

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

December 5, 2007

The regular semi-monthly meeting, of the Connell City Council was called to order by Mayor Walton at 7:04 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 Kent Mosbrucker, Rhonda Quinton, Jim Klindworth, and Monica Pruett.

STAFF: City Administrator Art Tackett, Attorney Heidi Ellerd, Police Chief Rick Rochleau, Public Works Director Larry Turner, and Clerk Treasurer Maria Peña.

VISITORS: 59 people signed the attendance sheet.

CORRESPONDENCE

B/F Health District – Mayor Walton requested authorization from Council for a letter to be sent to Department of Health in regards to the City supporting public health funding to advise them that it would not be feasible for the City to include the amount requested in the 2008 Budget.

Council gave its consensus to send a letter to B/F Health District.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

- a) Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting for November 7, 2007
- c) Minutes of the Special Council Meeting for November 27, 2007
- d) Accounts Payable Check Register for November 8, 2007 for \$161.55
- e) Accounts Payable Check Register for November 13, 2007 for \$802,637.47
- f) Accounts Payable Check Register for December 5, for \$18,907.97
- g) Payroll Register for pay period of Nov 1 through Nov 15, 2007 for \$40,386.99

Councilmember Quinton seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENT/NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Gail Everett, Mid Columbia Earth Month, presented Council with an award by the Washington State Recycling Association for Mid-Columbia Earth Month and Community Clean up.

15 citizens in attendance thanked Chief Rochleau and the Police Department and expressed their desire to see the Chief stay with the Connell Police Department.

Mayor Walton advised that he had received a letter of resignation from the Chief of Police.

MEETING OF THE CITY OF CONNELL
Regular Meeting – December 5, 2007

Several of the citizens wished the Chief and City Administrator well. Many comments were made as to the exceptional job done by the Connell Police Department in keeping the City safe.

Several requested that Council make every effort to retain the Chief. Questions were asked in regards to the effort placed in looking for replacements and salaries. Also expressed was the concern in regards to the rumor of Council wishing to have the County police the city.

Mayor Walton requested consensus of the Council to authorize an extension of the Police Chief's contract.

Motion: Councilmember Quinton moved to offer an extension for three years or longer.
Councilmember Pruett seconded motion. Motion failed, 2 for and 3 against.

Councilmember Mosbrucker advised he was irritated as he had not been made aware that the Chief of Police was resigning.

Councilmember Klindworth expressed that the motion was out of order as it was not on the agenda.

Councilmember Boyer commented that he had seen the letter of resignation for the first time that night and that he did not feel that it was appropriate to discuss the performance of an employee in front of a crowd of citizens.

Motion: Councilmember Boyer moved to have an executive session to discuss the renewal/extension of the Chief of Police contract. Councilmember Klindworth seconded motion.
Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: Councilmember Mosbrucker moved to continue the meeting to discuss the Chief of Police Contract until December 10th at 7:30 pm. Councilmember Boyer seconded motion.
Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Walton made the following additions to the Agenda:
Item No. 17 a) Meals on Wheels Memorandum of Understanding
Item No. 17 b) Employee Appreciation

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

PRESENTATION BY DAVID COX & NEAL SMICK
Tabled

MEETING OF THE CITY OF CONNELL
Regular Meeting – December 5, 2007

PRESENTATION BY JIM RIDDELL

Mr. Riddell of Tullamoor thanked the Mayor and Council for closing on the land and presented a drawing of the treatment plant that was proposed to be built. Mr. Riddell extended his invitation to have Council tour Tullamoor and inquired about having someone on the Council be brought up to date on the Tullamoor project as City Administrator Tackett would be leaving. Mr. Riddell expressed that he had been busy representing Tullamoor outside of the community at trade shows. His hope was to break ground in four months. Mr. Riddell noted that it was important to give a positive image of the City to outside lenders as people were watching the community.

CLOSED RECORD HEARING CONTINUATION– 2007 DRAFT COMP PLAN UPDATE

Mayor Walton closed the regular meeting at 8:10 pm and opened the continuation of the Closed Record Hearing to discuss the 2007 Comprehensive Plan update.

City Administrator Tackett provided that the State of Washington had recently contacted staff with their initial review of the plan and had comments that would be included in the plan. Administrator Tackett requested that if Council had any comments that they be submitted to staff so that they could be addresses prior to December 17th. City Administrator Tackett advised that staff was working with the County on some discrepancies with the map and that he appreciated the input on the update from the Council.

Councilmember Quinton expressed her appreciation for the time put into the plan by City Administrator Tackett and Planning/Building Clerk Crowther.

At 8:37 pm Mayor Walton closed the Closed Record Hearing to be continued on December 17th.

MEETING RECESSED

Mayor Walton recessed the meeting until 8:45 for a break.

MEETING RECONVENED

PUBLIC HEARING – FIXING THE 2008 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET

Mayor Walton opened the Public Hearing at 8:45 pm for the purpose of fixing the 2008 Budget.

City Clerk Treasurer Peña reported that the Finance Committee had met and reviewed the 2008 Budget. The Budget was balanced with the exception of the 300 and 206 Funds. In the 102 Fund for Parks & Rec, salaries had been increased for the lifeguards to account for the additional lifeguard for the slides. In the 199, Grants Management, the fund had gone over budget due to increase in cost for parts and the slides. The ending balance for the 402 Sewer Fund was estimated at \$8,792 indicating that a sewer rate increase should be looked into before the end of 2008. In the 403 Solid Waste Fund the beginning balance was \$0

MEETING OF THE CITY OF CONNELL
Regular Meeting – December 5, 2007

and with the expenditures as budget it would put the fund at -\$15,953. There were \$16,320 in transfers that were budgeted that could be removed to balance out the fund. There were still adjustments that needed to be made to balance out the entire budget but it was coming along.

