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**MINUTES**

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**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, Anita Eylar and Mark Nash.  
Gary Carriere was excused.

Also Present: Clerk Lorna Pearce, Chief Fish, Rick Paris, , Linda Roberts, Chuck and Chantel Crowe and Renata Rollins - Star Newspaper

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE:**

- 2. PUBLIC HEARING: Wastewater Facility Design Phase:** The public hearing was canceled, Nancy Wetch, Gray & Osborne, requested to move the public hearing to another date due to the weather conditions.
- 3. PUBLIC HEARING: 2025 Preliminary Budget:** Mayor Dalton opened the public hearing at approximately 6:02pm. There was no objection to the Mayor or council participation. Rick Paris, 119 Loma Lane: Mr. Paris said he realizes that the city is required to provide certain services, and that road maintenance is necessary, his priority would be seeing emergency services funded. Reserve funds are used to replace capitol equipment. Historically cutting transfers to reserve funds has been used to help balance the budget. Over the past two years the city used \$100,000 in ambulance revenue to help balance the budget, he is asking council to consider funding the ambulance and fire reserves. Mr. Paris also suggested that council consider budgeting \$10 - \$20,000 for professional services to develop and EMS District. Mr. Paris said he understood that when the Transportation Benefit Tax was implemented several years ago his understanding was that it would be used for street maintenance not just future street projects. As there was no other comment received Mayor Dalton closed the public hearing at approximately 6:05pm. Mayor Dalton provided information on proposed expenditures and revenue sources for the upcoming year.
- 4. VISITOR INPUT:**
- 5. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**  
Fire Department: Chief Fish let council know that the annual department banquet was scheduled for Dec. 12. The department has been participating in joint training with the Hartline and Coulee City departments. The dept. has been winterizing vehicles. Chief informed council that he had applied for a grant through DNR for a brush truck. Chief Fish said that the call volume for the ambulance had gone up at the beginning of November.  
Finance Department: The third quarter financial report was included in the council packet, Mayor Dalton asked if council had any questions, there were none.
- 6. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**  
Wastewater Committee: Ms. Eylar reported that the joint board had reviewed the budget numbers provided for the WWTF for 2025. The board also discussed the WWTF Interlocal Agreement.  
Labor Committee: The job descriptions are still being developed; they will be ready for review after the first of the year.
- 7. AGENDA REVISIONS:**
- 8. CONSENT AGENDA:** Mr. Poplawski motioned to approve the consent agenda, Mr. Nash second, motion carried.

**9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**9.1 LTAC Committee:** Mr. Poplawski researched the state requirements for an LTAC Committee, Grand Coulee is not required to have a committee due to its size. If council were to decide to implement a committee all of the state requirements would have to be followed. Mr. Poplawski recommends that council continue processing requests for LTAC funds as they have in the past, which is council reviews the requests and sets the amount an applicant may receive. Ms. Pearce will provide council with the funding requests.

**9.2 SJ Environmental Service Agreement:** Ms. Eylar noted that additional language had been added regarding maintenance at the facility. Mr. Nash said that the joint board would like to go to a two-year term. Ms. Pearce said that the union, at this time, will only allow one year term at this time. Mr. Poplawski feels the city needs to decide if they will be hiring employees or continuing with contracted service in future. Mayor Dalton said that she will be meeting with the union on Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> to discuss the service agreement and a possible MOU.

**10. NEW BUSINESS:**

**10.1 Review and Award of Bid for Sewer Cleaning and Video:** Gray & Osborne has reviewed the bid documents and is recommending awarding the bid Vortex Services, LLC. Ms. Eylar motioned to approve awarding the bid for sewer cleaning and video to Vortex Services, LLC, Mr. Snead second, motion carried.

