



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

Minutes
1288th Regular Council Meeting
September 28, 2016

6:00 p.m. Regular Council Meeting

Mayor Wilder called the 1288th regular meeting of the Coulee Dam Town Council to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call

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

Staff Present: Interim Police Chief Larry Hall, Police Sergeant Paul Bowden, Fire Chief Brian Warnecke and Clerk/Treasurer Stefani Bowden.

Pledge of Allegiance

Gayle Swagerty led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Introduction of New Fire Chief

Mayor Wilder announced the appointment of Fire Chief Brian Warnecke. Warnecke reported on the recent changes and activities within the Fire Department. There has been an increase interest in membership. Warnecke thanked Grand Coulee Fire Department and former Coulee Dam Fire Department members, which included councilman Alling, for their help and support.

Public Input

None

Agenda updates & modifications

None

Consent Agenda

Duane Johnson moved and Gayle Swagerty seconded to accept the Consent Agenda. Motion carried.

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Vouchers: Claim Vouchers and Checks:

Claim Voucher No.'s 36055 through 36094 and EFT's dated September 14, 2016 in the total amount of \$86,231.76

Claim Voucher No.'s 36104 through 36120 and EFT's dated September 28, 2016 in the total amount of \$157,215.57

Payroll Vouchers: Payroll Voucher No.'s 36046 through 36053, Direct Deposits Runs and EFTs dated August 15, 2016 and August 30, 2016 in the total amount of \$68,992.63

Transfers: August 2016 Utility Tax/B&O and rent transfers in the total amount of \$21,046.53

Bank Fees: August 2016 Bank fees in the amount of \$93.60 (Invoice Cloud)

Action Agenda

A. AB 2016-016, Fire Department Memberships

Two names were presented to the council for acceptance of fire department membership. Councilman Alling brought to the council's attention that if we accept members that hold dual, and some triple, membership with neighboring agencies that our resources are being spread thin in regards to a large fire. He feels we should be looking for new members to provide more bodies to add to the overall community resource and not just tapping into the already established resource. Keith St. Jeor moved with Ben Alling seconding to approve Fire Department membership for Nic Alexander and Judah Pope. Motion carried.

B. AB 2016-017, License Agreement to Utilize USBR Land for Trails

Councilmember Gayle Swagerty presented a 25-Year License Agreement to utilize USBR land for trails and provided a background of the previous agreement. This agreement is a renewal of the on-going agreement that has expired. Councilmember Alling has concerns regarding the requirement to inspect the tunnel every five years. Both Councilmember Swagerty and Mayor Wilder understood it that an inspection would not be necessary as long as the tunnel was blocked off and no access were allowed. Swagerty had estimated based on previous costs and discussions that the inspection would be around \$5000. Keith St. Jeor felt that if the town did not approve and accept the agreement that it may be difficult or impossible to obtain another one from the USBR in the future. The agreement would allow the town access and use of the land to make improvements to the Candy Point Trail, Crown Point Trail and Railroad Grade Trail and tunnel. Keith St. Jeor moved and Gayle Swagerty seconded to approve the 25-Year License Agreement with the USBR to utilize reclamation-owned land for hiking trails and authorize the Mayor to sign and execute said agreement. Motion carried with 3 votes in favor and 1 (Alling) against.

C. AB 2016-018, Mutual Assistance Agreement with Nespelem Valley Electric

Mayor Wilder gave a brief background of the agreement for electrical work assistance with Nespelem Valley Electric. This is a renewal to an expired agreement. The question

was asked from Councilman Johnson if the town could save money by Nespelem Valley utilizing town-owned equipment. Clerk stated that they do use town equipment whenever possible. Due to recent emergency work needed, Mayor Wilder had already signed the agreement. Gayle Swagerty moved and Ben Alling seconded to ratify the Mayor's action of signing and executing the Mutual Assistance Agreement with Nespelem Valley Electric. Motion carried.

Discussion Agenda

A. Police Department Updates

Mayor Wilder swore in new Police Sergeant Paul Bowden and welcomed him to the Coulee Dam Police Department.

