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**MINUTES**

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**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**ROLL CALL:**

The following were:

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

Also Present: Clerk Lorna Pearce, Chief Fish, Chief Ponusky, Kelly Hughes and Sean Groh, Coulee Medical Center, Jillian and Crystal, Chamber of Commerce, Olivia Ponusky, Andrew Dobson, and Linda Roberts

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE:**

- 2. Public Hearing 2026 Revenue Sources:** Mayor Dalton opened the public hearing at approximately 6:01pm. There was no public comment or council input. Mayor Dalton closed the hearing at approximately 6:04pm.
- 3. Public Hearing 2026 Preliminary Budget:** Mayor Dalton opened the hearing at approximately 6:05pm. Chief Fish reminded council that one of the ambulances will need to be replaced within the next two years. Currently there is the potential for a new ambulance to take two years to receive, he would like council to prepare for funding for that replacement.
- 4. Visitor Input:** Sean Grow, Coulee Medical Center provided council with updated information on the funding for staff housing. CMC has received acknowledgment that they will receive \$3 million dollars in federal funding for the project, and they are currently working with Grant County Economic Development for grant funds for the infrastructure. Mr. Groh thanked the council for their support of the project.
- Linda Roberts, 101 Banks Ave., inquired whether speed was being checked on Midway Ave, the Wayfinder group has been picketing and is concerned with rate of speed of some of the vehicles. Ms. Roberts asked council if the group could block off space in front of Jean Comstock's building for people to drop off donations to the group. Mr. Poplawski stated that WSDOT is in control of Midway Ave. they would be who would need to give permission to close off a portion of Midway.
- 5. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**
- Fire Department: Chief Fish reported that the tender truck purchased in 2024 was home and is almost ready to be put into service. Structure truck needs new brakes; this could cost between \$5 and \$6 thousand dollars. The dept. has responded to four fire calls and 40 ambulance calls since the last meeting. Chief also reported that the fire roster is full with thirty members.
- Police Dept. Chief Ponusky reported that the dept. is once again down to two officers, he is hoping to have an ad out soon and begin the hiring process.
- Finance Department: Ms. Pearce told council that Ms. Christy had resigned from her council position, she will publish the opening. Ms. Crowe resigned her position as deputy clerk effective immediately, the position will be advertised next week. Ms. Pearce has been working on the budget.

**6. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Mayor:** Mayor Dalton let council know that she had met with the Chamber of Commerce and Ms. Ralston to discuss Washingtons 200<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration.

**WWTF Committee:** Mr. Nash reported that the revision of the wastewater ILA is still in process.

**7. AGENDA REVISIONS:**

**8. CONSENT AGENDA:** Mr. Nash motioned to approve the consent agenda, Mr. Snead second, motion carried.

**9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**9.1 Spectrum Phone Service – Discussion:** Wayne Redman, Spectrum was present to answer questions that council may have. Spectrum is recommending the city switch from landlines, where possible, to internet-based phone service. There would be significant savings to the city for the monthly service, approximately \$300 per month less than the current service through Centurylink. The two telemetry lines would have to remain landlines at this time.

**9.2 TextMyGov – Discussion/Decision:** Mr. Poplawski would still like to see a single system for the three communities. Mr. Snead thought it may be good option for the public to stay in touch. Mr. Snead motioned to contract with TextMyGov at the base contract price, there was no second to the motion. Mr. Poplawski added that with budget concerns, where would the funds come from, who would be initiating the information that would be sent out, who would receive incoming information if that option were initiated, feels more planning should be done.

**9.3 Vacant Business Ordinance:** Council was provided with a draft ordinance requiring vacant businesses to be registered with the city, along with other items of compliance. Council asked that this be placed on the December agenda so that they would have more time to review the draft ordinance.

**10. NEW BUSINESS:**

**10.1 2026 Utility Rates – Discussion/Decision:** Ms. Pearce provided information to council with a recommended 3% increase to both the water and sewer rates and a \$13.00 fee to fund the upcoming WWTF/Sewer loans for upcoming upgrades. Ms. Pearce also recommended a 2% increase to the solid waste fees. Mr. Poplawski motioned to approve a 3% increase to the sewer rates for 2026 and the additional \$13 for loan repayment, Mr. Snead second, motion carried. Mr. Snead motioned to approve a 3% increase to the water rates for 2026, Mr. Poplawski second, motion carried. Ms. Pearce will speak with the attorney regarding the \$13 fee for loan repayment and establishing a separate reserve fund.

**10.2 LTAC Committee Recommendation for 2026 Disbursement:** Mr. Snead stated that the committee would like to have given what each entity requested but the funds are not there. The committee recommended:

**\$18,000 to the Chamber of Commerce**

**\$18,000 to Ridge Riders**

**\$7,000 to Coulee Area Parks and Recreation District**

**\$7,000 to Run the Dam**

**\$2,000 to Reel Recreation**

Mr. Nash motioned to approve the recommendations made by the LTAC committee, Mr. Snead second, motion carried.

**10.3 AWC Student Leader Scholarship – Discussion/Decision:** Mr. Snead feels this is a great program for the area students. Mr. Poplawski motioned to offer the scholarship program for 2026 graduating seniors, Mr. Snead second, motion carried. Mr. Poplawski offered to head the committee.

**10.4 Resolution 25-12 Increase to Property Tax Revenue:** Mr. Snead motioned to approve Resolution 25-12, Mr. Poplawski second, motion carried.


**10.5 Grant County Health District Request for Funding:** Ms. Pearce said that she had included \$2 per resident in the 2026 preliminary budget after this had been discussed previously. Mr. Poplawski motioned to approve providing Grant County Dept. of Health with \$2 per resident in 2026, Mr. Snead second, motion carried.

**10.6 Set Date and Time for Public Hearing on 2026 Final Budget:** By consensus council set the date for the public hearing on Dec. 16, 2025, at 6:00pm.

Nic Alexander asked if the committee for the senior living facility could be placed on the December agenda so that an update on the progress could be provided to the council.

**ADJOURNMENT**

As there was no objection, Mayor Dalton adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:16pm.

  
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Ruth Dalton, Mayor

  
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Lorna Pearce, Clerk Treasurer