Molly Kunkel inquired about having a Park & Rec Director be included in the budget if not for 2008 but for 2009.

Gene Stocking inquired about where the money was being appropriated for real estate and water rights purchases.

Mayor Walton advised that the funds for water rights purchase were appropriated in the water fund.

Councilmember Boyer inquired about the 103 Drug Investigation Fund.

Chief Rochleau advised that that fund was for money confiscated during a drug arrest. Where as the money budget in the 001 Fund was for drug buys.

Chief Rochleau noted that he had spoken to the Sheriff's Department about sharing an officer but they had indicated that they were not interested at this time. The cost for half an officer was approximately \$40,000. There were \$15,000 budgeted for an undercover investigation for drug arrest.

Councilmember Boyer discussed the part time person for the court clerk and inquired about the possibility of having them work 30 hours instead of 24 and offering them benefits as he was concerned it would be difficult to find someone to work part time with no benefits.

Discussions for drug money and part time person would be taken to the Finance Committee for a recommendation.

Mayor Walton continued the Public Hearing for the purpose of fixing the 2008 Budget until the December 17th Council meeting.

ANDERSON PERRY PROJECT REPORTS

Alan Schroeder of Anderson Perry reported on the following projects:

Water Project: Reservoir project was about 75% to 80% completed. Once completed it would sit to cure. Work was being done on the pump station. The contract would be up on February 3 and everything seemed to be going on schedule.

Waste Water Project: The Department of Corrections Lift Station design was largely complete, review sets would go out to be reviewed. DOC would be taking care of the construction for the lift station.

MEETING OF THE CITY OF CONNELL
Regular Meeting – December 5, 2007

Had been working with City staff on cost estimates for street and water work.

The pump station would be bid in early spring.

PUBLIC WORKS – LEASE AGREEMENT

Public Works Director Larry Turner advised that staff had looked into leasing a street sweeper, water truck, and a mower with the option to buy. Attorney Hultgrenn had reviewed the lease agreement. The lease would be for 7 years with a \$1 buyout. Interest rate was set at 5%.

Motion: Councilmember Mosbrucker moved to approve staff move forward to submit the credit application for the lease of equipment. Councilmember Pruett seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

POLICE DEPARTMENT – CAR PURCHASE

Police Chief Rochleau requested authorization to proceed to place an order for the new patrol car. The car would be received in three months and would replace the 2001 patrol car.

Motion: Councilmember Pruett moved to authorize Chief Rochleau put in a bid for a new patrol car at approximately \$24,000. Councilmember Mosbrucker seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW CITY ADMINISTRATOR – DISCUSSION

City Administrator Tackett advised that the City Administrator position was being advertised. Closing for the position would be December 28 and suggested that the Mayor and the review committee make the initial cut and then schedule a dinner and interviews with the entire Council for those that were selected.

Councilmember Boyer inquired about the use of a “headhunter” or recruiter and asked that cost estimates be brought back before Council.

Mayor Walton suggested that item be placed on the Special Council Meeting agenda for December 10th.

ORDINANCE NO. 828 – DISBURSEMENTS FROM 111 FUND

City Administrator Tackett presented Ordinance No. 828 which set out the process for removing funds from the 111 General Support Fund. In order for Council to authorize disbursements form the 111 Fund it had to be approved by an 80% vote or more of the entire Council.

Councilmember Mosbrucker inquired about changing the wording to reflect that 4 out of the 5 Councilmembers had to approve the disbursement.

This ordinance would be sent back to the Attorney for modification.

MEETING OF THE CITY OF CONNELL
Regular Meeting – December 5, 2007

RESOLUTION NO. 2007 – 05 SETTING SALARY SCHEDULES FOR 2008
Tabled.

MEALS ON WHEELS – MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Mayor Walton advised that he had received correspondence from the Mid-Columbia Meals on Wheels program. The current Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Connell and Mid-Columbia expired on December 31, 2007. The MOU provided that the City made available a kitchen and dining room for the purpose of administering and implementing a nutrition site for the elderly. The City of Connell granted exclusive rights of said space each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday during the hours of 9:00 am to 1:30 pm.

Motion: Councilmember Quinton moved to renew the Memorandum of Understanding with the Mid-Columbia Meals on Wheels program. Councilmember Pruett seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION

City Clerk Treasurer Peña requested authorization to hold the annual Employee Appreciation on December 18th.

Motion: Councilmember Quinton moved to authorize the Staff Employee Appreciation for December 18th. Councilmember Pruett seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE / DEPARTMENT REPORTS

CITY HALL – City Clerk Treasurer Maria Peña

- 1) Introduced Rose Courneya as the new Business Administrative Coordinator.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT – Public Works Director Larry Turner

- 1) Got through the snow storm.
- 2) Community Center would be closed for two weeks for maintenance. Would talk to Dave Hart about the dishwasher.
- 3) Preparing for the cold weather.

MAYOR’S REPORT – Mayor Gary Walton

Winter Festival Committee had requested closure of Columbia Ave on Thursday December 13th. Chief Rochleau would work out the arrangements with the Committee.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business before the City Council of Connell, Mayor Walton adjourned the meeting at 10:15 pm.

ATTEST: _____
Maria Peña, Clerk Treasurer

Garland D. Walton, Mayor