Mayor took a moment to address a recent "Letter to the Editor" published in the Star Newspaper. The Town of Coulee Dam follows a very thorough Civil Service process when hiring new officers and Police Chief. After Civil Service review and recommendation, the Mayor and a panel, comprised of an out of area Police Captain, insurance underwriter, a councilmember and the Civil Service Chairman as an observer conduct interviews. From that point, very thorough and extensive background checks are performed.

Councilmembers and Mayor received a letter from Mark Igo in regards to many issues that need addressed by police. Mayor Wilder stated that many of these issues are already being addressed. An interim short-term Chief is being looked into to restructure the department and train up staff.

Interviews for the Entry Level Officer position are being conducted this coming weekend. There is always a risk to hiring entry level and the cost of putting them through the academy. Some academy costs can be recovered if the officer leaves employment with Coulee Dam, but the Town has to pay for wages during those training months which cannot be recovered.

Larry Hall stated the majority of issues are crimes of opportunity. There have been gas and cars stolen. Often times people leave keys in vehicles, garages unlocked and opened, houses left unlocked, and valuables and bicycles being left out in plain sight. Hall attributes the increase in crime to the use of methamphetamine. The police are just as frustrated as the citizens. Just because the police know of the issue doesn't mean they can just go in and arrest.

Hall said he would welcome a block watch program. When neighbors see something, call it in. Larry Price inquired as to how to go about setting a block watch program up. Hall will look into some resources. Ed Bartley spoke of his experience with block watch stating that people need to be trained to give good precise information when reporting to the police. That information is invaluable.

Mark Igo wanted to clarify the intent of his letter. It was not to point figures but rather just show the impact that some issues are causing to the community.

Keith St. Jeor asked Hall what he thought was needed for staffing. Hall would like to see at least two additional officers. Mayor suggested updating and use of technology and upgrading computers could provide better and more efficient resources. Funding is always an issue.

B. Wastewater Treatment Plant Update

Mayor Wilder gave brief update regarding DOE's response to Facility Plan. DOE has reviewed and approved both the original Gray and Osborne plan and the current Varela plan. DOE has stated that either approach is approved and have basically said "end of discussion". The USBR easement is still being worked out along with technical agreements.

C. Arbor Day Tree Planting Event, Parks and Natural Resources Board

Councilmember Swagerty reported on the Arbor Day Tree Planting Event that the Parks and Natural Resources Board is facilitating. The intent is to combine the event with a Chamber of Commerce meeting and lunch. Flowering Crabapple trees will be planted between the street and sidewalk along Lincoln Ave just above the motel. This location was chosen by the Board. The Department of Natural Resources, through a US Forest Service Grant, will reimburse the town up to \$500 for the trees. The Town can use the Board's volunteer hours as the 50% in-kind match.

D. Casino Update

An update on the Casino project was given by the Mayor. Costs have already been incurred by the Town with the expectation of reimbursement from the Casino. ERU connection fees have been billed. The town is still waiting on additional information from the Casino regarding fire flow model. The Town will provide no more services until those costs are recouped.

Staff, Council & Committee Report

Clerk

Clerk asked to schedule budget workshops. The first workshop will be October 12th at 5:00pm, one hour before the regular council meeting.

Public Works Superintendent provided the Clerk with information regarding the possibility of auctioning off the large crane that was intended to be used for setting power poles. The piece of equipment isn't being used and is quite costly to maintain and inspect. He would like the council to consider surplusing it to be auctioned.

Councilmembers

Duane Johnson reported that he has been attending the OCOG meetings.

Ben Alling noted that there is a lack of crosswalks around the church and asked if some could be painted. Mayor will have the Public Works look into.

Announcements

None

Executive Session

None

Public Input

Fred Netzell stated that the north end of the tunnel is wide open. He asked Councilmember Swagerty what the progress of adding the parks to the comprehensive plan was and if the student from EWU was still working on it. Mayor Wilder said that he is working with Professor Greg Dorne to provide a status and update.

Adjournment

Councilmember Keith St. Jeor motioned with Duane Johnson seconding to adjourn Council Meeting #1288 at 7:35p.m. Motion carried.

Mayor


F. Gregory Wilder

Clerk


Stefani Bowden