

MEETING OF THE CITY OF CONNELL, WASHINGTON

CONNELL, FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

December 11, 2006

The regular semi-monthly meeting, of the City Council of the City of Connell was called to order by the Mayor at 7:33 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, Kent Mosbrucker and Monica Pruett.

STAFF: City Administrator Art Tackett, Police Chief Rick Rochleau, Deputy City Clerk/Treasurer Maria ChavezPeña, and Engineer Larry Siebel.

VISITORS: Paul Stocker, GWMA; Jim Riddell, Riddell Development; Mark Nielson, Franklin Conservation District; Alan Schroeder, Anderson Perry; and Kathy Bingham, Franklin County Graphic.

CORRESPONDENCE

- 1) Andrew Sawyer SR. – Submitted his letter of resignation from the Park Board.
- 2) WA State Liquor Control Board – Liquor license renewal for: Hazy's, Leprekon Mart, Michael Jay's, and R & R Quick Mart. No objections were heard.

APPOINTMENTS

Council gave their consensus to have Mayor Walton reappoint Alan Gunter as the Connell Municipal Judge.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

- a) Minutes of the November 20, 2006 Council Workshop
- b) Minutes of the November 27, 2006 Regular Council Meeting
- c) Warrant Register of December 1, 2006 for \$148.08
- d) Warrants for December 11, 2006 for \$ 56,641.29
- e) Payroll for December 11, 2006 for \$ 11,316.38

Councilmember Mosbrucker seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENT/NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Walton inquired as to estimation of water bills during the winter months.

City Administrator Tackett reported that the City did not have the ability to average bills at the current time but once the new computer system was installed the City would have that ability.

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APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Walton made the following additions to the agenda:

- Agenda Item 11 a. Cancellation of the December 26 Council Meeting,
- Agenda Item 11 b. Procedures for Councilmembers at Planning Commission meetings.

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

PAUL STOCKER – ODESSA SUBAREA AND WATER RIGHTS

Paul Stocker of Ground Water Management Area (GWMA) and Mark Nielson of the Franklin Conservation District made a presentation in regards to ground water.

The Odessa Sub-Area, contained in Lincoln, Franklin, Grant, and Adams counties, was running out of water. The State, Governor, and leaders in the area were trying to find a solution or solutions to replace circles with water from the Columbia River.

UPDATES ON PROJECTS – ANDERSON PERRY

City Administrator Tackett advised that the appraisal had been received at \$870,000 for the two sections of land for the water and wastewater expansion.

Alan Schroeder, of Anderson Perry, discussed the proposed size of the water reservoir and the size of the wastewater facility dependent upon irrigation of land.

Mr. Schroeder reported on the Pioneer Park project. The slides had gone out for bid, bid opening would be January 5.

AUTHORIZATION TO REPAIR WELL #6 AND WELL #10

City Administrator reported that there were ongoing problems with Well # 6. Larry Seibel had received a quote for Well # 6 in the amount of \$23,680.

Well # 10 had been damaged when the electricity was knocked out during a recent storm. When Franklin PUD made the repair they reversed the polarity which caused the pump to run backwards. The City would need to pay for the repair upfront and then request reimbursement from PUD for damages. The City would not know the cost for repair until the pump was pulled.

Councilmember Klindworth suggested the City let the insurance agency handle payment and reimbursement for Well # 10.

Larry Seibel advised that the idea would be to repair Well #10 first then proceed with Well #6.

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Motion: Councilmember Boyer moved to authorize maintenance repairs get done on Well # 6 and to proceed with the insurance company in regards to damage to Well # 10. Councilmember Quinton seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2006-16 – AMENDING THE PERSONNEL POLICY

Deputy Clerk Treasurer ChavezPeña advised that Resolution No. 2006-16 was to update Section 4.20, Medical Insurance, in the Personnel Policy which was inconsistent with the medical insurance coverage under AWC. AWC provide insurance coverage for employees on the first day of the month after date of hire while the personnel policy provided for coverage on the first billing cycle following the first day after thirty days of employment.

Motion: Councilmember Klindworth moved to approve Resolution No. 2006-16 amending the Personnel Policy. Councilmember Pruett seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

CANCELLATION OF THE DECEMBER 26 COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Walton furnished that normally Council did not hold the last meeting of the year and would pre-authorize staff to pay bills and payroll.

Motion: Councilmember Pruett moved to authorize staff to pay payroll and bills and not hold the December 26 Council meeting. Councilmember Boyer seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

PROCEDURES FOR COUNCILMEMBERS AT PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS

City Administrator Tackett went over the procedures for land use request to the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission, after the proper paperwork has been completed and advertisements for the public hearing had been placed, held a public hearing where they made a determination to make a recommendation to the Council. This recommendation was heard before the Council at a closed record hearing. No additional information was presented at the closed record hearing.

Attorney Tanner provided that the role of the Council at the closed record hearing was to act as a judge and look at the decisions made by the Planning Commission and determine if they had looked at all the facts. If Council found that there was not enough information or evidence to support the Planning Commission's finding then Council could remand it back to the Planning Commission for further fact finding. It was not uncommon for council members to attend Planning Commission public hearings. If the council members were to make comments at the public hearing they would not be able to take part in the discussion or vote on the issue at the closed record hearing before the council. If a council member made comments at the open public hearing then that council member, under the Appearance of Fairness Act, would not be seen as impartial and could not act as a judge. If a council member had communications with someone in regards to an item that was being held before a Planning Commission public hearing, then that council member would need to disclose that information at the closed council hearing.

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COMMITTEE / DEPARTMENT REPORTS

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT – Public Works Crew Leader Larry Turner

- 1) The crew had been out sanding the streets.
- 2) Work had been done on equipment.

POLICE DEPARTMENT – Police Chief Rick Rochleau

- 1) Adams County Sheriff's office contacted the police department that there had been a report of a group wanting to do harm or attack buses in Connell and Ritsville. Currently working with the FBI and the school district. Should know within the next few days if those threats were credible or if they were a prank.
- 2) Had vandals damage Christmas lights around town. Officers contacted some youth and their parents.
- 3) Dealt with some theft issues, a pawn shop contacted the police department in regards to some rings that had been sold at the pawn shop. The rings were tracked down and returned to the owner.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – City Administrator Art Tackett

- 1) The Connell Downtown Development Association requested a letter of support for their application to CTED to become a tier member of the Main Street Program.

Council gave their consensus for the City to provide a letter of support to the CDDA.

- 2) Would be meeting with DOT on January 10 to look at circulation issues.
- 3) Would be attending a DOC meeting with CTED.
- 4) Real Estate meeting December 12 at 4:30 pm.
- 5) Impact meeting December 13 at 7:00 pm.
- 6) Special Council meeting December 18 at 7:00 pm to discuss personnel and DOC issues.
- 7) Department heads would be meeting with Council December 15 at 4:00 pm.
- 8) Would be attending a Big Bend RC & D meeting in Ritzville December 14.

MEETING RECESSED

Mayor Walton recessed the regular meeting at 9:40 pm to go into executive session for approximately 30 minutes to discuss a legal issue and personnel.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Mayor Walton reconvened the regular meeting, there being no further business to be heard before the City Council, Mayor Walton adjourned the meeting at 9:55 pm.

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

Garland D. Walton, Mayor