



Minutes
1397th Regular Council Meeting
September 14, 2022

6:00 p.m. Regular Council Meeting

Mayor Bob Poch called the 1397th regular meeting of the Coulee Dam Town Council to order at 6:00p.m.

Roll Call

Council members present: Kevin Black, Merv Schmidt, Dale Rey, Larry Hall and Keith St. Jeor.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Larry Hall led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Input

a. **Kevin Duclos – Air Soft Guns**

Kevin Duclos asked the council to make an exception to the current codes to allow the use of air soft guns in Cole Park. He stated that they have been playing with air soft guns in the park for over a year before finding out that it was in violation of the ordinance. The Town's current codes prohibit the use of air rifles and air pistols. Chief Bowden has some concerns with allowing the use in a public park because you cannot stop others from being in the park at the time the guns are in use. There is potential for others to be accidentally harmed. Officer Josh Watkins showed the council members the police department's pepper ball gun which is similar to what the air soft guns being used look like.

Councilmen Rey had some safety and liability concerns should the town allow the use of the guns in town. After more discussion, Councilman Schmidt requested that the topic be tabled for further research and review. The Clerk will contact the attorney on the matter.

Mayor Poch thanked Mr. Duclos for bringing the request to the council.

Kevin Duclos switched to a different subject and asked the council about eliminating the bus stop at Mead Park. There have been issues with some of the bus passengers getting on and off the bus at that location and the restrooms have now been closed down at night due to vandalism.

Updates and Modifications to Agenda

Mayor Poch added the closeout of the tree trimming project to the action agenda and removed the Police Services Contract from the discussion agenda.

Consent Agenda

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

Minutes Regular Council Meeting – August 24, 2022

Vouchers: Claim Vouchers and Checks:

Claim Voucher No.'s 40352 through 40389 and EFTs dated September 14, 2022 in the total amount of \$ 66,009.37.

Manual Vouchers: Claim Voucher No.'s 39991(2) dated August 15, 2022 in the amount of \$35.00. EFT's CPL 08.17.22 and CPL 08.25.22 in the total amount of \$36.00.

Claim Voucher No.'s 40349 through 40351 and EFT's CPL 09.06.22 and CPL 09.09.22(2) in the total amount of \$168,080.50

Payroll Checks: Payroll Check No.'s 40342 through 40348, EFT's and direct deposits dated August 15 and 31, 2022 in the total amount of \$ 98,177.41.

Action Agenda

- a. TIB City-Wide Crack Seal Project – Project Completion
Superintendent Mike Steffens told the council that the project went great. The contractor did more work than what they bid on because the streets were worse than they anticipated. (m/s St. Jeor/Rey) to accept the project completion and closeout of the TIB City-Wide Crack Seal Project. Motion carried.

- b. Shoreline Master Program – DOE Grant Agreement
(m/s St. Jeor/Schmidt) to approve the grant agreement with Department of Ecology for the Shoreline Master Program update in the amount of \$11,200. Motion carried.

- c. Grease Traps – Rio Grande Restaurant
A quote was received to install a small grease trap at the Rio Grande Restaurant. Councilman Rey inquired as to who would be paying for it. Councilman Schmidt said that it was proposed in the lease committee meetings for the town to split the costs with the restaurant. Rey wanted to make sure that the traps would stay with the building should the restaurant terminate their lease. The lease does have language that should cover that, but the Clerk will also include it in a letter to the restaurant owner. (m/s St.

Jeor/Schmidt) to approve the expenditure of half the cost to install the grease traps. Motion carried.

- d. Wastewater Treatment Plant Valve Replacement
(m/s St. Jeor/Black) to approve the expenditure, not to exceed \$10,000, to replace and repair the valve issue at the wastewater treatment plant. Motion carried.
- e. Tree Trimming Project – Project Completion
Superintendent Steffens stated that Basin Tree Service did great work once again on clearing the electrical lines. Several council members agreed. (m/s Rey/Schmidt) to accept project completion for the tree trimming project. Motion carried.

Discussion Agenda

- a. Wastewater Treatment Plant/West-Side Lift Station Project Update
Daniel Cowger and Kurt Holland joined the meeting via video conference to provide a project status update. Cowger recapped the West-Side Lift Station project that was added to the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project using USDA Rural Development (RD) grant/loan funds. The lift station project went out to bid for construction last year but due to rising construction costs following the COVID-19 pandemic, the bids all came in high. At that time, Cowger talked with RD regarding the potential for additional supplemental funding. RD's main concern was to get the treatment plant project closed out before considering additional funds. Now that the treatment plant project is essentially closed out, it would be good to begin the process of requesting the additional funds. Cowger met with Rick Rose who agreed and stated that November would be the ideal time to request the funds due to USDA's funding cycle. Cowger is proposing to re-bid the lift station project mid-October to get a more accurate idea of additional funds needed.

Cowger informed the council that an amendment is needed to the engineering agreement and he is hopeful to have that ready by the next council meeting.

It is estimated that an additional \$300K-\$500K is needed to complete the lift station. The engineering part of the budget is still under budget so Cowger does not anticipate any addition funds being needed for that.

Staff, Council & Committee Report

Clerk

Clerk Stefani Bowden informed the council that the audit is getting close to wrapping up. Council should be notified soon as to when the exit conference will take place.

Council

Keith St. Jeor asked when the town would be seeking payment from Elmer City for their

portion of the wastewater treatment plant project. Now that the project is near completion, the final figures should be available. The Clerk will begin working on that with the attorney.

Kevin Black asked if the old theater would be useable space for the air soft gun use.

Dale Rey asked the Police Chief about the status of the gun range. Some earthwork has been done but it isn't completed yet.

Keith St. Jeor and Kevin Black met with the Superintendent to help troubleshoot the water plant failure issue. It appears the UPS battery back-up system is too large which could be creating the issue.

Public Input

None

Adjournment

Mayor Poch adjourned the meeting at 6:59p.m. Motion carried.

Mayor 
Bob Poch

Clerk 
Stefani Bowden