



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

**Minutes**  
**1303<sup>rd</sup> Regular Council Meeting**  
**September 27, 2017**

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

Mayor Wilder called the 1303<sup>rd</sup> regular meeting of the Coulee Dam Town Council to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Roll Call**

Council members present: David Schmidt (via telephone), Gayle Swagerty and Keith St. Jeor. Ben Alling and Duane Johnson were excused absent.

Staff Present: Police Chief Paul Bowden, Public Works Superintendent Mike Steffens and Clerk/Treasurer Stefani Bowden. Attorney Michael Howe was also present.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Keith St. Jeor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Hearing**

**A. Code City**

Mayor Wilder opened the public hearing at 6:02pm to take public testimony on the proposed Ordinance No. 749, reclassifying the Town of Coulee Dam as a noncharter code City. Wilder provided a summary of the process. Attorney Michael Howe also provided a summary, noting that the town passed a Resolution on June 14<sup>th</sup> which stated the Town's intention to enter into the process of reclassification. The Resolution was published on June 21, 2017 which began a 90 day petition/comment period. No written comments or petitions were received during that period. Mayor and attorney both assured the public and council that Coulee Dam can still be called "Town of Coulee Dam" and the mayor/council structure will remain the same. Attorney Howe said that many towns have already made the change to city. The benefits are many. There really are no negatives. It gives cities more flexibility. Councilman St. Jeor sees no negative. The same Mayor/Council structure will be followed. Councilwoman Gayle Swagerty feels it is a positive step. Councilman David Schmidt has talked with others and only received positive feedback. He feels there is no "downside", only "upsides". With no comments or testimony from the public, the hearing closed at 6:14

## **Public Input**

### A. Brandi Clark – Utility late payment fee dispute

Mayor Wilder opened the public input section and called upon Brandi Clark who had requested to be on the Agenda. With no response, the Mayor declared it a no-show.

No other public comments were received.

## **Agenda updates & modifications**

None

## **Consent Agenda**

Keith St. Jeor moved with David Schmidt seconding to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried.

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Vouchers:                      Claim Vouchers and Checks:  
Claim Voucher No.'s 36901 through 36915, 36924 and EFT's dated September 27, 2017 in the total amount of \$361,684.57

## **Action Agenda**

### A. AB 2017-019, Ordinance No. 749, Noncharter Code City

David Schmidt moved and Gayle Swagerty seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 749 classifying the Town of Coulee Dam as a noncharter code city. Motion carried.

## **Discussion Agenda**

None

## **Staff, Council & Committee Report**

### Clerk

Budget process has begun with Department Heads working on their requests for 2018. Workshops will need to be scheduled.

### Public Works

Public Works Superintendent Mike Steffens stated that three more sections of sidewalk have been repaired. It is going well so far and they will keep “plugging away” at it.

### Police

Police Chief Paul Bowden stated that he and the department are working at “getting things in order”

### Councilmembers

Gayle Swagerty reported that the regular Parks and Natural Resources Board meeting earlier in the day had been cancelled due to lack of quorum. Only one item of a potentially dangerous tree has been brought to them since their last meeting.

David Schmidt wanted to address the issue that was slated for Public Input under Brandi Clark late payment fee dispute. While he feels that people should be responsible for covering the Town’s cost for preparing and attempting to shut-off utility services for non-payment, if the disconnect was never completed we probably can’t charge the fees. Clerk informed him that the fees had been credited back to the account. The process for disconnection is that the fees are assessed to the accounts once the disconnection notices leave the office. In most cases the Utility Clerk is not able to contact the public works to stop the process if payment is made during the time the shut-off routine is taking place. This was a unique situation where this particular account was the last one on the route and hadn’t fully been disconnected. Schmidt and St. Jeor both noted that this account shows a history of making payment on the date of shut-off for the past several years and have gotten lucky to avoid shut-off. Schmidt feels our code is being followed correctly and that no changes should be made. St. Jeor commented that if we had the availability of fiber optics, we could make it an automated system where the Clerk could perform the disconnection with the push of a button in the office. Then we wouldn’t have this issue because all delinquent accounts would be disconnected at the same time.

### Announcements

Clerk reminded the council of the meeting date changes for October. The October 11<sup>th</sup> meeting has been rescheduled for October 18<sup>th</sup> and the October 25<sup>th</sup> meeting has been cancelled.

### Executive Session

At 6:30pm, Mayor Wilder informed all present that the council will adjourn to executive session for approximately 30 minutes under RCW 422.30.110 (1) (i) *To discuss with legal counsel representing the agency matters relating to agency enforcement actions, or to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency, the governing body, or a member acting in an official capacity is, or is likely to become, a party, when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency.*

Mayor reopened the council meeting at 7:00pm and announced that the executive session will need 15 additional minutes and adjourned to executive session again at 7:01pm.

At 7:16pm, Mayor Wilder reopened the regular council meeting. Wilder provided an explanation the issue with Elmer City and the connection to the new wastewater treatment plant. Updates/improvements need to be performed to the Elmer City lift station in order to connect

with the new Coulee Dam treatment plant. To date, the Town of Coulee Dam has no knowledge of Elmer City's plans to accommodate the issue.

Keith St. Jeor moved with Gayle Swagerty seconding to "do nothing" and leave it in the hands of Elmer City to comply. Motion carried.

**Public Input**

None

**Adjournment**

Councilmember Keith St. Jeor motioned with Gayle Swagerty seconding to adjourn Council Meeting #1303 at 7:20p.m. Motion carried.

Mayor

  
F. Gregory Wilder

Clerk

  
Stefani Bowden