



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

Minutes
1268th Regular Council Meeting
July 8, 2015

6:00 p.m. Regular Council Meeting

Mayor Wilder called the 1268th regular meeting of the Coulee Dam Town Council to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Council members present: Ken Miles, Gayle Swagerty and Duane Johnson. Shawn Derrick joined the meeting at 6:10pm. Ben Alling was excused absent.

Staff Present were Public Works Superintendent Barry Peacock and Clerk/Treasurer Stefani Bowden.

Pledge of Allegiance

Gayle Swagerty led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Input

Carol Netzel requested that the Town of Coulee Dam send a letter to the Chamber of Commerce commending them on the great Fourth of July Festival stating that it was neat, clean and quiet. Others commented that they fireworks were the best they have ever seen for this festival. Bob Hinkey asked why the town shop parking lot location for the beer garden was chosen and not something closer to the festival. Mayor informed him that it was the Chambers request. Douglas Park was also inquired about but it was determined that it was more difficult to access. It was the Clerk understanding that the Bureau of Reclamation does not allow alcohol on their property, which is where the festival was located. Jan Williams mentioned that handicap parking is a problem for the festival. The vendors block the designated handicap parking areas. Mayor suggested that a “de-briefing” meeting be held with the chamber president to not only go over some of the concerns but also commend them for the excellent festival.

Bruce Bartoo presented a map of proposed changes and improvements to Cole Park, eliminating handball courts and turn them into a full size basketball courts. Improvements would also include new fencing, lights and basketball backboards. Mr. Bartoo mentioned that materials from the handball courts could be recycled/reused and volunteers could help with the project. The intent is to make the park more user-friendly. Grants for funding will be looked into. Mayor Wilder informed Mr. Bartoo that the idea and plan needs to be submitted to the Parks and Natural Resources Board for review. The board will make a recommendation to the council after their review.

Public Hearing – Chicken Ordina

Mayor Wilder opened the public hearing at 6:14 to take public testimony regarding the proposed ordinance to allow chicken hens within town limits. A sign-in sheet was provided to those in attendance. Individuals wishing to speak were asked to specify that on the sign-in sheet.

Jan Williams stated that she has nothing against chickens, in a large area not in a 40' x 90' lot. She is concerned that coops would be placed on property lines.

Dan Neddo opposed the idea due to problems the town currently has with animals. He believes chickens belong outside of town.

Dave Schmidt spoke in favor of the chicken ordinance stating that 3 or 4 take up very little space. The smell wouldn't be a problem from such few chickens. Dogs are allowed in public areas and many people are not picking up after them. Dogs are much more of a problem than chickens would be. People have a right to garden and he feels having chickens isn't much different.

Jessica Steinart, also in favor of chickens, understands people's concerns but feels 3 dogs create much more of an odor issue than chickens would. She would like to teach her children to garden and raise chickens for eggs. She stated that people should take care of what's theirs and not bother neighbors.

Andy Steinart wants chickens as family pet and said that each chicken only requires a couple of cubic feet to live in. The chickens would not only be a pet but would provide for the family in a natural way also, such as gardening. Gardens also attract unwanted animals. As for the odor issue, he stated that 3 Great Danes would smell a whole lot worse. With the requirement of 4 or less hens, commercially selling of eggs would not be an issue due to only producing only 1 or 2 dozen eggs per week.

Fred Netzel wanted to address Section 6 of the proposed ordinance regarding odor. "Who is going to control it, the Police Chief?" He feels the police have enough to do and suggested that the council or committee be the administrators.

Keith St. Jeor said that dogs are not being administered and there is no place to put stray animals. He inquired as to how close to property line will chickens be allowed and how will the safety and animal cruelty be administered for things such as hot and cold weather conditions. Telling the gender of chicks is very hard so if someone ends up with a rooster how will it be disposed of?

Bob Hinkey has no problems with chickens but feels the town does not enforce current issues. "Who is going to control chickens? Codes aren't being enforced now".

Bruce Bartoo would be in favor of allowing chickens if the ordinance was amended so that individuals would have to obtain approval from surrounding neighbors.

