
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.

Also Present: Clerk Lorna Pearce, Chief Fish, Ruth Olmstead, PWD, Officer Hopper, Robin Boyce, Renata Rollins, Linda Roberts, Chuck and Chantel Crowe, and Scott Hunter, Star Newspaper

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE:

- 2. PUBLIC HEARING: K & E Short Plat:** Mayor Dalton opened the public hearing at approximately 6:02pm. There was no objection to the Mayor or council's participation. As there was no comment received Mayor Dalton closed the public hearing at approximately 6:05pm.
- 3. VISITOR INPUT:** Linda Roberts asked if a Police Chief had been hired, Mayor Dalton stated that an offer of employment has been made, and the applicant is going through the background process.
- 4. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**
Fire Department: Chief Fish let council know that the DNR truck has not arrived yet, probably another two weeks. The tender truck is in the shop being fitted for the new tank. Chief said the ambulance has had 188 calls since January, 47% of the calls have been non-transports. There have been 11 fire calls for the year. He has been researching the Regional Fire Authority/EMS District looking to see if creating either would be financially feasible.
Public Works: PWD Olmstead let council know that the backhoe had been picked up and transported for service, the radiator may need to be repaired/replaced, the street sweeper has had some of the hydraulic hoses replaced. The crew has removed the lilacs at the park to make room for additional parking. The contractor has completed Phase 1 of the sewer cleaning/video, it looks like Midway Ave. sewer will be a good candidate for a sewer liner.
Finance Department: Ms. Pearce had provided a letter from a citizen requesting to purchase a city owned parcel, Mayor Dalton referred this to the planning committee for further research.
- 5. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
Planning Committee: The planning agency discussed the request by Coulee Medical Center for employee housing, the agency recommendation is to amend Title 17 in the Municipal Code to allow essential public services/housing in the Commercial Highway Zone with a Conditional Use Permit once Coulee Medical Center has confirmed funding/submitted the development application.
WWTF Committee: The JBO will meet on March 20th, the board will review the revised agreement with SJ Environmental at this meeting.
- 6. AGENDA REVISIONS:**
- 7. CONSENT AGENDA:** Mr. Poplawski motioned to approve the consent agenda, Mr. Carriere second, motion carried.

City of Grand Coulee, Washington
Regular Council Meeting
March 18, 2025

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

8.1 Camera/Alarm System City Hall: Mr. Nash recommended the city utilize Ring, he will provide more information on the cost at the next meeting. Mr. Poplawski had asked about retention of the video; the video needs to be retained for 30 days unless it is needed for evidence in a police action.

8.2 Discussion SJ Environmental Agreement: The revised agreement has a term of five years; SJ will continue to provide service on a month -to-month basis until they have signed their agreement with Teamsters. Consensus of council was they would like to see a five-year agreement. The joint board and Electric City will be reviewing the agreement at their perspective meetings.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

9.1 WWTF Design – Non-Potable Water System: Ms. Pearce let council know that Nancy Wetch, engineer, needs and answer regarding adding the non-potable water system and the de-watering system to the design for updates to the wastewater facility. Mr. Snead feels that potable water should not be used for facility operations, but for drinking water. PWD Olmstead is concerned about the cost, it could take twenty years for the system to pay for itself. Mr. Poplawski motioned to move forward with the non-potable system but not the de-watering system, Mr. Snead second, motion carried.

9.2 Grant County PUD Pay Station Agreement: Ms. Pearce let council know that the new agreement has an increase to the payment amount of \$500.00 for the first year and a 4.5% increase each year after. Council had no issues with agreement. Ms. Pearce will notify Grant County PUD to move forward with finalizing the agreement.

9.3 Discussion of Implementing a Fee on Vacant Buildings in the Business District: Mr. Poplawski said there are several buildings within the business district that have been empty for an extended period of time and are deteriorating. He feels that implementing this type of ordinance may encourage owners to either open their doors or possibly sell to another business. Mr. Poplawski provided council with a sample ordinance and information. Mayor Dalton referred this to the legislative committee for further review.

9.4 K & E Short Plat Approval or Denial of Application: Mr. Snead motioned to approve the application, Mr. Carriere second, motion carried.

9.5 Planning Agency Recommendation on Hospital Development: Mr. Snead said that the planning agency is favor of updating the code to allow housing for essential public services. Would like to either wait until the hospital submits an application or incorporate it into the comprehensive plan update. Ms. Pearce let council know that the veterinarian would like to construct a large animal day facility on a parcel that is zoned R-3 High Density Residential, this would also require a change to the current allowed uses in the code. Council would like more information from the veterinarian regarding their plans.

9.6 Authorize SCJ Alliance to Complete an Application for a Periodic Update Grant for the Comprehensive Plan: Mr. Poplawski motioned to authorize SCJ Alliance to complete the grant application, Mr. Snead 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

City of Grand Coulee, Washington
Regular Council Meeting
March 18, 2025