the pruning process and leave it up to the Public Works to facilitate and manage the project. Ben Alling moved and Keith St. Jeor seconded to seek bids, up to the amount of \$50,000, to prune trees within power lines. Motion carried.

D. Selection of Mayor Pro-Tem

Ben Alling moved and Gayle Swagerty seconded to table the selection of Mayor Pro-Tem until all council members are present. Motion carried.

## **Discussion Agenda**

A. Casino Remodel – Fire Flow

Mayor Wilder informed the council that a meeting between Casino representatives, Mayor, town engineers and town staff was held the previous few days. Items of discussion included electric, sewer and water capacity. Bonneville Power confirmed that the increased load should not pose a problem on the system. The proposed wastewater treatment plant will have the capacity to accommodate the additional load on sewer. Treatment of grease and grease traps were a concern but have been resolved. The main concern of the Mayor and town engineer was the water flow for fire suppression and hydrants. Pete Palmer from the Colville Tribes Planning Department was present to give overview of the project along with Varella Engineers. Discussion was held on the current water flow, the requirement of the International Fire Code, the needed amount for fire flow and how the flow could be increased. Councilman Alling mentioned that some of the hydrant lines are double looped while others are not which could make a difference in pressure. Hold harmless agreements are being considered. The Public Works will check into the double looped water lines. Tribal engineers and town engineer will work together to create a water model.

Pete Palmer stated that they are ready to begin the construction project and are just waiting for invoices from the town for electric, water and sewer. Invoices will be prepared once all the requested information and ERU determination is received from the tribe.

Mayor Wilder asked the council for a general consensus on the fire flow issue. Should the town accept the current fire flow, which is borderline inadequate or make policy to increase the flow or require reserve water capacity? The council will have a resolution to the issue ready for the July 27<sup>th</sup> council meeting.

B. Melody Restaurant – HVAC

The Melody Restaurant has decided to purchase new air conditioning units (HVAC) on their own. They are in process of obtaining all required permitting at this time but should have installation completed within a few days.

Keith St. Jeor and Ben Alling reported that they looked at the roof and it is in very poor condition. St. Jeor suggested an idea for a short-term repair that would cost an estimated amount of \$6000.00. There are multiple old units still attached to the roof that need to be removed and sealed up.

### **Staff, Council & Committee Reports**

#### Mayor

Mayor met with Civil Service Chairman to discuss potentially changing the physical testing requirements for lateral police officer applications. Currently the lateral officers are tested the same as an entry level officer that must be in top physical condition to train at the academy. The proposed change would still require some testing for lateral but to a lesser extent than the entry level.

The USBR easement near the wastewater treatment site is causing a slight issue. The town has requested a quit claim deed to abandon the easement. A meeting with the USBR is being planned for next week to attempt to expedite the release of easement.

The Town has received a solicitation from the USBR for police services. Public Safety Committee members, Ben Alling and Gayle Swagerty, have been asked to review the solicitation and provide recommendation before the July 27<sup>th</sup> council meeting as the deadline for response is July 29<sup>th</sup>.

#### Councilmembers

Ben Alling voiced his concern over the sidewalk conditions. The power outage on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July made it very difficult, especially for elderly and children, to get back to vehicles in the dark and navigate around the dangerous sidewalks.

Keith St. Jeor took a moment to acknowledge the Public Works Acting Superintendent and the crew stating that the general feeling he is getting from public is very positive regarding the

attitudes and work ethic of the staff. The staff speaks with great respect of the Mayor. He contributed that to the Mayor doing a good job with working with the staff and building a mutual respect. Mayor Wilder thanked him for the kind words.

**Public Input**

None

**Announcements**

None

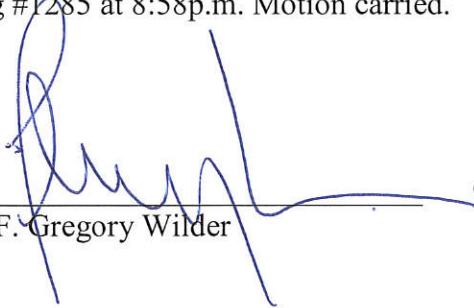
**Executive Session**

None

**Adjournment**

Councilmember Ben Alling motioned with Gayle Swagerty seconding to adjourn Council Meeting #1285 at 8:58p.m. Motion carried.

Mayor

  
F. Gregory Wilder

Clerk

  
Stefani Bowden