6:00 p.m. Regular Council Meeting
Mayor Wilder called the 1303rd 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 14th 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.

Minutes
   Regular Council Meeting – September 13, 2017

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 11th meeting has been rescheduled for October 18th and the October 25th 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 42.30.110 (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 7:20 p.m. Motion carried.

Mayor
F. Gregory Wilder

Clerk
Stefani Bowden