

MEETING OF THE CITY OF CONNELL, WASHINGTON

CONNELL, FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

October 9, 2006

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

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Councilmembers Jim Klindworth, Kent Mosbrucker, Rhonda Quinton and Monica Pruett.

EXCUSED: Mayor Gary Walton, Mayor Pro Tem Ron Boyer

STAFF: City Administrator Art Tackett, Police Chief Rick Rochleau, City Clerk Treasurer Joan Eckman, Deputy City Clerk Treasurer Maria ChavezPeña and Public Works Maintenance Sterling Joyner.

VISITORS: Jim Winebarger; Jim Riddell; Brad O'Carll; Tom Fisher; Molly Kunkel; Jane Winslow, WinSome Design; and Kathy Bingham, Franklin County Graphic.

APPOINTMENTS

Motion: Councilmember Pruett moved to appoint Councilmember Jim Klindworth as the Chairperson in the absence of the Mayor and the Mayor Pro Tem. Councilmember Quinton seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion: Councilmember Quinton moved to approve the Consent Calendar as listed:

- a) Minutes of the September 25, 2006 Regular Council Meeting
- b) Warrant Register of October 2, 2006 for \$147.84
- c) Warrants for October 9, 2006 for \$47,384.99
- d) Payroll for October 9, \$11,316.38

Councilmember Pruett seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairperson Councilmember Klindworth made the following additions to the agenda:

- Item 14 a) Approval for Protective Coating on Murals
- Item 14 b) Flu and Pneumonia shots for Staff and Council

Motion: Councilmember Mosbrucker moved to approve the agenda as listed. Councilmember Quinton seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

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ORDER OF BUSINESS

PUBLIC HEARING – AMENDING THE 2006 BUDGET

Chairperson Councilmember Klindworth opened the public hearing at 7:36 pm for the purpose of amending the 2006 Fiscal Year Budget.

City Clerk Treasurer Eckman expressed that the budget would be increased by \$1,152,094. Of this amount only about \$608,000 was actual dollars, the other portion of the increase was due to transfers. The City had completed various land sales, received an increase in sales & use tax revenue, and received management fees from DOC, all which lead to an increase in revenue. On the expenditure side, there were expenditures for weed spraying at the farm, consulting fees for engineer and prison impacts, equipment repair and replacement (council/court recording system), and transfers to the General Support Fund. Other changes reflected in the budget amendment included the creation of two new funds (111 and 103) and the closure of Fund 631. City Clerk Treasurer Eckman advised that the amended budget for 2006 came to \$13,397,385.00.

Chairperson Councilmember Klindworth opened the hearing to receive questions from the audience.

Sterling Joyner inquired about the monetary difference between Community Policing Fund 103 and Community Policing Fund 631.

City Clerk Treasurer Eckman responded that the funds from 631 had been moved to Fund 103 and also included approximately \$3,000 in confiscated money. The reason for the fund number change was due to the purpose of the fund having changed. The fund had been established as the Drug Investigation Fund but over the years other programs had been added (Police Reserve Program, Block Watch, Night Court, Explorers, etc.). The auditors had indicated that since each fund number series was for a specific purpose the correct number series for those funds was 111 which was designated for special programs.

Chairperson Councilmember Klindworth closed the public hearing at 7:43 pm.

PUBLIC HEARING – REVIEW REVENUE SOURCES AND PROPERTY TAXES

Chairperson Councilmember Klindworth opened the public hearing at 7:45 to review revenue sources and property taxes.

City Clerk Treasurer Eckman provided Council with the 2007 revenue projections. Property tax had been held at 1% over the previous year's revenue, which would provide the City with about \$3,000. A levy would be established in the amount of \$14,851 to pay off the Park Bond in the General Obligation Fund. The majority in the increase of the City's revenue would come from the retail sales and use tax, approximately \$700,000. A couple of new items added to the 2007 revenue projections included Plan Check fees and Property Management.

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Ordinance No. 814 setting Ad Valorem General Property Taxes would be presented at the October 23rd Council meeting. A Budget Workshop would be set for October 30th at 6:00 at Michael Jay's and would be open to the public.

Chairperson Councilmember Klindworth closed the public hearing at 7:51 pm.

GENERAL PROJECT STATUS – ANDERSON PERRY

City Administrator Tackett reported that staff was waiting to proceed with the sewer and water tower for the CRCC expansion until the appraisal had been completed. The City was running a little behind schedule but it would not hold up the prison construction.

