

MEETING OF THE CITY OF CONNELL, WASHINGTON
CONNELL, FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

August 28, 2006

The regular semi-monthly meeting, of the City Council of the City of Connell was called to order by the Mayor at 7:30 pm in the City Hall and was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor Gary Walton, Mayor Pro Tem Ron Boyer, Councilmembers Jim Klindworth, Rhonda Quinton and Monica Pruett.

EXCUSED: Councilmember Kent Mosbrucker

STAFF: City Administrator Art Tackett, Police Chief Rick Rochleau, City Attorney Terry Tanner, and Deputy Clerk Treasurer Maria ChavezPeña.

VISITORS: Larry Hueter, Rob Herzog, DOC; Jim Riddell; Ryan Lepel, Sound Solutions; Janine White, B/F Community Action Committee; and Kathy Bingham, Franklin County Graphic.

CORRESPONDENCE

Clark Mosquito Control – Information on products for mosquito control.

APPOINTMENTS

Councilmember Klindworth was temporarily appointed to the Finance Committee to replace Councilmember Mosbrucker who was out due to surgery.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion: Councilmember Quinton moved to approve the Consent Calendar as listed with a correction to the last paragraph on page four of the minutes under Street Project Approval to read “the street between...” instead of “the alley between...”.

- a) Minutes of the August 14, 2006 Regular Council Meeting
- b) Warrant Register for August 15 , 2006 for \$428.97.
- c) Warrants for August 28, 2006 for \$65,801.89.
- d) Payroll for August 28 , 2006 for \$104,773.28
- e) Motion to approve Ordinance No. 800 Vacate Old’s Road Right-of-Way

Councilmember Pruett seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Councilmember Klindworth moved to approve the agenda as listed. Councilmember Boyer seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

B/F COMMUNITY ACTION COMMITTEE PRESENTATION

Janine White, of the Benton Franklin Community Action Committee, was present to update Council on the efforts being undertaken to reduce homelessness and to request Council's continued support. In 2005 the State legislature passed House Bill 2163 to provide for a 10 year plan on addressing homelessness and for the formation of an advisory body or task force to oversee that 10 year plan. The goal of the 10 year plan would be to reduce homelessness in the state by 50% by 2015. Revenue generated to fund the creation and implementation of this plan came from document fees such as recording fees from the Auditor's office. This generated approximately \$12 million state wide with \$60, 000 to \$75,000 of that going to Franklin County. Home Base, a one stop intake and assessment of placement management for the homeless, was implemented in February and had already placed over one hundred families. An online information system had also been set up to work with other State agencies. Public rollout of the plan would take place on August 29th and information would be available at Mid-Columbia library branches.

SOUND SOLUTIONS PRESENTATION

City Administrator Tackett reported that City Clerk Treasurer Eckman, Deputy Clerk Treasurer ChavezPeña and himself had met with a representative from Sound Solutions to discuss options for updating the sound system in Council Chambers. There had been an ongoing issue with people being able to hear in the Council Chambers which was exacerbated by the poor quality of the current recorder being used by the City. Staff scoped out a potential sound system which would address the City's needs for a number of years. The need to be able to hear each other, have access to records, and speed up the ability to retrieve information was especially critical in the age of increased participation by the community.

Ryan Lepel, from Sound Solutions, discussed the Sound Forge system for audio recording. Five microphones would be utilized, three on the Council bench, one for the staff table, and a wireless one for the audience. Two speakers would be set into the ceiling over the audience area. This would assist the audience in hearing the meetings better. There were two additional options to the agreement, one for a laptop computer with the Sound Forge system, and another option for a hearing assistance system as the Council Chambers were not up to hearing assistance standards. The system came with a one year warranty but there was an extended warranty that could be added.

Attorney Tanner stressed the importance of having a good sound system for the court proceedings.

Motion: Councilmember Klindworth moved to authorize staff to prepare bid documents to purchase a new sound and recording system. Councilmember Pruett seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

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After further discussion Council requested staff look into using the Small Works Roster for proposals.

CRCC PRISON EXPANSION - NORTH END WATER MAIN PROJECT

City Administrator Tackett provided that the North End Water Main Project had a couple of punch list items to be completed. All other DOC water/sewer utility development projects were waiting for the land appraisal expected from the Bureau of Reclamation in October.

CONTRACT WATER RIGHTS

City Administrator Tackett reported that he had taken it upon himself to talk to Tim Reiersen in regards to Water Rights. It was very time consuming to transfer water rights from agriculture to municipal. Now was a good time to show a need for use of those water rights as municipal use with the prison expansion and new construction currently occurring. DOE would try to obtain at least 10% of the 1411 remaining acre feet. Their rationale being that irrigation does not occur year round and therefore these are not year round rights and are subject to being relinquished. The last time the City converted water rights it first went through Franklin County Conservancy Board for initial approval and then went to DOE for final approval. This time it would go directly to DOE and hopefully, with help from Mr. Reiersen and Senator Schoesler, a strong enough case could be built so that the City wouldn't lose too many acre feet of water rights.

Motion: Councilmember Pruett moved to proceed with water right conversion and to contract with Tim Reiersen to convert those water rights from agriculture to municipal. Councilmember Boyer seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

PROPERTY ISSUES

To be discussed in Executive Session.

APOLLO

To be discussed in Executive Session.

COMMITTEE / DEPARTMENT REPORTS

COMMITTEE REPORTS – City Administrator Tackett

There would be a Park & Rec meeting on August 29 at 6:30. Would be meeting at Pioneer Park for a status report of the park. Then would continue the meeting at the City Hall to discuss the Park & Rec budget for next year and to discuss the pool, lifeguards, etc for next year.

CONNELL POLICE DEPARTMENT – Police Chief Rick Rochleau

- 1) Received a request from the Connell Downtown Development Association to block off Adams in front of the City Hall for Friday September 8th for entertainment. The street would be blocked off between 4:00 and 7:00 pm.

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- 2) Arrested one individual in regards to vehicle prowls, working with another agency to locate the other individual involved.
- 3) Arrested a juvenile for graffiti to the swimming pool building.
- 4) The first chicken citation was given.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – City Administrator Art Tackett

- 1) Added David Hart to the Prison Impact Committee.
- 2) Added a senior citizen chairperson (possibly Don Krein) to the Community Center Committee, and added Casey Hart to the Community Center Committee.

Council gave its consensus to add those individuals to the committees.

- 3) CRCC would be holding a ribbon cutting ceremony for October 24th.
- 4) Set a Council Retreat for November 17th & 18th.
- 5) Finance Committee meeting set for September 6th at 7:00 am at Michael Jay's.

MAYOR'S REPORT – Mayor Garland Walton

Advised that the Keenagers had started a memorial fund for Bertie Griggs and were holding fundraisers to raise money for a new dishwasher.

Councilmember Pruett advised that she had brought in the Chamber's payment for the Chamber's portion of the float truck.

MEETING RECESSED

Mayor Walton recessed the regular meeting at 9:04 pm to go into Executive Session for approximately fifteen minutes to discuss legal issues for Apollo and property issues.

MEETING RECONVENED AND ADJOURNED

Mayor Walton reconvened the regular meeting at 9:25 pm and there being no further business to be heard before the City Council the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST: _____
Maria T. ChavezPeña, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer

Garland D. Walton, Mayor