



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

Minutes
1287th Regular Council Meeting
August 24, 2016

6:00 p.m. Regular Council Meeting

Mayor Wilder called the 1287th regular meeting of the Coulee Dam Town Council to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call

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

Staff Present: Police Sergeant Larry Hall and Clerk/Treasurer Stefani Bowden. Attorney Mick Howe was also present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Keith St. Jeor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Input

Mayor Wilder announced that due to a potential lengthy executive session at the end of the meeting, the second public input time will not be available during this meeting. Public was encouraged to use this time to present comments, questions, concerns, etc.

Marlene Oddie of the Grand Coulee Dam Economic Development Council gave a presentation on the results of the consolidation survey which indicated that the majority are strongly in favor of some form of consolidation. The survey was just to get an idea if people would like to explore the possibility. There will be a lot more research to come.

Chamber President Peggy Nevsimal gave a report on the 4th of July festival weekend. There were fewer vendors but they made a higher percentage in sales. The beer garden did phenomenally better in the new location. The power outage caused some major difficulties. Out of area visitors were upset about the cancellation of light show due to the power outage.

Fred Netzel inquired as to the status of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project. Mayor Wilder informed that design is underway and construction is expected to start mid-summer 2017. The geotechnical work has been completed. A full update on the project is hopeful to take place in about a month.

Agenda updates & modifications

None

Consent Agenda

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

Minutes Regular Council Meeting – July 27, 2016

Vouchers: Claim Vouchers and Checks:

Claim Voucher No.'s 35994 through 36027 and EFT's dated August 10, 2016 in the total amount of \$88,531.74.

Claim Voucher No.'s 33028 through 36045 and EFT's dated August 24, 2016 in the total amount of \$130,467.01.

Payroll Vouchers: Payroll Voucher No.'s 35966 through 35973, Direct Deposits Runs and EFTs dated July 15, 2016 and July 27, 2016 in the total amount of \$67,271.51

Voided Checks: Check No 35786, issued to USBR on April 27, 2016 in the amount of \$10.00.

Transfers: July 2016 Utility Tax/B&O and rent transfers in the total amount of \$26,571.95

Bank Fees: July 2016 Bank fees in the amount of \$5.75 (NCNB) and \$78.60 (Invoice Cloud)

Action Agenda

None

Discussion Agenda

A. USBR Police Services Solicitation

Time for response to the USBR regarding police solicitation has expired. The council, police department and town attorney did not show any interest in pursuing a contract at this time.

B. Police Department Updates

Mayor stated that it has been a lengthy process of selection of Police Chief. The Civil Service process was followed. Advertisements were made; Civil Service reviewed applicants and provided their top 3 to the Mayor to make decision. Mayor has the authority to solely make the decision, but Wilder chose to include a panel of interviewees which included a councilmember, an insurance risk manager and the Moses Lake Police Captain. The Civil Service chairman and another councilmember observed. Following the interviews, the group divided into three to sort and provide hire recommendation. All

three groups provided the exact same ranking of the candidates. The process narrowed the candidates to two. One of the top two candidates withdrew the following day which left it to one. Background checks, polygraph and physiological tests almost complete. A tentative offer has been made and we are hopeful to start mid-September.

Advertisements for Entry level and Lateral positions have been made. Civil Service will review applicants at the end of the month. Testing is now being performed by a consultant and Mayor is hopeful that the interview process will begin within two to three weeks.

Mayor Wilder provided the council with some statistics regarding crime activity in Coulee Dam compared to other local departments, state and national.

Mayor opened up the floor for any public comments or questions.

Larry Price said there seems to be more “wanderers” through his neighborhood.

Mayor reminded people to keep doors locked and be more vigilant on securing belongings. Acting Police Chief, Larry Hall stated that the majority are crimes of opportunity. Every recent car theft has been where keys are left in ignition. Open garage/shop doors are also adding to the opportunity.

Carol Netzel reported that there is a lot of pickup truck traffic down towards Washington Flats.

Quincy Snow said that there have been “undesirable” looking people wandering through neighborhoods.

Councilman St. Jeor said that we need to let people know how to get ahold of an officer. Reminders in utility bills and magnets were suggested. The utility bill has included that information for some time now.

Carol Netzel spoke about phone hang-ups and Fred Netzel asked about a neighborhood watch program.

C. Water Flow for Fire Policy

A hold harmless agreement has been executed. Mayor Wilder asked to wait until all councilmembers are present to discuss a policy.

D. Casino Project Update

Code was update in the spring to change connection fees based on demand/ERU. The Casino will be required to pay approximately \$37,500 in connection fees. Parking illumination and handicap access issues are still being addressed.

Staff, Council & Committee Reports

Mayor

Mike Steffens has been appointed as the Public Works Superintendent. Brian Warnecke is the Acting Fire Chief.

Councilmembers

Keith St. Jeor has some ideas on the accrued leave liability that will be addressed during budget. He suggested hiring additional help to repair sidewalks. Feels it would be more cost effective than contracting.

Duane Johnson thanked the Public Works for removing the rocks at the park.

Comments were made by all regarding consolidation. Street lighting was also discussed. Some citizens feel the LEDs do not put off enough light. Sherry Snow suggested looking into turning the wattage up.

Clerk

The Clerk notified the council that the budget process is soon approaching. The “Call to Budget” has been sent out to department heads.

Public Works

Clerk Stefani Bowden read a brief report for the Superintendent in his absence. Senske should be here this week or next to complete the River Drive tree trimming. Asplundh will possibly start next week on the emergency tree trimming of Fiddle Creek to clear electric lines. Sewer main line jetting and street painting is finishing up and he is hopeful to attempt some sidewalk repair within the next few weeks.

Committees

Gayle Swagerty reported for the Parks and Natural Resources Board. They are working on Candy Point Trail. Washington Trails Association will be here to help update trails.

Mayor will be moving forward with establishing a the Planning Commission in the near future. Growth Management Act requirement is coming up.

Announcements

None

Executive Session

Mayor Wilder excused the council into executive session at 7:30pm under RCW 42.30.110 (1) (i) *To discuss with legal counsel representing the agency potential litigation to which the agency is likely to become party when public knowledge regarding discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency.* The session is anticipated to last 30 minutes. At 8:00pm, the Mayor notified the public that more time was needed and the session will be extended 15 minutes. The Clerk notified the public at 8:15 that the session will be extended for an additional 10 minutes.

Regular Council Meeting – Reconvened

Mayor Wilder reconvened the regular council meeting at 8:25pm.

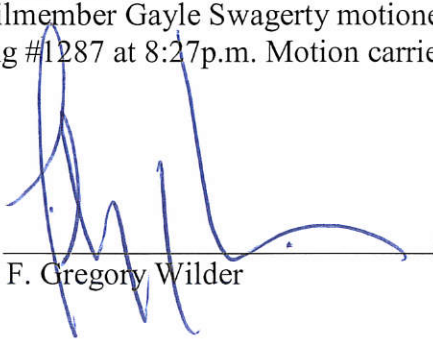
Duane Johnson moved and Gayle Swagerty seconded to direct the Town Attorney to commence litigation against the Town of Elmer City for breach in contract of the 1975 Sewer Agreement. Motion carried.

Attorney Mick Howe asked for flexibility to inform Elmer City of the intent to file in court.

Adjournment


Councilmember Gayle Swagerty motioned with Keith St. Jeor seconding to adjourn Council Meeting #1287 at 8:27p.m. Motion carried.

Mayor



F. Gregory Wilder

Clerk



Stefani Bowden