**10.2 Interlocal Wastewater Agreement:** Mayor Dalton reminded council that the original agreement was signed in 1984 when the existing facility was being constructed. The joint board is recommending that a third-party attorney draft a new agreement, and each city would have their attorney review and make recommendations. Ms. Eylar said that AWC and MRSC offer legal consulting, and the joint board would like to reach out to them to what services they could provide. Mr. Poplawski asked about potential cost – this is unknown at this time. Mr. Snead stated he would like to see the two cities utilize the funds to put the topic of consolidation on the ballot, consolidation would eliminate the need for interlocal agreements. Ms. Eylar motioned to authorize the joint board to contact an outside legal source, such as MRSC or AWC to determine if the WWTF contract could be reviewed and updated, Mr. Nash second, motion carried.

**10.3 Resolution 24-07 Increase Property Tax Revenue:** Ms. Eylar motioned to approve Resolution 24-07, Mr. Snead second, motion carried.

**10.4 Grant County Health Dept. Request for Funding:** Mr. Poplawski motioned to not provide assistance to Grant County Health, Mr. Snead second, motion carried.

**10.5 Accepting the Regional Street Project as Complete:** Ms. Pearce let council know that the Public Works Director had done a walk-through with the engineer and contractor after the project was complete, there were no outstanding items to be completed. Ms. Eylar motioned to accept the project as complete, Mr. Snead second, motion carried.

**10.6 Discussion of Utility Rate Increases:** Ms. Pearce told council that the projections she provided were with a three percent increase to the water/sewer rates and a two percent increase to garbage rates. Ms. Eylar asked about the additional \$7.75 on the sewer charges, Ms. Pearce said that these funds would be used to make the loan payment on the wastewater facility loans, council either start doing incremental increases or wait until the project is complete and add the entire amount at that time. Ms. Pearce asked council to consider implementing the increase for the loan repayment as an assessment, this would allow that fee to drop off once the loan is paid in full. Council asked that the attorney be consulted regarding the assessment and to bring the applicable documents for the rate increases to council at the regular meeting.

**10.7 Authorize the Mayor to Sign the Agreement with Boulder Park, Inc.:** Ms. Pearce asked if council had reviewed the information provided by the attorney regarding additional language that had been added to the agreement. The attorney has reached out to Boulder Park on behalf of several municipalities that contract with Boulder Park asking that the language be removed or revised. No action was taken, council will wait to hear from the attorney.

**10.8 Appoint Mayor Pro Tempore – Appointment Would be Through 2025:** By consensus council decided to wait due to a council member being absent.

**10.9 Resolution 24-08 Approving the RBOM 2025 Budget:** The Regional Board of Mayors approved the 2025 budget at their November meeting. Ms. Eylar motioned to approve Resolution 24-08, Mr. Snead second, motion carried.

**10.10 Authorize the Mayor to Sign the Mutual Aid Agreement with USBR for Fire Protection:** Mr. Poplawski motioned to authorize the Mayor to sign the mutual aid agreement, Ms. Eylar second, motion carried.

**10.11 Insurance Comparison – CIAW and AWC RMSA:** Ms. Eylar feels that even though AWC’s rate was \$50,000 more than CIAW the city should look further into the differences between the two policies. Ms. Eylar motioned to accept CIAW’s quote for 2025, , Mr. Snead second, motion carried.

**10.12 Set a Date for Budget Workshop:** By consensus council set Monday, December 2, 2024 at 3pm for the budget workshop and reset the WWTF Design public hearing for that date also.

**10.13 Request for Relief of Late Fee – Acct. 2425.2 – First Request:** Ms. Eylar motioned to approve the removal of the late fee, Mr. Poplawski second, motion carried.

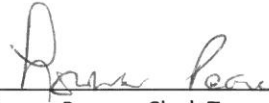
**10.14 Consideration of Proposal by Vyve Broadband for Telephone Service:** Ms. Eylar motioned to accept the proposal, Mr. Snead second, Mr. Poplawski asked if any other providers had been contacted, Ms. Pearce said no, that Vyve had approached the city. Chief Fish said that the city should ask about installing an LTE system, this would function as backup when the internet goes down. Ms. Eylar rescinded her motion. Ms. Pearce was asked to research other companies that provide broadband service and also to look into the LTE system and the cost and bring the information to council in December.

#### ADJOURNMENT

As there was no objection, Mayor Dalton adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:38pm.



Ruth Dalton, Mayor



Lorna Pearce, Clerk Treasurer