

MEETING OF THE CITY OF CONNELL, WASHINGTON

CONNELL, FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

January 22, 2007

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, Kent Mosbrucker and Monica Pruett.

STAFF: City Administrator Art Tackett, Police Chief Rick Rochleau, Deputy City Clerk/Treasurer Maria ChavezPeña, Public Works Crew Chief Larry Turner, Planning/Building Clerk Jed Crowther and Engineer Larry Seibel.

VISITORS: Marie Robertson; Jim Riddell, Riddell Development; Scott Frakes, CRCC; Jerrod MacPherson, Bob Koch, Franklin County; Alan Schroeder, Anderson Perry; and Kathy Bingham, Franklin County Graphic.

CORRESPONDENCE

- 1) Margery Price – Seminar on Minutes-Taking Techniques and Seminar on Parliamentary Procedures for Boards & Councils.
- 2) Benton-Franklin Veterans Coalition – Requested the City to support the veterans in fighting the closure of the Veterans Hospital in Walla Walla.  
*Council gave its consensus to send a letter of support.*

CONSENT CALENDAR

*Motion:* Councilmember Mosbrucker moved to approve the Consent Calendar as listed:

- a) Warrant Register of January 17, 2007 for \$84,565.00
- b) Warrants for January 22, 2007 for \$100,789.25
- c) Payroll Register for January 23, 2007 for \$91,922.90

Councilmember Pruett seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENT/NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Councilmember Klindworth inquired about the Planning Commissions members' dates of service.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Walton made the following changes to the agenda:

Addition of Agenda Item 21 a. Accounting Software

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

PIONEER POOL SLIDES

Alan Schroeder reported that the bids for the slides had come in significantly higher than the original estimates. The two bidders resubmitted a proposal on a different layout, one of the winding slides was eliminated and a speed slide was put in its place. The slide manufacturer did not want to have the mechanical systems supplier be their subcontractor. In this case having two separate contractors would provide a cost savings. Natural Structures was the low bidder for the slide equipment and Aqua Specialty Services was the low bidder for the mechanical equipment. Total cost for the slides would be approximately \$297,750.

City Administrator Tackett provided that the IAC grant was for \$365,000. So far the City had about \$200,000 in-kind that had been completed. The City had spent about \$48,000 to move the skate park, and money had been budgeted for this year.

*Motion:* Councilmember Pruett moved to accept the lowest bids from Natural Structures and Aqua Specialty Services for slides, mechanical, and engineering not to exceed \$300,000. Councilmember Mosbrucker seconded motion. Motion carried with Councilmember Klindworth abstaining due to lack of knowledge.

WASTEWATER FACILITIES EXPANSION

Alan Schroeder of Anderson Perry reported that they were proceeding with the wastewater system design for the 2400 bed prison expansion.

200 BED IMPACTS

Alan Schroeder of Anderson Perry advised that he had met with staff and the Impact Committee to discuss potential solutions. It appeared that an agreement would be made on the water impacts but there were still issues with the value of the wastewater impacts. DOC had requested a credit for the lift station that would serve the entire existing facility.

Scott Frakes, CRCC, provided that Jack Olsen and David Jensen of DOC, were doing everything they could to figure out a solution that worked within their legal limitations. They had to be able to demonstrate that what they were proposing to do could be done with the funds that they had to work with. If an agreement could not be made within those funds then it would put the City having to go back to the legislature to request impact fees.

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MEETING RECESSED

Mayor Walton recessed the Regular Meeting at 8:12 to go into executive session for approximately 30 minutes to discuss; Tullamoor farming Request – Contract discussion, a potential business location, and Public Works Director.

MEETING RECONVENED

Mayor Walton reconvened the Regular Meeting at 8:43 pm.

TULLAMOOR FARMING REQUEST – CONTRACT DISCUSSION

Mayor Walton advised that the Council was not prepared to consider the farming request since the City Attorney was not present. Mayor Walton advised he would contact the City Attorney who would respond with a letter on the agreement for the farming request. There was no further discussion.

POTENTIAL BUSINESS LOCATION

Mayor Walton reported that there was a need for further information.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

Mayor Walton reported that interviews were held of five individuals. It had been narrowed down to two candidates, the recommendation of the Council was to hire Public Works Crew Chief Larry Turner as the new Public Works Director.

*Motion:* Councilmember Pruett moved to authorize Mayor Walton hire Larry Turner as the Public Works Director. Councilmember Quinton seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

PROGRESS REPORT ON WELLS #6 AND #10

Larry Seibel reported that Picatti Bros had pulled the pumps, pipe columns, and shafting from both Well 6 and Well 10. On Well 10 the pump motor, pipe shaft and column had been taken to Yakima for repair. On Well 6 the pump had been worn beyond repair and would have to be replaced. Picatti was putting together an estimate on both wells.

Mayor Walton inquired about Well #8.

Crew Chief Larry Turner provided that Well 8 had water coming out of the top. Well 8 was water cooled, the cooler sprung a leak that was allowing water into the oil. Since it was winter it was cold enough to continue running the well. The motor would be pulled once Well 6 was brought back online.

STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Larry Seibel reported that he was working on the final design for the street improvement project that included the alley behind the City Hall, alley behind the library, alley behind Michael Jay's and M & M Motel, and the extension of Hawthorn Street beyond the US

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Bank. The design would be completed by the end of the week and would be forwarded to Anderson Perry to draft the three plan sheets. Once the drafting sheets were back contractors on the Small Works Roster would be contacted.

City Administrator Tackett provided that construction would begin in March or April.

