

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

February 1, 2012

The regular semi-monthly meeting of the Connell City Council was called to order by Mayor Walton at 6:01 pm in the City Hall and was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor Gary Walton, Mayor Pro Tem Monica Pruett, and Councilmembers: Rhonda Quinton, Lee Barrow and Jared Broberg.

EXCUSED: Councilmember Klindworth

Motion: Councilmember Broberg moved to excuse Councilmember Klindworth. Councilmember Quinton seconded. Motion carried out unanimously.

STAFF: Attorney Dan Hultgrenn, City Administrator Steve Taylor, Building Services Clerk Patti Swan, Police Chief Mike Kessler, and City Clerk/Treasurer Maria Peña.

VISITORS: Kathy Bingham, Franklin County Graphic; Sheriff Richard Lathim.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Walton received a letter from Roel N. Martinez resigning from the Civil Service Commission. Mayor Walton received a letter from Ken Sellereite applying for the Civil Service Commission.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Pruett moved to approve the Consent Calendar as presented.
a) Minutes of the Special and Regular Council Meeting January 17, 2012
b) Treasurers Receipt 12/31/2011 for \$2,650.00
c) Accounts Payable February 1, 2012 for \$ 77,105.02
d) Payroll Register 1/15 – 1/20/2012 for \$45,909.34
Councilmember Quinton seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Councilmember Quinton moved to approve the Agenda as listed. Councilmember Barrow seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERING AN EXCEPTION TO SHORT PLAT APPLICATION
(Parcel 106-700-063)

Exception to Short Plat Application:

Property Owner: Black Sand Landing LLC.
Site Location: Parcel No. 106-700-063
Zoning: Agriculture
Proposed Exception: Requesting adjustment to minimum lot size requirement

This discussion was for the purpose of considering a recommendation from the Planning Commission. No additional testimony or evidence would be considered, only written statements and oral arguments on the record prepared by the Planning Commission would be considered.

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The concern of the Council was that the discussion be fair in form and substance as well as appearance. No objections to the Mayor's or any of the Councilmember's participation were heard.

No Councilmembers had an interest in the property or issue. No Councilmembers would gain or lose any financial benefit as a result of the outcome of the discussion. All Councilmember's acknowledged they could hear and consider the discussion in a fair and objective manner.

Building Services Clerk Patti Swan stated the application was to reduce the five acre minimum requirement to one acre.

Mayor Walton opened the subject for discussion by the Council.

Motion: Councilmember Barrow moved to approve the Planning Commission's recommendation to grant an exception to the City's Agricultural District Zone pertaining to the short plat application submitted by Black Sand Landing, LLC for Parcel #106-700-063, and approve the Findings of Fact as written. Councilmember Quinton seconded. Motion carried out unanimously.

REGIONAL EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM UPDATE

City Administrator Taylor provided a information to the Councilmember's on the efforts to move forward with a Regional Emergency Communications Systems. The City had received a letter from the City of Pasco regarding the resolution its City Council passed endorsing the concept of merging Benton and Franklin Counties' Emergency Communications services. Council had passed Resolution 2011-15 last December supporting the concept of further exploring a regional system.

Police Chief Mike Kessler provided a power point presentation with information about the study and the proposed Regional Emergency Communications System. Chief Kessler discussed the current Emergency Communication Systems the City had in place. The E -Gov study recommended a central 911 Center with two dispatches. The cost per entity for being involved in the regional communication and the central 911 system was still under discussion.

2011 FINANCIAL REVIEW

City Administrator Steve Taylor presented 2011 financial spreadsheets and charts. Clerk/Treasurer Maria Peña provided Councilmembers with a final 2011 Treasurer Report showing the actual ending fund balances. City Administrator reviewed each fund with Councilmembers. Councilmember's held discussion.

2012 WORK PLAN DISCUSSION

City staff was working on the 2012 Budget Book and seeking direction from the Councilmembers on additional areas of focus in 2012 and other priorities not already listed. The follow was the 2012 Administrative Work Plan proposed by staff:

Development and Utility Code Update – Continue municipal code update focusing on development standards, sewer utility regulations, industrial zoning, and other

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administrative areas.

Complete Connell Industrial Area Feasibility Study – Utilize federal and local grant funding to conduct marketing and feasibility study on the Connell Industrial Area located to the east of SR-395.

2012 Capital Improvement Projects – Administer construction of West Adams Street Reconstruction, Klindworth/Campbell Water Efficiency, Connell Industrial Area Access Road, Lift Station No. 4 Sewer Forcemain, East Date Street Sidewalk, and Connell Pool Slide Improvement projects.

Comprehensive Plan Update – Conduct limited Comprehensive Plan Update amending population, demographic, and environmental data.

Adopt Capital Improvement Plan – Complete and adopt city-wide capital improvement plan including general government, utilities, and civic facility needs.

City Communications – Overhaul and update City website and establish regular information maintenance program. Release periodic community newsletter to inform citizens of city organization goals and policies.

Comprehensive Financial Policies – Establish formal financial policies related to budgeting, purchasing, appropriation, and debt financing.

Councilmembers held discussion and the following was heard:

- 1) Blue slide repairs timeline (work done before pool opening date)
- 2) A Councilmember would like an updated Personnel Policy to look over.
- 3) Paper Code Books not being updated—online within couple days of being passed.

Staff Reports

Fire Chief Chris Schulte talked about Interlocal Agreement for Fire Inspection Services. Mayor Walton thanked everyone for helping with the flooding the week before. City Administrator Taylor gave a detail explanation of what happened to cause the flood.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business before the City Council of Connell, Mayor Walton adjourned the meeting at 7:41 pm.

ATTEST: _____
Rose Courneya, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer

Gary Walton, Mayor