



Minutes
1381st Regular Council Meeting
October 13, 2021
(Teleconference)

6:00 p.m. Regular Council Meeting

Mayor Bob Poch called the 1381st regular meeting of the Coulee Dam Town Council to order at 6:01p.m. via teleconference.

Roll Call

Council members present: Kevin Black, Dale Rey, Larry Hall and Keith St. Jeor. Mervin Schmidt was excused absent.

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

Public Input

None

Updates and Modifications to Agenda

Councilman Dale Rey requested to add vaccination requirements to the discussion agenda.

Consent Agenda

(m/s St. Jeor/Rey) to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried.

Minutes Regular Council Meeting – September 8, 2021

Vouchers: Claim Vouchers and Checks:
 Claim Voucher No.'s 39744 through 39755, and EFT's dated September 22, 2021 in the total amount of \$ 63,904.70.

 Claim Voucher No.'s 39763 through 39790, and EFT's dated October 13, 2021 in the total amount of \$ 51,764.51.

 Manual Claim Voucher No. 39762 dated September 29, 2021 in the amount of \$ 39,282.49

Payroll: Payroll Check No.'s 39742, 39743, 39756 through 39761, EFT's and direct deposits dated September 15 and 30, 2021 in the total amount of \$92,013.41.

Action Agenda

- a. Boulder Park Project Contract for Biosolids Beneficial Use
A contract was presented to the council for approval/ratification for disposal of Biosolids that

would be used for land application. Discussion was held on costs of disposal and how the Biosolids would be removed and transported. (m/s St. Jeor/Rey) to approve the Boulder Park Contract on a 5 year term and ratify the Mayor's execution of the contract. Motion carried.

b. Tree Removal Request – 705 Walnut

A tree removal request was received from Jeffrey and Lisa Semanko. The request is for 3 trees to be removed from 705 Walnut. Councilman St. Jeor stated that he spoke with the property owners and looked at the trees. Councilman Rey asked how it was different than the request that was received regarding removal of trees across the street that the City previously turned down. After more discussion, the council felt that more time was needed to research the request further. (m/s St. Jeor/Hall) to table the request until the next council meeting for further review. Motion carried.

Discussion Agenda

a. COVID-19 Vaccination Mandate

Councilman Dale Rey began the discussion by saying “in light of the loss of an employee and another one testing positive” he would be in favor of implementing a mandatory COVID-19 vaccination policy for city employees. Rey stated that a municipality has the right to establish safety for the workplace.

Councilman Kevin Black asked how many employees are currently vaccinated and understands that some of the employees may have some “heartache” with it. The Clerk estimated that 50-60% are already vaccinated. Councilmen Hall and St. Jeor were in favor of the mandate with St. Jeor stating “as long as we follow what is allowed”. He feels it is similar to the school requiring vaccinations to attend school.

Councilman Rey stated the reasons he feels it is important is because the town employees interact with the public. The Town can't mandate vaccines for people who live here but they can require vaccines for those who work here. This will protect the employees and the residents. Multiple large companies are requiring the vaccination or be terminated. Some are not accepting religious exemptions but have to honor medical exemptions.

Councilman Rey feels that it is an administrative decision and the Mayor could make it a condition of employment. The Clerk stated that it will have to be a council adopted policy and employees will need to be provided the opportunity to apply for an exemption. The Clerk is working with MRSC and the attorney regarding the legalities of the mandate and drafting a policy for the council to review. The policy will need to be sent to the labor union for review as well.

Mayor Poch asked if the council was in favor of calling a special council meeting if needed to expedite the policy adoption which all members seemed to be in favor of.

Staff, Council & Committee Report

Council

Dale Rey thanked the council for being willing to discuss a difficult issue. Larry Hall was glad the vaccine issue was brought up.

Keith St. Jeor expressed his condolences to the family of an employee that passed away and said the employee did a wonderful job.

Dale Rey said that John was more than an employee; he was a friend of his.

Clerk

The Clerk stated the audit is complete and an exit conference is being scheduled for the end of the month.

Public Input

Scott Hunter of the Star Newspaper thanked the council for the discussion.

Adjournment

(m/s St. Jeor/Rey) to adjourn the meeting at 6:37pm.

Mayor Bob Poch
Bob Poch

Clerk Stefani Bowden
Stefani Bowden