
MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Dalton called the regular meeting to order at approximately 6:00pm.

ROLL CALL:

The following were:

Present: Mayor Dalton, Council Members Tom Poplawski, Tim Snead, Gary Carriere and Mark Nash. Anita Eylar was excused

Also Present: Clerk Lorna Pearce, Chief Fish, Rick Paris, Officer Backus, Linda Roberts, Diane Canady, Nancy Zimmerman-Boord, Kelly Hughes and Shawn Groh, Coulee Medical Center, and Renata Rollins - Star Newspaper

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE:

- 2. PUBLIC HEARING: 2025 Revenue Sources:** Mayor Dalton opened the public hearing at approximately 6:02pm. There was no objection to the Mayor or council participation. Chief Fish told council that he believes the City needs to consider setting the ambulance service as a utility fund in the near future. As there was no other comment received Mayor Dalton closed the public hearing at approximately 6:05pm

3. VISITOR INPUT:

Linda Roberts, 101 Banks Ave., asked why there were seven patrol cars parked at city hall. Mayor Dalton stated that some are up for surplus and some are parked due to the lack of officers.

4. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Fire Department: Chief Fish reported that the ambulance has responded to 467 calls for service to date and that the fire department has responded to 64 calls. Chief will be meeting with the Regional Board of Mayors to discuss the possibility of a Regional EMS Dist.

Public Works Department: Ms. Pearce reported on behalf of the Public Works Department; Ms. Olmstead did a walk through of the crack seal/chip seal combined project, it is complete. The crew is winterizing vehicles and preparing plows.

Finance Department: Ms. Pearce asked council to place discussion of terms of the WWTF loan on the agenda.

Mayor: Mayor Dalton reported to council on the RBOM meeting; there will be free self-haul of yard debris offered Oct. 26th. The Board is looking into replacing the truck used to haul to the landfill. There has been an increase in vandalism to the fence recently. The RBOM will be holding a townhall meeting Nov. 6th at 6pm in the Coulee Dam ballroom to discuss the possibility of a Regional Fire Authority or Ambulance District.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Wastewater Committee: The Joint Board discussed adding Electric City as co-signor to the SJ Environmental agreement when renewed.

Planning Committee: Mr. Snead reported that the planning agency did not meet due to a lack of quorum, options to allowing the hospital to pursue their housing project was to be discussed.


6. **AGENDA REVISIONS:** Mr. Carriere motioned to add discussion of the Dept. of Ecology loan to the agenda as Item 9.11, Mr. Snead second, motion carried.
7. **CONSENT AGENDA:** Mr. Poplawski motioned to approve the consent agenda with adding the voucher numbers, Mr. Carriere second, motion carried.
8. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**
- 8.1 Ordinance 1099 Establishing Pay for Ambulance Attendants:** Mr. Snead motioned to approve Ordinance 1099, Mr. Poplawski second, motion carried. Mr. Carriere recused himself as he is still an EMT.
- 8.2 SJ Environmental Service Agreement:** Council was provided a draft revision of the agreement provided by the Joint Board, this draft had added Electric City as a signor to the agreement. Council was also provided a response from the city attorney; her recommendation was to not add Electric City because Grand Coulee is the majority owner and the administrative city for the wastewater facility.
- 8.3 Ratification of Termination of the USBR Law Enforcement Agreement:** Ms. Pearce explained to council that the attorney had been asked to draft a letter to the Bureau and returned it to the Mayor for review, the letter was mistakenly sent to the Bureau. If council would like the attorney to resend the letter she would reach out to the Bureau. Mr. Poplawski said that the letter was consistent with what had been discussed. Mr. Poplawski motioned to ratify the letter of termination, Mr. Snead second, motion carried.
9. **NEW BUSINESS:**
- 9.1 Chamber 2024 Year in Review:** Ms. Boord provided council with an overview of the Chamber activities for 2024.
- 9.2 Discuss 2025 COLA Increases:** Mr. Poplawski would like to move to a flat rate increase for department heads instead of a percentage increase to keep the disparity between positions in check, Mr. Snead feels increases should be based on experience and knowledge. Mayor Dalton asked the finance committee to discuss and provide information to council at the November meeting. Ms. Pearce was directed to project department head wages for 2025 using the same 2.9% that union employees will receive.
- 9.3 Authorize the Mayor to Sign Reimbursement Requests to WSDOT:** These reimbursements will be for the Spokane Way project which is funded by WSDOT. Mr. Snead motioned to authorize the Mayor to sign WSDOT reimbursement requests; Mr. Carriere second, motion carried.
- 9.4 Accept the James Saunders/Fortuyn Rd. Project as Complete:** Mr. Poplawski motioned to accept the project as complete, Mr. Snead second, motion carried.
- 9.5 Set a Date and Time for Public Hearing on WWTF Design:** By consensus council set November 19, 2024, at 6:00pm.
- 9.6 Discussion of Pursuing Demolition of the Vlachos Building:** After discussion Ms. Pearce was asked to add \$10,000 to the 2025 budget for removal of the building.
- 9.7 Discussion of Appointing LTAC Committee:** Mr. Poplawski offered to look into forming a committee, he will provide information to council at the November meeting.
- 9.8 Authorize the Mayor to Sign Agreement with Fire District #9:** Mr. Carriere motioned to authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement, Mr. Snead second, motion carried.
- 9.9 Setting Salary Range for Chief of Police:** Mayor Dalton would like the city to advertise one more time for a police chief before looking further into alternatives. Mayor Dalton is recommending that the salary range be set at \$110,000 - \$130,000. Mr. Carriere motioned to set the salary range for the police chief at \$110,000 - \$130,000, Mr. Snead second, motion carried.
- 9.10 Set Date and Time for Preliminary Budget Public Hearing:** By consensus council set the hearing for November 19, 2024, immediately following the hearing for the wastewater facility.

City of Grand Coulee, Washington
Regular Council Meeting
October 15, 2024

9.11 Discussion of Term for WWTF Loan: Ms. Pearce told council that Gray & Osborne was assisting with a hardship assessment for funding, one if the items on the form was loan term which provided three options; five years at 1%, 20 years at 2% or 30 years at 2.7%. After some discussion Mr. Snead motioned to request the 30-year term, Mr. Poplawski second, motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no objection, Mayor Dalton adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:30pm.



Ruth Dalton, Mayor



Lorna Pearce, Clerk Treasurer