

City of Grand Coulee
City Council
May 19, 2026

MINUTES

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 Andrew Dobson, Tim Snead, Mark Nash, and Eric Ahlem, Gary Carriere was not present, unexcused. Mr. Nash motioned to not excuse Mr. Carriere, Mr. Ahlem second, motion carried.

Also Present: Clerk Lorna Pearce, Chief Ponusky, Chief Fish, Ruth Olmstead, PWD, Crystal and Jillian, Chamber of Commerce, Nichole Ahlem, Rick Paris and Scott Hunter, Star Newspaper

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

- 2. Visitor Input:** Rick Paris, 919 Loma Lane, reminded council that the week of May 17th through May 24th EMS week. The ambulance service received high marks for their data quality submittals. Mr. Paris commented that he felt there was misinformation released regarding the ambulance fees covering all costs, from 2000 – 2019 all costs were covered with the revenue received. The fee schedule for the ambulance has a 10% cost increase to non-residents of Grand Coulee. Mr. Paris feels one of the biggest issues with the service is the lack of volunteers that are responding. Mr. Paris gave a brief breakdown of payors of the service; 45% are paid by Medicare, 30% are paid by Medicaid, 7.8% are paid by private individuals.

Mr. Nash announced the American Legion breakfast on Saturday.

3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Fire Department: Countywide Mutual Aid agreement is being reviewed and possibly revised. The department will be looking into what to do with the third ambulance; keep or sell, there have been a couple of people interested in purchasing it.

Public Works: The crew repaired a water main by Wheatland Bank Colorama week, the Chamber was happy that the service was restored prior to the festivities in North Dam park.

Police Chief: Chief Ponusky thanked the Chamber for their co-ordination of law enforcement for the parade. The department responded to sixty calls for service for the month.

Finance: The revenue and expenditure reports were provided in the council packet. Progress is being made on the City Hall repairs.

Mayor:

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

WWTF Committee:

5. AGENDA REVISIONS:

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

7. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

7.1 SJ Environmental 5 Year Service Agreement: Mr. Nash asked if the union agreement with SJ Environmental required any action on councils' part, no. Mr. Dobson motioned to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the SJ Environmental agreement, Mr. Ahlem second, motion carried. Mr. Snead abstained from the vote due to his son being one of the partners in SJ Environmental.

7.2 Discussion of Continuing the City Website: Ms. Pearce said that office staff had researched into a grant to assist the city with paying for the required updates to the website, none were found. Ms. Pearce did let council know that the deadline to meet the new ADA requirements had been extended to 2028, so the city website is still active. Staff will continue to look for grants.

7.3 Ambulance Fees-Activity Per City: Chief Fish provided estimated calls per city from Jan. 1, 2026, to April 30, 2026, to the council, Chief also provided council with a readiness cost for the ambulance when a call for service is received. Mr. Dobson recommended that this be placed in committee for further consideration. Mayor Dalton asked the Public Safety committee, Mr. Snead and Mr. Dobson, to review and research and to try to have further information for the next council meeting.

8. **New Business:**

8.1 Ordinance 1109 Amending Ordinance 1105 Regulating Maintenance of Vacant Commercial Properties: This ordinance expands the commercial zones that will be affected. Mr. Snead motioned to approve Ordinance 1109, Mr. Ahlem second, motion carried.

8.2 Discussion of Restricting the Sale of Kratom Within Grand Coulee: Grant County Health District had asked that cities and towns within Grant County consider banning the sale of Kratom due to an increase in overdoses and no federal regulations currently in place. Mr. Dobson said that he had done some research, Kratom is used by many for pain management and withdrawal symptoms, he does not feel it should be banned but regulated. He would like to see the city wait until there are federal guidelines are put in place. Mr. Ahlem feels that if it is being utilized to ease the symptoms of withdrawal it should be prescribed. The potential loss of tax revenue to the city and business owners that are currently selling the product was also discussed. Mr. Dobson offered to do more research and provide additional information to council at the next meeting.

8.3 Review and Award of City Hall Exterior Painting Bids: There were four bids received for the painting with a range from \$12,536.83 to \$23,848.00. Mr. Snead motion to accept the bid from Rhizor's Painting LLC in the amount of \$12,536.83, Mr. Ahlem second, motion carried with 3 yay votes and 1 nay.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no objection, Mayor Dalton adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:50 pm.


Ruth Dalton, Mayor


Lorna Pearce, Clerk Treasurer

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