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION – WEB SITE

City Administrator Tackett reported that he had been approached by the Connell Downtown Development Association (CDDA) in regards to the City's web page. The CDDA would hire a consultant to redesign the City's web page who would also design pages for business owners and then be attached to the City's web page. In order for this to take place Council would need to grant approval as the City would have to grant the consultant access to the City's page and the password. A concern was with the possibility of someone hacking into the City's main files and getting access to personal information.

City Clerk Treasurer Eckman expressed a concern with the possibility of someone accessing the code book information and the City Council minutes.

Councilmember Klindworth inquired as to the City maintaining the website and that the website was out of date.

City Clerk Eckman suggested that the City link to the CDDA as it did with the North Franklin School District and other sites and to not actually have the businesses on the City website. Staff was aware that the website had been outgrown. It had been set up by staff with limited knowledge several years prior. The City's intent would be to get a professional to come in and look at the website and give it a more professional look.

Molly Kunkel, from CDDA, advised that it had started with the idea to market Connell. The Port of Pasco provided some funding for the CDDA to get started and that Jane Winslow was recommended by the Port of Pasco.

Jane Winslow of Winsome Designs furnished that by granting her access to the City's website she would only have access to the information on the website which was hosted by an outside company and was not tied into the City's computer system. When promoting a business the biggest thing that could be done for the smallest amount of money was a website which was easy to update and did not involve printing cost. The goal would be to have more people visit and move to Connell. This would be done by creating a base of information for Connell (jobs, businesses, city services, demographic) that would sell the City of Connell and encourage people to relocate. The next step would then be to promote that website.

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The businesses would have the opportunity to have a page on the website with their information by using a preset template. The cost would be \$100 to set up the page then a \$25 annual fee to maintain it. This would cover the cost to redesign the City's website at no cost to the City. The City would maintain the City's portion of the website and someone from CDDA would be responsible for the business pages.

Councilmember Mosbrucker commended the CDDA for getting the conversation out there as he had been trying to make changes to the website for the past 10 months, information needed to be corrected and updated.

Councilmember Klindworth voiced his concern with maintaining the integrity of the City's website if some of the businesses had questionable materials on their web pages. Someone would need to be accountable for reviewing the businesses web pages.

Jane Winslow expressed that the City Administrator had made it clear that there needed to be a firm dividing line between the businesses and the City. A statement would go on each business web page that stated that that page was solely the responsibility of the business owner and that they would have a template that would give them a narrow amount of information they could change.

Councilmember Pruett commented that she had spoken to CDDA and that she thought it was a great idea and was for the project.

Councilmember Quinton also felt that there was a need to update the website.

Chairperson Councilmember Klindworth suggested staff get together with Jane Winslow and Molly Kunkel to come up with a proposal to bring back to the next Council Meeting.

POLICE DEPARTMENT – COLA - AUTHORIZATION

City Administrator Tackett reported that he had spoken to the City's representative who had suggested that the City Administrator be authorized to offer the Police Department a 3.8% cost of living adjustment. This would save time in having to meet with the Teamsters.

Motion: Councilmember Pruett moved to authorize the City Administrator to offer a 3.8% COLA to the Teamsters for 2007. Councilmember Mosbrucker seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously with Councilmember Quinton, spouse of Officer Quinton, abstaining.

APPRAISAL CONTRACT APPROVAL

City Administrator Tackett advised that he had contacted an appraiser in regards to the Pharmacy. In order to sell the building a market value price needed to be set. The contract had not come in yet and requested that this item be tabled until the October 23rd meeting.

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Further discussion was tabled until the October 23rd meeting.

BENEFIT PACKAGE

Deputy Clerk Treasurer ChavezPeña presented a handout and information as discussed at the Finance Committee meeting in regards to cost share of employee benefits. The Finance Committee had recommended that employees pay 10% of the dependent portion of the benefits, as the City would still pay full benefits for the employee. It was expected that for 2007 for a full family the benefit cost would be approximately \$918 with the 10% coming to approximately \$92.00. Different scenarios were provided showing 10%, 15%, 20% and phased in increments starting at 10% and ending at 20%.

Councilmember Pruett provided that the recommendation was for employees to pay 10% for 2007 and that the City look at the budget on a yearly basis to determine what percent should be used for the following year.

Councilmember Mosbrucker expressed that the intent was not to overly burden employees by hitting them with a 20% cost of benefits. Health care costs were only going up and employees should expect to pay a small portion of their benefits.