**BUILDING INSPECTOR**

City Administrator Tackett communicated that the City would be in need of a building inspector by spring and suggested that the City hire a building inspector who would also be responsible for code enforcement. Discussion with the City Clerk Treasurer indicated that there were sufficient funds in the yearly carry over to fund this position for the next two years.

Councilmember Pruett expressed that two contractors had stated that when they contacted the County in regards to building inspections they were told it would take two weeks for them to come up here and that if they had to come up again it would take another two weeks.

County Commissioner Koch responded that he had spoken to the person who had made that statement and that it was in regards to a building that he built four years ago, and even at that time there was not a four week wait time. Since that time the County had hired a plan review person and also had four building inspectors on staff.

Mayor Walton inquired about the total cost for a new employee including wages and benefits.

City Administrator gave a rough estimate of \$20,000 for benefits and \$40,000 to \$60,000 for wages.

Planning Clerk Jed Crowther advised that things were going well with using the County for inspections of the prison expansion.

Jarrold MacPherson provided that the plans examiner was also a building inspector giving them five building inspectors total. The plans examiner dictated all plan reviews which provided for consistency for inspections. The County had developed a new mind set and had gone from regulators to facilitators. It now would take no later than 48 hours for inspections and inspections would be taken in the order received.

Mayor Walton requested more information to compare between hiring someone and looking at contracting with the County.

**JOB ANALYSIS**

City Administrator Tackett reported that he had spoken to Kevin Wesley who did the consulting work for the police department who felt that it would be a conflict of interest and suggested that the City request RFP's.

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*Motion:* Councilmember Boyer moved to authorize staff to prepare an RFP regarding job analysis for city staff positions. Councilmember Mosbrucker seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

POLICE CAR PURCHASE

Police Chief Rochleau requested Council authorization to place the order for the police vehicle as budgeted.

*Motion:* Councilmember Boyer moved to authorize Chief Rochleau proceed with the purchase of a new police vehicle as budgeted. Councilmember Pruett seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 818 – CHANGE OF COUNCIL MEETING DATES

Mayor Walton read Ordinance No. 818, an ordinance of the City of Connell changing the meeting dates of the regular meeting of the Connell City Council to the first Wednesday and the third Monday of each month and changing the time to 7:00 p.m.

*Motion:* Councilmember Quinton moved to adopt Ordinance No. 818 changing the Council meeting dates and time. Councilmember Pruett seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

HEARING EXAMINER

City Administrator Tackett expressed that there had been some discussion relating to the need for a more professional approach for hearing variances, conditional use permits, etc. City Administrator Tackett suggested using a hearing examiner, who was a professional planner, and was working on an ordinance to replace the Board of Adjustment with a hearing examiner. The City would get about two to three cases a year for the Board of Adjustment.

*Motion:* Councilmember Klindworth moved to abolish the Board of Adjustment effective immediately. Councilmembers Pruett and Boyer seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

City Administrator Tackett advised he would have an ordinance ready at the next meeting.

ADVERTISEMENT \$1,000 – COULEE CORRIDOR

City Administrator Tackett provided a handout of the Coulee Corridor publication. A new update was now underway and the City had been asked to advertise in the new addition. The cost for advertisement would be \$1,000.

*Motion:* Councilmember Klindworth moved to approve the expenditure of \$1,000 for advertisement in the Coulee Corridor. Councilmembers Pruett and Boyer seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

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ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE

City Administrator Tackett provided a memo from City Clerk/Treasurer Eckman in regards to the accounting software. Clerk/Treasurer Eckman had requested approval from Council in regards to purchase a totally new software package from Harris. After further review staff had become aware that the Harris software was not BARS integrated. Staff had received new information about other software that was available to municipal government that was already know to the Washington State Auditors and meet the BARS accounting format.

City Administrator Tackett requested that staff try to get some of the down payment back and have BIAS come down to discuss the program.

City Administrator Tackett advised he would speak to the City Attorney in regards to getting out of the contract with Harris, who had not provided some of the things that were spelled out in the contract.

Councilmember Mosbrucker commented that it appeared staff had not done their homework and that Council relied on staff to bring them the information on what staff needed and the best product to use and that it appeared a mistake had been made.

*Motion:* Councilmember Mosbrucker moved for staff to move forward to terminate the contract with Harris if able to do so without substantial loss and to move forward with discussion with BIAS. Councilmember Pruettt seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE / DEPARTMENT REPORTS

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT – Public Works Crew Chief Larry Turner

- 1) Keeping up with the ice and snow.
- 2) Would be working on potholes once the weather permitted.
- 3) Had two sewer leaks.
- 4) Had a couple of water breaks due to the weather.

POLICE DEPARTMENT – Police Chief Rick Rochleau

- 1) Court Clerk Cerna was gone on vacation
- 2) Would be holding a civil service exam in February
- 3) Arrested two juveniles in regards to a burglary.
- 4) A building was paint balled.
- 5) Would be taking part in the housing needs survey for the community.

Council requested that the barricade on South Second Street be removed.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – City Administrator Art Tackett

- 1) Would be holding a PILT meeting in Olympia on January 25.
- 2) Talked to UTC in regards to the Quiet Zone.
- 3) Would be attending a SEPA class on January 26.

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MAYOR’S REPORT – Mayor Garland Walton

- 1) Had been approached by the Mid-Columbia and members of the community in regards to expansion of the library as the city grew. It was suggested expanding into the adjacent building belonging to Welch.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business to be heard before the City Council, Mayor Walton adjourned the meeting at 10:07 pm.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Maria T. ChavezPeña, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer

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Garland D. Walton, Mayor