

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

April 4, 2007

The regular semi-monthly meeting, of the City Council of the City of Connell was called to order by the Mayor at 7:00 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, City Attorney Dan Hultgrenn, Police Chief Rick Rochleau, Public Works Director Larry Turner, Planning/Building Clerk Jed Crowther, and Deputy City Clerk/Treasurer Maria ChavezPeña.

VISITORS: Molly Kunkel, Connell Downtown Development Association; Alan Schroeder, Anderson Perry; Katherine Bingham, Franklin County Graphic.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

- a) Minutes of the March 19, 2007 Regular Council Meeting
- b) Warrant Register for March 22, 2007 for \$50.00
- c) Warrants for April 4, 2007 for \$37,228.98
- d) Payroll Register for March 20, 2007 for \$83,406.77

Councilmember Pruett seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENT

Councilmember Boyer expressed that he had been contacted by citizens in regards to the water pressure at the northwest end of town. They commented that their water pressure was approximately 20 lbs.

Alan Schroeder suggested that he get together with Public Works Director Turner to discuss the possibility of using the Oasis water pump for that area of town also.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

CONNELL DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (CDDA)

Molly Kunkel presented Council and staff with the new City of Connell brochures and confirmed that the new website was up. The theme for the brochure and website was 'Connell, Take a closer look'.

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Molly Kunkel asked that the Council consider contributing to the CDDA to purchase more brochures. The brochures would be placed locally as well as out of town.

Motion: Councilmember Boyer moved to pay \$1,000 to the CDDA for the purchase of brochures with the expenditure coming out of Hotel/Motel funds. Councilmember Pruett seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

PROJECT STATUS – ANDERSON PERRY

Alan Schroeder of Anderson Perry reported on the following:

Water Project: The design was proceeding rapidly and was ready for the City to review. Council would need to think about a logo for the new reservoir.

Wastewater Project: Work was progressing on the lift station for the existing CRCC facility.

Pioneer Park Project: The slides were being fabricated.

Street Projects: Had received 5 bids, the lowest bidder was Central Washington Asphalt. The bid had come in under the budgeted \$200,000. Mr. Schroeder requested Council consider paving as much of Hawthorne as possible instead of doing piece work. He would request a quote from Central WA Asphalt.

Motion: Councilmember Klindworth moved to accept the bid from Central WA Asphalt for the street projects. Councilmember Mosbrucker seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

DOC - OFFENDER WORK CREW PROJECT

City Administrator provided that the City had received the DOC Offender Work Crew contract, which was exactly as the one presented in 2006.

Motion: Councilmember Mosbrucker moved to approve the DOC Offender Work Crew Project contract. Councilmember Pruett seconded motion, motion carried unanimously.

FRANKLIN COUNTY – INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FOR SAFETEA-LU PROGRAM

City Administrator Tackett provided background information in regards to the Surface Transportation Act, called ICETEA, that had been funded by the Federal Government about 17 years prior. The intent of that law was to obtain a more grass roots approach to the funding of transportation projects and a larger emphasis on transit. In Benton and Franklin counties the funds were funneled through the Benton Franklin Government Conference and was distributed to various cities and counties. Franklin County chose to keep all of the transportation money, with its numerous strings, and to forward a fixed amount of funds to Connell, Kahlotus, and Mesa through an agreed upon formula.

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Recently State Senator Haugen has become concerned about unspent transportation funds that were accumulating in various local transportation and Public Works agencies and had pushed for a totally competitive program. This required the members of the Benton Franklin Council of Governments to change the way they did business. After a number of meetings there was agreement regarding distribution and the competitive program.

In March, Franklin County, Port of Pasco, Connell, Kahlotus, and Mesa met and discussed how they would like to run the County Rural program. It was decided that to be fair they would like to continue the program just like they had always done, with the County buying out the City's and Port's share. This allowed those entities to have an ongoing funding source that had no strings attached and could be used for any general government purpose. The City of Connell historically has continued to use those funds for transportation projects. Those funds have enabled the City to leverage a great deal of state money for streets over the last 14 to 15 years. Approximately \$300,000 of local funds have leveraged over \$2 million of state funds.

Motion: Councilmember Quinton moved to approve the Mayor to sign the Interlocal Agreement for SAFETEA – LU Program. Councilmember Boyer seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

WA STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

City Administrator Tackett reported that in order for the City to receive federal funding the City would have to sign the Non-Discrimination Agreement for Populations under 10,000. At this time the City was not in receipt of any federal funds that would be affected by the agreement, however part of the funding package for the Highway 395 interchange would include Federal Transportation Department funding.

