

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

January 4, 2016

The regular semi-monthly meeting, of the Connell City Council was called to order by Mayor Blackwell at 6:00 pm in the City Hall and was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

**PRESENT:** Mayor Bruce Blackwell, Mayor Pro Tem Monty Huber, and Councilmember's: Rhonda Quinton, and Ray Minor. Councilmember Kathie Silva arrived late at 6:32 pm.

**ABSENT:** Councilmember Joe Escalera

**STAFF:** Attorney Dan Hultgrenn, City Administrator Jed Crowther, Public Works Director Larry Turner, Fire Chief Chris Schulte, Police Chief Chris Turner, and City Clerk/Treasurer Maria Peña.

**VISITORS:** Kathy Bingham, Franklin County Graphic; Shilo Morgan and David Morgan, Lucky Leaf; David Jepson, Anderson Perry Association; Citizens: Eddy Ochoa, Laurie Mandler, and John Linder.

CORRESPONDENCE

Franklin County Planning and Building Department sent the city a notice of a application for a school in Franklin County.

CONSENT CALENDAR

**Motion:** Councilmember Quinton moved to approve the Consent Calendar as with corrections.

- a) Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting December 21, 2015
- b) Accounts Payable 12/29/2015 for \$7915.30
- c) Check Register 12/31//2015 for \$50,345.40
- d) Check Register 1/4/2016 for \$9066.58
- e) Payroll Check Register 12/31/2015 for \$35,315.94
- f) Payroll Check Register 1/5/2016 for \$52,607.88

Mayor Pro Tem Huber seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENT/JNON-AGENDA ITEMS

Eddy Ochoa asked Councilmember's to lift the ban on Cannabis Marijuana. He discussed what was allowed to be sold. Stated 30% of revenue sharing goes to participation members and 70% distributes based on capital.

Shilo and David Morgan of Lucky Leaf introduced themselves to council. They owned a retail store in Pasco for Marijuana.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Motion:** Mayor Pro Tem Huber approved agenda as presented. Councilmember Quinton seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

## PUBLIC HEARING –Water Use Efficiency Goal Setting

Mayor Blackwell recessed the regular meeting at 6:09 pm and opened a Public Hearing for Water Use Efficiency Goal Setting.

**STAFF REPORT:** The City of Connell was required to update the Water System Plan. Water Use Efficiency requirements for the State of Washington are described primary in the Department of Health’s Water Use Efficiency Rule Guidebook (2011). Dave Jepsen with Anderson Perry presented Councilmember’s with information on the water system efficiency plan. Goals recommended were 2% reduction in annual consumption per residential unit over a 6-year period and Supply Side Goal-Distribution System Leakage of 10% or less by Year 2021. Public Works Director advised about the 19% water loss.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

### COUNCILMEMBERS COMMENT PORTION OF THE HEARING:

Mayor Blackwell said it was hard to know how much hydrants are losing when being flushed.

Councilmember Minor asked about the city wells not being used at this time.

Mayor Blackwell closed the hearing and opened regular meeting at 6:20 pm.

Dave Jepsen stated Councilmember’s needed to adopt water use efficiency goals. Water Use Efficiency (WUE) Measures that could be put in place were: adding consumption history on customer water bills, WUE information on the City’s Website, New Customer Water System informational Packets, and do a WUE Educational Display Board.

Mr. Jepsen recommended User Rates have at least one additional usage rate tier for billing purposes. Chapter 1 and Chapter 2 of the City of Connells Water System Plan were reviewed. Information was provided on the City’s Well #6 issues.

**Motion:** Councilmember Quinton moved to approved Water Use Efficiency Goals of Demand Side-2% Reduction in annual consumption per residential unit over a 6-year period and Supply Side Goal-Distribution System Leakage of 10% or less by Year 2012. Mayor Pro Tem Huber seconded motion. Motion passed 3-0. Councilmember Silva did not vote on motion, as she arrived after the meeting began and hadn’t been sworn in for her new term as councilmember.

