



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

**Minutes**  
**1279<sup>th</sup> Regular Council Meeting**  
**February 24, 2016**

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

Mayor Wilder called the 1279<sup>th</sup> 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. David Schmidt was excused absent.

Staff Present: Clerk/Treasurer Stefani Bowden.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Duane Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Input**

None

**Agenda updates & modifications**

An executive session under RCW42.30.110 (1) (b) was added under "Executive Session" and was anticipated to last 10 minutes.

**Consent Agenda**

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

Minutes                      Regular Council Meeting – January 27, 2016, February 10, 2016

Vouchers:                      Claim Vouchers and Checks:

Claim Voucher No.'s 35628 through 35642 and EFT's dated February 24, 2016 in the total amount of \$132,174.59

**Action Agenda**

None

## Discussion Agenda

### A. Wastewater Treatment Plant

Updates on the progress of the Wastewater Treatment Project were provided during the 5:30pm Public Meeting earlier in the evening.

### B. Emergency Services Consolidation Meeting

Mayor informed the council of the first meeting held between Coulee Dam and Grand Coulee regarding the potential of future consolidation of emergency services. Mayor Wilder, Acting Police Chief Hall, Acting Fire Chief Bjornson and Councilmembers Duane Johnson and Ben Alling were in attendance along with Mayor, two councilmembers, police chief and fire chief from Grand Coulee.

Duane Johnson reported that they discussed the 3 area towns to see who to improve services. There are several EMT's living in Coulee Dam that currently belong to the Grand Coulee Fire/EMS Department. Sharing of equipment and the costs of Grand Coulee keeping equipment in Coulee Dam along with response times are being looked into. There could be a communications issue with dispatching. Johnson is encouraged to see about consolidating in future and anticipates more discussions with a larger group in the area.

Johnson feels there is also a good opportunity for Police Services consolidation at this time while Larry Hall is serving as Coulee Dam's Acting Police Chief. He feels it will be a learning curve but could enhance our services. He also suggested that the tribe be "in the know". They may have additional services and resources to offer.

Ben Alling agreed with Councilman Johnson. He referenced a couple other small areas in Washington that combined departments. We wouldn't do away with our own fire department but rather just combine as a more regional group. Specialized equipment could be shared for cost savings. Grand Coulee will look at cost of bringing an ambulance down to Coulee Dam. There were some concerns and complexities regarding dispatching services. Two representatives from MACC, which is a private dispatching service for Grant County, were in attendance. Currently all Coulee Dam 911 calls go through Okanogan County Dispatch and Grand Coulee goes through MACC. Any Coulee Dam calls that go through Okanogan County have to be transferred to MACC, which creates a delay in response time.

Bonnie Femling asked is Coulee Dam is paying any of Grand Coulee's expenses. Mayor Wilder responded that we are not, but Grand Coulee has been able to recoup expenses through ambulance fees billed to patients. The Town of Coulee Dam is losing approximately \$40,000 in ambulance revenue per year by not being in service.

Dan Neddo wanted to know the cost difference between the two dispatching services. Those costs are being looked into.

Councilman Keith St. Jeor asked if Coulee Dam's ambulance is usable. It is operational, but there is inadequate EMT staffing.

### **Staff, Council & Committee Reports**

#### Mayor

Mayor and Councilwoman Swagerty met with Colville Tribe Public Works regarding the remodel/addition of the Casino. The tribe shares in the Town's concern over infrastructure issues.

#### Clerk

The audit is wrapping up and an exit conference is anticipated to be scheduled within the next couple of weeks.

#### Councilmembers

Duane Johnson feels the sidewalk inventory should be revisited. There is a safety concern regarding the condition of sidewalks and would like to check for resources to make repairs a higher priority. Mayor Wilder stated that the Public Works is already in the process of reviewing and are currently testing repair methods in a few locations. Mayor is looking for short term ways to fund the repairs. TIB grants are good when the funds are available.

Gayle Swagerty reported on the "good" meeting with the tribe regarding the Casino and said it was nice to know that they are on the "same page".

Swagerty reminded the council that the Town Crew did a sidewalk inventory in the past year.

Acting Public Works Superintendent Mike Steffens is obtaining tree trimming bids. Jan Williams asked how to get her tree on the "priority list". Swagerty suggested that she supply her request to the Parks and Natural Resources Board. It is likely that her tree has already been deemed a priority. Swagerty informed the council that the Town has qualified for the Tree City USA status again this year and is looking for Arbor Day Event ideas.

Tribal College is looking at the Community Church for a center. Swagerty will help facilitate a meeting between the tribe and the Church representatives.

Ben Alling contacted Jerry Kennedy regarding the future plans for the Community Church building. Jerry offered to attend a council meeting is so wished to discuss options and plans. They would like to keep the building as a church. Alling feels it may be too costly for the town to try to acquire the building. The building is in need of roof repairs and the electric bill can be quite high.

Gayle Swagerty and Mayor Wilder attended the meeting with the tribe regarding the Intergovernmental Agreement. It is hopeful that the changed agreement will be ready for presentment by the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in March.

Ben Alling stated that he may not be available for next council meeting due to surgery.

**Public Input**

Dan Neddo asked about the south door of the Fire Department and when it is expected to be operational. It is a warranty issue, the parts have been ordered. Clerk informed the council that notification was received earlier in the day that the parts had to be special made. They should be in within the next week or two. Neddo also asked about the status of the keyless entry. The Mayor has turned it over to the Public Works to get it installed or arrange for installation.

Bonnie Femling asked if any action will take place following the executive session. Clerk and Mayor stated that no action will take place following the session.

**Executive Session**

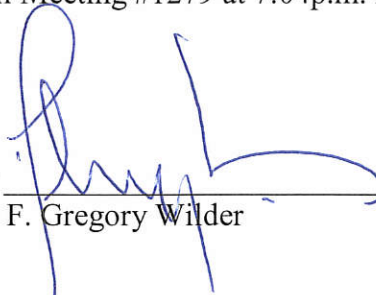
- A. RCW 42.30.110 (1) (b) to consider the selection of a site or the acquisition of real estate by lease or purchase when public knowledge regarding such consideration would cause likelihood of increased price.

Gayle Swagerty moved with Ben Alling seconded to recess into executive session at 6:52pm. Motion carried. Session is anticipated to last approximately 10 minutes.

Mayor Wilder reconvened the regular council meeting at 7:02pm

**Adjournment**

Councilmember Ben Alling motioned with Councilmember Keith St. Jeor seconding to adjourn Council Meeting #1279 at 7:04p.m. Motion carried.

Mayor   
F. Gregory Wilder

Clerk   
Stefani Bowden