



**Minutes
1451st Regular Council Meeting
May 28, 2025**

5:15 p.m. – Executive Session

RCW 42.30.110

- (1) (c) *To consider the minimum price at which real estate will be offered for sale or lease when public knowledge regarding such consideration would cause a likelihood of decreased price.*
- (1) (h) *To evaluate the qualifications of a candidate for appointment to elective office.*
- (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 Poch opened the executive session at 5:22pm. and estimated the end time to be 6:00pm.

Attendees: Mayor Poch, Councilmembers Black, Schmidt, Adkins (teleconference) and St. Jeor and Clerk Stefani Bowden.

Mayor Poch adjourned the executive session at 5:47pm.

6:00 p.m. Regular Council Meeting

Mayor Poch called the 1451st regular meeting of the Coulee Dam Town Council to order at 6:00pm.

Roll Call

Council members present: Kevin Black, Merv Schmidt, John Adkins (teleconference) and Keith St. Jeor. Larry Hall was absent.

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

Krystal Fillis and Jillian Fillis of the Chamber of Commerce and Scott Hunter of The Star newspaper were also in attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance

Scott Hunter led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Input

None

Updates and Modifications to Agenda

None

Consent Agenda

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

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Vouchers: Claim Vouchers and Checks:
Claim Voucher No. 42327 through 42351 and EFTs dated May 14, 2025 in the total amount of \$ 58,909.81.

Claim Voucher No. 42352 through 42373 and EFTs dated May 28, 2025 in the total amount of \$ 147,171.52.

Manual Vouchers: Claim Voucher No. 42319 dated April 25, 2025 in amount of \$292.93, EFT WEXBANK-CONOCO dated May 1, 2025 in the amount of \$217.91 and CPL-05.20.25 in the amount of \$ 18.00.

Payroll Checks: Payroll Check No.'s 42320 through 42326, EFT's and direct deposits dated April 15, 23 and 30, 2025 in the total amount of \$139,966.45.

Action Agenda

None

Discussion Agenda

a. AWC 2025 WellCity Award

Clerk Stefani Bowden shared with the Council that the Town of Coulee Dam has once again earned the AWC WellCity Award and will be receiving a 2% discount on employee medical insurance for the year 2026. WellCity is achieved by employee participation in the voluntary employee wellness program in 2024 and by the Town meeting certain standards. Clerk Bowden was proud of the program and noted that 2024 was the highest participation by employees since the inception of the program in 2014.

b. Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

Mayor Poch informed the Council that the Tribes have approached the Town regarding installation of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations at the Casino. The Town's main concern is that the additional power load could cause the Town to go over the BPA Tier 1 power allocation and could cause a significant increase in power costs. The Town will also need to set a rate class for Type 3 charging stations.

c. Bonneville Power Contract

The BPA 15-year power contract is coming up for renewal.

d. 2024 Annual Financial Report

Clerk Bowden thanked the councilmembers who have reviewed the draft annual report and provided a full copy of the completed annual financial report. The report is ready for submission and will be submitted to the State after the council meeting.

Staff, Council & Committee Report

Police

Chief Bowden inquired about the hiring of a 5th Officers. It had been previously approved, an officer was hired and started the academy but since that time, the department had an Officer resign to accept employment for another department. The 5th position is currently in the budget. Council consensus was to move forward with recruiting another officer.

Public Works

Superintendent Steffens asked the council what they would like done with the old theater seats that were surplus. The seats are in poor condition with no value. The Council advised to dispose of them.

Council

Councilman Schmidt asked if letters are being sent out to residents that have weed problems. He also asked if residents could be reminded to water their lawns, stating that there are several properties with brown lawns. The Police Chief said that letters have been and will continue to be sent out for weed and tall grass problems, but lack of watering isn't listed as a code compliance issue. The Clerk will send out reminders with the utility bills.

Councilman Adkins wanted to note that he feels law enforcement is critical and is glad that the Council is in support of hiring another Officer.

Clerk


Clerk Bowden notified the Council that bid openings for the TIB ADA Ramp Improvements project and the PWB Sewer Lining Project will be taking place on June 4th.

Public Input

Krystal Fillis of the Chamber of Commerce asked if the electrical project in the park has been completed. Superintendent Steffens confirmed that it has been completed.

Adjournment

Mayor Poch adjourned the meeting at 6:22pm.

Mayor 
Bob Poch

Clerk 
Stefani Bowden