City Clerk/Treasurer Maria Peña administered the Oath of Office to: Kathryn Silva Council Position #6.

### USDA-REFINANCING CURRENT LOAN

City Treasurer Maria Pena recently received a letter from USDA asking the City to refinance the City’s current loan. The City currently had a principal balance of \$ 858,053. Taking into account the payment for 2016, City Clerk/Treasurer believed the city would need to refinance \$800,000. The Clerk/Treasurer had contacted both Community First and US Banks; and they had given options in flexible rates and fixed rates for a 10 year

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term. With either bank there would not be a penalty for prepayment and her goal would be to have the loan paid in full in at least five years. With US Bank the city would need to open an account so that payments could be deducted automatically.

Proposals for 10 year terms: Currently the flexible rate for Community First is 2.28% and US Bank is 2.25% (a difference of approx \$1,408). These rates would be adjusted monthly or quarterly, up or down, depending on prime rate. The fixed rate currently from Community First is 3.25% and US Bank is 2.7%. Staff recommends working with US Bank to refinance \$800,000 at a fixed rate of 2.7%.

**Motion:** Councilmember Silva moved to approve the City to refinance the USDA loan with US Bank at a fixed rate of 2.7%. Councilmember Quinton seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

City Administrator Crowther spoke about the Community Development Block Grant. Mr. Crowther reviewed the \$2 million housing award, \$200,000 CDBG application, Preliminary Results, and Tasks Completed. The City had a scheduled CDBG Hearing for January 19, 2016 including Citizen Participation Documentation. The City was pleased with excellent collaboration to advance housing development in Connell, including long-sought-after paving extension of Ford Avenue, and the financial means to do so, via CDBG. The City had many projects that would qualify for CDBG funding.

**Motion:** Councilmember Minor moved to approve Resolution No. 2016-01 CDBG Housing Enhancement Fund Application. Mayor Pro Tem Huber seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

### HOMELESS HOUSING & ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS/PLANS-INTERLOCA AGREEMENT

Franklin County provided a renewal contract for Homeless Housing & Assistance Programs & Plans.

**Motion:** Councilmember Silva moved to approve Interlocal Agreement between Franklin County and the City of Connell in providing for local homeless housing and assistance programs/plans. Councilmember Quinton seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

### MID-COLUMBIA MEALS ON WHEELS-MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Meals on Wheel provided a renewal contract for continuing to host a nutrition site 3 days per week at the Connell Community Center for senior citizens.

**Motion:** Councilmember Minor moved to approve Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Connell and Senior Life Resources, Mid-Columbia Meals on Wheels Program regarding use of space. Mayor Pro Tem Huber seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

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TREE BOARD ORDINANCE

City Administrator Crowther thanked everyone for their work on the Tree Board Ordinance. Ordinance No.963-2016 establishes a Tree Advisory Board. Staff recommended adoption of the Ordinance.

**Motion:** Councilmember Minor moved to approve Ordinance No. 963-2016-Establishing a Tree Advisory Board. Mayor Pro Tem Huber seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously

BUILDING INSPECTION SERVICES-INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH  
FRANKLIN COUNTY

Since 2010, Franklin County had been performing Building Inspection Services effectively for the City of Connell. Franklin County provided an Interlocal Agreement for another 3 years of service. Staff recommendation was to approve renewal agreement.

**Motion:** Councilmember Quinton moved to approve Interlocal Agreement between Franklin County and the City of Connell for Providing Building inspections services for those areas located within the corporate limits of Connell, Washington. Councilmember Minor seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Public Works Director-Larry Turner

- 1) Sewer line broke on Christmas. The sewer line will need to be replaced. Sewer line was originally installed in the 60's.

Police Chief- Chris Turner

- 1) Police department was quiet over holidays
- 2) Police Officer Shane Thorson resigned from his position

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business before the City Council of Connell, Mayor Blackwell adjourned the meeting at 7:17 pm.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Rose Courneya, Deputy City Clerk/Treasurer

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Bruce Blackwell, Mayor