Councilmember Quinton inquired as to how the wages of City staff compared to wages of other cities of the same size.

City Administrator Tackett advised that he was in the process of pulling that information together from AWC.

Councilmember Mosbrucker noted that there was consideration to the employee in that the City was still willing to pay the full cost of the employee portion of the benefits and 90% of the premium for dependents.

Chairperson Councilmember Klindworth suggested that staff contact the Port of Pasco as they had a program that worked well and helped keep the employee cost for benefits down and also suggested employees be invited to the following Council meeting to provide an opportunity for them to discuss the recommendation.

APPROVAL FOR PROTECTIVE COATING ON MURALS

City Administrator Tackett reported that the Connell Downtown Development Association had requested financial help for a protective coating for the murals on the Legion and the Theater. The cost would be anywhere from \$250 to \$500 for each mural.

City Clerk Treasurer Eckman provided that she had spoken to a member of the CDDA and that there was a Planning and Community Development fund that had not been used.

Chairperson Councilmember Klindworth tabled further discussion until the October 23 meeting.

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FLU AND PNEUMONIA SHOTS FOR STAFF AND COUNCIL

City Administrator Tackett provided that historically council would approve the City pay for staff to receive flu or pneumonia shots. Cost of the flu shots was \$25 and cost for the pneumonia shot was \$35.

Motion: Councilmember Pruett moved to approve the City pay for staff and Council to get flu and pneumonia shots. Councilmember Quinton seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE / DEPARTMENT REPORTS

POLICE DEPARTMENT – Police Chief Rick Rochleau

- 1) Officers had done a search warrant to gather information in regards to a graffiti case and had retrieved stolen property.
- 2) Would be holding a Civil Service exam this week for the purpose of a promotional rank for Sergeant.
- 3) In the early stages of working out a joint venture with CRCC for a gun range.
- 4) Had received a surplus trailer for free from the government, would be picking that up on October 16th.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE – City Clerk Treasurer Joan Eckman

- 1) Moving along with the budget, which would be ready for adoption at the last meeting in November or the first meeting in December.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – City Administrator Art Tackett

- 1) Franklin County was holding a Hazardous Waste drop off site on October 14th.
- 2) There would be a Finance meeting on October 18th at 7:00 am at Michael Jay's.
- 3) There would be a Real Estate meeting on October 17th at 7:00 pm.
- 4) There would be a Special Council meeting on October 30th at 7:00 pm to discuss the extra 200 bed expansion at CRCC. There would be an Impact Committee meeting at 5:00 prior to the 7:00 Council meeting.
- 5) Had met with the Senior Citizens who were interested in signing a contract that would spell out their ability to use the Community Center.

Chairperson Councilmember Klindworth expressed that at one time Franklin County had contributed money to the Pasco Senior Center and that staff should check into the possibility of receiving some of those funds. Chairperson Councilmember Klindworth also suggested that outside senior citizen members should pay dues to the Seniors.

- 6) Attended a Parks & Recreation meeting, no one showed up for the BMX bike course, which may have been because the kids were involved in soccer, or some other previous commitment, and could not attend the meeting.
- 7) Spoke to Burlington Northern in regards to the quiet zone and have been moving ahead.
- 8) Impact Fee Committee – Had worked out a scope of work with the consultant that was selected. Changes still needed to be made to the scope of work.

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Chairperson Councilmember Klindworth expressed some concern with the time frame of the analysis being completed before the end of the year. Another concern was that there was no mention of the PELT in the scope of work.

DEPUTY CLERK TREASURER – Deputy Clerk Treasurer Maria ChavezPeña

- 1) A group of high school boys had inquired about getting permission to use the tennis courts after dark for indoor soccer.

Chairperson Councilmember Klindworth suggested that they be directed to the Park Board so that they could make a recommendation to Council.

- 2) The new sound system was up and running.

Councilmember Pruett enquired as to when the grain bin was to be finished being torn down as it did not look like there was much work being done on it lately.

Jim Winebarger expressed that in reference to the 3.8% COLA for the Police Department that the 3.8% COLA was a steal for the safety services that they provided and felt that this city was safer than most.

MEETING RECESSED

Chairperson Councilmember Klindworth recessed the meeting at 9:25 to go into executive session for approximately 10 minutes to discuss a pending lawsuit.

MEETING RECONVENED AND ADJOURNED

There being no further business to be heard before the City Chairperson Councilmember Klindworth adjourned the meeting at 9:35 pm.

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

Garland D. Walton, Mayor