Motion: Councilmember Mosbrucker moved to approve the Mayor sign the Non-Discrimination Agreement with the State Department of Transportation. Councilmember Boyer seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

SIDEWALKS

City Administrator Tackett provided that it had come to staff's attention that the change in the subdivision ordinance regarding sidewalks could be premature and recommended tabling the discussion until the April 16 meeting. Current sidewalk requirements set out that sidewalks would be installed when the building permits were issued. The danger was that until the subdivision was totally completed there would not be continuous sidewalks. Council would need to discuss whether they wanted to require sidewalks from the beginning or not.

City Administrator Tackett noted that Oasis had agreed to install sidewalks on both sides of the main street going into and out of the development.

Council requested more information be brought back at the next meeting.

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RL ZONING

City Administrator Tackett provided that staff had put together a preliminary ordinance setting increased requirements for RL zoning. City Administrator review some of the requirements that would possibly include; new units only, increased roof pitch and eaves, increased lot size, etc.

Motion: Councilmember Boyer moved to place Ordinance No. 821 on the Consent Calendar for April 16th. Councilmember Pruett seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

LEAK DETECTION APPROVAL

Public Works Director Turner requested approval from Council to proceed with having the main line from the reservoir inspected for leaks. American Leak Detection had submitted a quote of \$2,150 plus tax that would cover two days of testing.

Motion: Councilmember Quinton moved to authorize staff to proceed with the leak detection. Councilmember Pruett seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

CONTRACT AMENDMENT – JM MANAGEMENT CONSULTING

City Administrator Tackett reported that after meeting with the Project Committee for the City, Jenny Mah had suggested that an important piece of the project would be a Strategic plan centered on the issue of compensation and classification. There would be a cost of \$2,800 for the Strategic Plan. A workshop for the Strategic Plan would be held on April 23, at 5:00 pm.

Councilmember Boyer expressed that he had requested that the Crew Leader position be prioritized and that Council would have answers by the end of April. Councilmember Boyer also commented that he felt pretty good about the Consultant and that she was genuine when she provided that the City would get their money's worth and more.

Motion: Councilmember Boyer moved to approve the Professional Service Agreement with JM Management for a Compensation Strategic Plan Proposal with the deletion of "Any prior Agreements between Connell and the Contractor are terminated on execution of this Agreement" from part II Period of Performance.

COMMITTEE / DEPARTMENT REPORTS

ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT – Deputy Clerk Treasurer Maria Pena

- 1) Continuing to work with the Auditors
- 2) Continuing with the software update with BIAS
- 3) Clerk Treasurer Eckman was on vacation until her retirement April 30.

City Administrator Tackett provided that in regards to the Audit, staff had contacted Mike Murphy, liaison with the Auditor's Office, in regards to SAS 112 dealing with internal controls. The City of Connell would be the first city being audited on this new regulation.

The Auditor's office was going to be meeting in regards to the SAS 112 and the City of Connell and would be making a determination if there would be a finding.

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Councilmember Mosbrucker expressed that he felt that the City did not need to bring anyone else in to monitor internal controls, that either the Mayor or the City Administrator should be able to perform that function.

POLICE DEPARTMENT – Police Chief Rick Rochleau

- 1) An evaluation would be performed on the police stations current radios. Most other agencies had switched providers, Connell PD may want to eventually switch providers to be uniform with the other agencies.
- 2) Received a CEED grant for a Thermal Imaging unit. The grant covered training on the unit for an officer.
- 3) Been dealing with a lot kids since it was Spring break.
- 4) Had received a lot of animal complaints, dogs and cows.
- 5) Held a Civil Service exam – interviewed one lateral applicant and six entry level.
- 6) Purchased new digital cameras to replace old cameras and provide a camera for each car.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT – Public Works Director Larry Turner

- 1) Parks were being geared up
- 2) Busy with the usual things

CITY ADMINISTRATOR - City Administrator Art Tackett

- 1) There would be a training session on evaluating staff April 6 at 10:00 am.
- 2) Real Estate meeting April 5th at 4:30 pm.
- 3) Impact meeting April 9 at 6:00 pm.
- 4) Holding interviews for Clerk Treasurer April 12th.
- 5) Would be meeting April 16th in regards to BOR property.

Councilmember Quinton provided that Dan Deane was excited to be on the Park Board.

Councilmember Mosbrucker informed that he had been contacted by the Tri-City Herald who would be doing an article on the Radio Control Car Park.

Councilmember Mosbrucker brought up the need for detailed receipts for credit card charges.

MEETING RECESSED

Mayor Walton recessed the regular meeting at 8:50 pm to go into Executive Session to consider the performance of a public employee for approximately 10 minutes. At 9:00 pm the Mayor extended the Executive Session for approximately 10 more minutes.

MEETING RECONVENED AND ADJOURNED

Mayor Walton called the meeting back to order at 9:12 pm. There being no further business to be heard before the City Council, Mayor Walton adjourned the meeting.

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

Garland D. Walton, Mayor