Councilmember Duane Johnson did some internet research and found that the internet seemed biased when it came to the odor and predator issues. His question was, "what next? Goats?" If

chickens were supported he would like to see a 15 foot from all property line requirement within the ordinance. Police time is a concern of his. He feels that police time could be better used. He agreed that fresh eggs are healthier.

Councilmember Ken Miles stated that “we have a nuisance ordinance because people don’t comply.” “If you want chickens, move somewhere where they are allowed; on a farm or with acreage” He agrees that ordinances are not being followed now such as the dog ordinance which states that you can only have 2 dogs and not the 3 that others had referred to. Miles feels the enforcement puts a strain on the Police Department.

Councilmember Shawn Derrick stated that based on the feedback regarding the enforcement, people’s assumption is that irresponsible people will get chickens. He believes in land rights and people should be allowed to use their land to full potential. Derrick stated that other cities have done it on smaller lots and that it is reasonable to keep chickens in a small area.

Councilmember Gayle Swagerty agrees that getting acceptance from neighbors is the polite thing to do but shouldn’t be a requirement put into the ordinance. Spokane has a 5 foot from property line barrier requirement. “People should be responsible”. She stated that predators are already here; eating other animals and yards. Code enforcement is currently shared between the Colville Tribe and our Police Department.

Mayor Wilder informed the council that he has spoken with other area towns in regards to sharing a code enforcement officer. Our code enforcement is currently being driven by complaint. Mayor asked the council to address the code enforcement issue during the budget process stating that the town needs to be more effective and consistent. “Is the town council in favor of funding an officer?”

Councilwoman Swagerty attended Grand Coulee’s council meeting where discussion was held regarding their need for a code enforcement officer. She also wanted to express that chickens will take care of themselves as far as weather is concerned. She stated that our current code does not prohibit chickens. Jan Williams responded that “there is an ordinance against fowl; isn’t that what a chicken is”?

In response to Councilman Derrick, Keith St. Jeor said that precedence has already been set as to what can and can’t be done on property. He feels that a license situation and asking for neighbors for approval is not a bad idea. St. Jeor also asked if there will be a penalty for people having more dogs or chickens than what is allowed.

Dave Schmidt feels that asking for neighbors permission is a kind thing to do but should not be put into the ordinance, which could cause a lot of conflict.

Quincy Snow referred to Section 9 or proposed ordinance regarding the removal of offspring. “If no roosters are allowed, how will that happen?”

Carol Netzel feels that dogs are more of an issue than chickens.

Ray Gillman stated that he wrote a letter to the town council based on what was written in the newspaper. He was concerned as to what would happen and who is responsible if a chick got through a fence and a dog killed it. Andy Steinart responded by saying that other dogs dig into his yard.

Many in attendance felt that the town should get the code enforcement issue taken care of before considering adoption of a chicken ordinance.

Public hearing closed at 7:05pm

Public Hearing – Six Year Street Plan

Mayor Wilder opened public hearing at 7:10pm to take public testimony on the 2016-2021 Six Year Street Plan. Superintendent Barry Peacock provided the council and public an overview of the plan and explained some funding issues. The town intends to apply for Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) funding. Mr. Peacock informed everyone that you have to have a plan to be considered for funding.

Ray Gillman asked if the “sinkhole” on Yucca Street will be filled. Peacock replied that is was not on the funding schedule at this time.

Mayor informed the public and council that there could be other funding options such as LIDs and RIDs.

Public Hearing closed at 7:23pm

Agenda updates & modifications

None

Consent Agenda

Ken Miles moved and Gayle Swagerty seconded to accept the Consent Agenda. Motion carried.

Minutes Regular Council Meeting – June 10, 2015

Vouchers: Claim Vouchers and Checks:

Claim Voucher No.’s 35080 through 35101, 35110 and EFT’s dated June 24, 2015 in the total amount of \$278,845.79.

Claim Voucher No.’s 35111 through 35154 and EFT’s dated July 8, 2015 in the total amount of \$54,380.57.

Manually issued check No.’s 35079 in the amount of \$300.00 issued on June 15, 2015

Voided Checks: 35132

Payroll: Payroll Voucher No.'s 35078, 35102 through 350109, direct deposits and EFT's dated June 15, 2015 and June 30, 2015 in the total amount of \$ 89,849.34.

