

Record of Proceedings Town of Elmer City February 12, 2026

The Town of Elmer City Council met in regular session at 505 Seaton Ave, Elmer City, Washington on the 12th day of February 2026. Mayor Jesse Tillman, City Councilmembers Michael Humiston, William Dunlap, Clara Carson, Flora Long, Terje Berg, and Maintenance/Water Specialist Jimmer Tillman and Clerk/Treasurer Kelly Ross were in attendance or present via zoom.

Mayor Jesse Tillman opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approve Meeting Minutes: Terje moved to approve the Jan 15, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes. Bill seconded the motion, all were in favor, motion carried.

Mayor Report: Jesse stated he did not have anything to report.

Old Business: Discussion was held about the dogs' at large issue in town.

New Business: Michael moved to approve the TIB Consultant Agreement. Terje seconded the motion, all were in favor, motion carried.

Bill moved to approve the Professional Engineering Services Contract with Gray and Osborne. Flora seconded the motion, all were in favor, motion carried.

Terje moved to approve the PWB Pre-Construction Funding Agreement. Clara seconded the motion, all were in favor, motion carried.

6 p.m. Public Hearing:

Jesse opened the public hearing at 6 p.m. and explained why the Town needs to adjust utility rates.

Elmer City received a letter from Coulee Dam's attorney Micheal Howe, dated 4/15/2023, stating that Coulee Dam will not renew the contract and Elmer City will need to make alternate arrangements for sewer treatment.

Elmer City had a 50-year contract with Coulee Dam for sewer treatment; the contract expired on 12/31/2024. To no avail this past year Elmer City and Coulee Dam have been working toward a sewer treatment contract.

On 4/14/2025 Elmer City received a bill of \$105,093.72 for the first quarter of 2025 for sewer treatment, based on \$159.96 per ERU*. Elmer City's attorney sent a letter to opposing council requesting clarification as why \$159.96 is a reasonable rate. With no response, on 6/23/2025 Elmer City determined that \$42.36 per ERU was a reasonable rate and sent a check in the amount of \$21,984.84.

On 11/24/2025 Elmer City was awarded an \$816,000 loan/grant from Washington State Public Works Board for per-construction to build a sewer evaporation lagoon to serve Elmer City and the surrounding communities. Per a letter from Coulee Dam's attorney, their treatment plant is at capacity and will not support growth. The area north of Coulee Dam has the capacity to grow immensely, this could mean 100 or more homes.

Coulee Dam filed a complaint for damages and injunctive relief with Okanogan County superior court to be heard on 12/12/2025. Elmer City's attorney was at the hospital with an emergency with his wife,

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so he was present via zoom. Elmer City's attorney was not able to clarify to the judge that Coulee Dam only provides sewer treatment to Elmer City. The judge granted the Coulee Dam preliminary injunction in the amount of \$98.98 per ERU, pretreat sewer and move away from Coulee Dam treatment plant.

Coulee Dam then sent a bill in the amount of \$207,558.48 for the 2025 sewer treatment, which Elmer City paid \$94,242.67 of that bill. (Jan - Dec 11, 2025 Elmer City paid \$42.36 per ERU & Dec 12-31, 2026 we paid the \$98.98 per ERU.)

In years past Elmer City paid an average of \$14 per ERU this was based on sewer flow through Coulee Dam's expenditures and did not include the loan payment for their new plant. Elmer City was able to maintain its collection system and place funds into reserves.

Coulee Dam's charge of \$98.98 per ERU does not include maintenance to Elmer City's collection system or the cost to pretreat the sewer with chemicals. Elmer City will need another \$45 - \$50 per ERU just to pay the \$98.98 per ERU. The sewer rates for Elmer City customers would need to be at least \$172 per household per month to pay for collections, treatment, and to pretreat the sewer which is a hardship for this community of 50% Native American and low-income households.

Flora moved to approve Ordinance 393, Increasing Monthly Utility Rates for Sewerage System, and lowering rates for Water Service, for the 2026 billing, Effective March 1, 2026. Clara seconded the motion, all were in favor, motion carried.

Jesse closed the public meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Public Comment Period per RCW 42.30: Public in attendance had no comments. (see sign in sheet)

Maintenance/Water Specialist Report: Jimmer stated he attended the OCOG meeting.

Clerk/Treasurer Report: Kelly stated she did not have anything to report.

Approval of Claims: Clara moved to approve the **Feb 2026** claims/vouchers in the amount of \$24,899.35 warrant number 10663 to 10682 & EFT, and **Jan 2025** payroll in the amount of \$12,138.93 Flora seconded the motion, all were in favor, motion carried.

Adjourn: Terje moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m. Clara seconded the motion, all were in favor, motion carried.



TOWN OF ELMER CITY
ELMER CITY, WASHINGTON


JESSE O. TILLMAN, Mayor

ATTEST:


KELLY ROSS, Clerk/Treasurer