

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

November 19, 2007

The regular semi-monthly meeting, of the Connell City Council was called to order by Mayor Walton at 7:00 pm in the City Hall and was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

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

EXCUSED: Mayor Pro Tem Ron Boyer was excused by Council consensus.

STAFF: Attorney Dan Hultgrenn, Police Chief Rick Rochleau, City Treasurer Maria Peña and Public Works Supervisor Les Guilford.

VISITORS Bruce Bowen, Planning Commission; Gene Stocking, Chamber; Grant Riddell, Riddell Development; Pam Guilford, M&M Motel; Eric Culverhouse, Windermere Real Estate; Justin Baerlocher, J-U-B- Engineers; David Cox, Sierra Sandpoint; and Kathy Bingham, Franklin County Graphic;

CORRESPONDENCE

- 1) WA State Liquor Control Board – Liquor license renewal for the Pizza Station. No objections were heard.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

- (b) Accounts Payable Check Register for October 16, 2007 for \$2,500.00
- (c) Accounts Payable Check Register for November 2, 2007 for 160.74
- (d) Accounts Payable Check Register for November 19, 2007 for \$69,738.34
- (e) Payroll Register for pay period October 15 – October 31, 2007 for \$69,369.34

Councilmember Quinton seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENT/NON-AGENDA ITEMS

David Cox, 409 Airport Lane, and Justin Baerlocher, J U B Engineers, were present to request that Council reconsider the proposed zoning in the Comprehensive Plan Update on a piece of land Mr. Cox was interested in due to lack of comments on the proposed Comprehensive Plan and due to the owner of the property not being aware of the zone changes to his land.

Councilmember Klindworth inquired about several items that City Administrator Tackett was working on and suggested that Council meet the candidates for City Administrator prior to voting.

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APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

CLOSED RECORD HEARING – 2007 DRAFT COMP PLAN UPDATE

Mayor Walton opened the Closed Record Hearing at 7:21 pm for the purpose of updating the 2007 Comprehensive Plan.

There being no objections and no reason not to proceed, Mayor Walton asked for the Staff Report.

Planning Clerk Jed Crowther reported that the Draft Comprehensive Plan had been presented and reviewed by the Planning Commission. By motion the planning Commission recommended that Council:

- deny Bennett Amendment proposal – leaving that area with Industrial land Use designations in accordance with August 2, 2007 draft map,
- make correction of narrow strip north of airport, south of Nordheim, from Residential to Industrial, in correlation with Franklin County designation, and
- accept the 2007 draft Comprehensive Plan update.

Final adoption would have to wait for State agency (CTED) review and comment.

Council discussed the proposed Comprehensive Plan update.

Consensus of the Council was to continue the Hearing until November 27th at a Special Council meeting at 7:00 pm.

PUBLIC HEARING –2007 BUDGET AMENDMENT

Tabled

PUBLIC HEARING - REVIEW REVENUE SOURCES AND PROPERTY TAXES

Mayor Walton opened the Public Hearing for the purpose of reviewing the revenue sources and property taxes for the 2008 Budget at 7:55 pm.

Clerk Treasurer Peña reported that she had met with the Administrative Assistant at the County Assessor's office on Friday and went over levy taxes for 2008. The levy amount for 2007 was \$305,532, giving the City a 1% increase of \$3,055 for 2008. The tax for the current year's assessed value for new construction and improvements was \$2,807 for a total of \$311,394 in property tax revenue for 2008.

Clerk Treasurer Peña went over the projected 2008 Fund Revenues for a total in projected revenues of \$9,842,372.00.

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Mayor Walton closed the Public Hearing for projected revenue sources at 8:03 pm.

PUBLIC HEARING – FIXING THE 2008 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET

Mayor Walton opened the Public Hearing for the purpose of fixing the 2008 Fiscal Year Budget at 8:04 pm.

Clerk Treasurer Peña advised that work was still being done on the expenditures for the 2008 budget and requested that the hearing be continued until the December 5th meeting.

Gene Stocking, inquired about budgeting for a Park & Rec Director.

Clerk Treasurer Peña noted that there would be a Park & Rec meeting coming up where budget items would be discussed and included in the 2008 FY budget.

Councilmember Klindworth inquired about including more funding for Metro Drug Task Force.

Police Chief Rochleau reported that he had added more money into the budget for drug buy money to continue working with Metro. Chief Rochleau agreed to contact the Sheriff about partnering for a person for the Drug Task Force.

Mayor Walton brought up the need of a staff car for training.

Mayor Walton continued the Public Hearing for the purpose of fixing the 2008 Budget until the December 5th Council meeting.

ANDERSON PERRY PROJECT REPORTS

City Clerk Treasurer Peña advised that she had received a written report from Anderson Perry.

Tank: was approximately 50% complete. Anticipated construction to be completed by the week of December 3-7 with curing time to start December 7. Curing would take approximately 13 days depending on the weather.

Other Work: 1) New 16-inc waterline was installed within 40 feet of check valve vault; equals 40% complete. 2) potholing and investigative work continuing on meter, PRV, service connections, and booster station installations. Contractor would continue these installations while tank was under construction. 3) Preliminary work on 10-inch PRV at Ephrata street and North Columbia Way had started. Thrust blocks were installed.

Total project was on schedule and on budget.

ORDINANCE NO. 826 – SETTING AD VALOREM GENERAL PROPERTY TAXES

City Clerk Treasurer Peña read Ordinance No. 826 setting the Ad Valorem general property taxes for 2008.

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Motion: Councilmember Pruett moved to approve Ordinance No. 826 setting Ad Valorem general property taxes. Councilmember Mosbrucker seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: Councilmember Pruett moved to authorize funds from the Golf Course Reserve, in the amount of \$642.90, be moved to the Park & Rec Reserve. Councilmember Mosbrucker seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2007-05 SETTING SALARY SCHEDULES FOR 2008
Salaries were discussed for 2008.

Councilmember Quinton expressed that she felt that salaries needed to be looked into and was concerned that the City was losing qualified people due to salaries being low compared to other places.

Councilmember Mosbrucker addressed that if salaries were raised someone had to pay and inquired if the City could afford to raise taxes in order to bring salary levels up and did not feel that taxes should be raised.

Resolution No. 2007-05 was tabled until the December 5th meeting.

COMMITTEE / DEPARTMENT REPORTS

POLICE DEPARTMENT – Police Chief Rick Rochleau

- 1) Would contact the Sheriff's Department in regards to a 50/50 split for a detective.
- 2) Had been busy with graffiti.
- 3) Officer Boyer had resigned to become effective on December 2nd.
- 4) Officer Gutierrez was doing well in the Academy and would be graduating on Dec 21.

MAYOR'S REPORT – Mayor Gary Walton

- 1) The temporary position for the City Hall had been extended.
- 2) Had another sewer break.

Councilmember Klindworth requested that the City Administrator position be added to the Special Meeting of November 27th.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business before the City Council of Connell, Mayor Walton adjourned the meeting at 8:50 pm.

ATTEST: _____
Maria Peña, Clerk Treasurer

Garland D. Walton, Mayor