Bank Fees: June 2015 in the amount of \$ 5.00.

Treasurer's Report: 2nd Qtr 2015 Financial Report

Action Agenda

- A. AB 2015-018(2), Ordinance No.733, Chicken Hens – First Reading.
Gayle Swagerty moved and Shawn Derrick seconded to accept the first reading of Ordinance No. 733 with modifications. With Derrick and Swagerty voting in favor of and Johnson and Miles against, the Mayor broke the tie in favor of accepting first reading with modifications and requested it be placed on the August 12, 2015 Council Meeting Agenda.
- B. AB 2015-020, Resolution No. 2015-06 Six Year Transportation Improvement Program
After public hearing and discussion, Shawn Derrick moved and Ken Miles seconded to accept Resolution No. 2015-006, adopting the Revised and Extended Six Year Transportation Improvement Plan for Year 2016-2021 as written. Motion carried.
- C. AB 2015-021, Selection of Parks and Historical Resources Board Member
Mayor informed the council that a vacant position on the Parks and Historical Resources had been filled by his appointment of Bob Valen and asked for council's confirmation of action. Gayle Swagerty moved and Duane Johnson seconded to confirm the Parks and Historical Resources Board member appointment made by the Mayor. Motion carried.
- D. AB 2015-022, Ordinance No. 734, Salaries
Mayor Wilder presented a salary ordinance with revised salary for the Public Works Superintendent position. His proposal displayed a 5 step wage scale and was based on information obtained from Association of Washington Cities Salary Survey for towns of comparable size. The step based scale would allow opportunity for salary advancement based on performance. The Public Works Superintendent is a non-union position. Shawn Derrick moved and Duane Johnson seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 734. Motion carried.
- E. Selection of Mayor Pro-Tem
Clerk informed the council that it was time for selection of Mayor Pro-Tempore to serve for six months. Current Pro-tem is Shawn Derrick. Ken miles moved and Shawn

Derrick seconded to appoint Duane Johnson as Mayor Pro-Tempore for July through December 2015. Motion carried.

Discussion Agenda

A. Street Parking issues near the school

Discussions are still being held with the school. Faculty parking, as well as student parking, will be addressed.

B. Riverview Lanes Bowling Alley Lease

Clerk informed the council that Riverview Lanes Bowling Alley is behind in rent for the months of May, June and July. The utilities are also past due and service has been terminated due to non-payment. Clerk asked for council direction as to how to proceed. Council directed the clerk to work with the town attorney for termination of lease and collection of past due monies.

Staff, Council & Committee Reports

Mayor

The garage doors at the fire station have been installed and Superintendent Peacock is working on the keyless entry.

Clerk

The Clerk provided all councilmembers a copy of the 2nd Qtr 2015 Financial Report for review.

Public Works

A high school student has been hired to fill the vacant parks maintenance position.

Police

In the absence to the Police Chief, Mayor informed the council that grant application through the COPS Hiring Program has been made to hire a School Resource Officer. Councilman Derrick requested that Chief Collins attend the next council meeting to discuss code enforcement issues.

Councilmembers

Councilmember Gayle Swagerty asked if we had a Town Flag. It would be nice to have one for the AWC Parade of Flags held at the annual conference.

Swagerty informed the council that she has been working with Lynn Brougher of the USBR and Susan Dechandt on the fallen workers monument/educational exhibit. Mayor reminded the council that this is not a "Town Project". Swagerty is just taking the lead in hopes that other area entities will participate.

Duane Johnson wanted to know what the next step is in the Cole Park update idea. Mayor informed the council that the proposal is being turned over to the Parks Board.

Executive Session

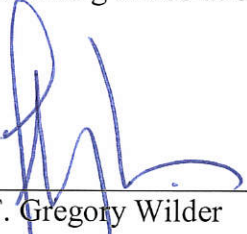
None

Public Input

None

Adjournment

Councilmember Duane Johnson motioned with Councilmember Ken Miles seconding to adjourn Council Meeting #1268 at 8:05p.m. Motion carried.

Mayor  _____
F. Gregory Wilder

Clerk  _____
Stefani Bowden