

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

February 1, 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, Kathy Silva, Joe Escalera and Ray Minor.

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

VISITORS: Kathy Bingham, Franklin County Graphic; and Cathy Merrill Holle Community Action Connections.

APPOINTMENTS

Tree Board	Appointed	Expires
#1 Manuel Galvez	1/19/2016	12/31/2016
#2 Linda Bailie	1/19/2016	12/31/2017
#3 Becky Daggett (Secretary)	1/19/2016	12/31/2017
#4 Kim Phanthavong (City Representative)	1/19/2016	12/31/2018
#5 Ken Sellereite (Chair)	1/19/2016	12/31/2018

Motion: Councilmember Quinton moved to approve the appointments as presented. Councilmember Escalera seconded, motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion: Councilmember Silva moved to approve the Consent Calendar as presented.

- Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting January 19, 2016
- Accounts Payable February 1, 2016 for \$52,950.78
- Payroll Check Register 1/15 to 1/20/2016 for \$56,657.50
- Payroll Check Register 1/21/2016 for \$12,367.14

Councilmember Quinton seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENT/NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Paul Clark would like the city to allow raising chickens within the City of Connell limits.
Franklin County Planning and Building Department:

- 1) Christian Academy-Withdraw their Conditional Use Permit
- 2) Notice of Hearing for Jon Warling-Short Plat
- 3) Notice of Hearing for John Peterson-Short Plat
- 4) Notice of Hearing Samuel Reed-Short Plat
- 5) Notice of Hearing Nolan Empey-Short Plat

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Councilmember Quinton approved agenda as presented.
Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

BENTON-FRANKLIN COMMUNITY ACTION CONNECTIONS (CAC)-CATHY MERRILL HOLLE

Cathy Merrill stated CAC received two grants to help seniors within the rural areas of Benton and Franklin Counties. A representative from CAC will run the program for Connell. The grants only covered material so volunteers would be needed to perform the actual work.

Aging Master 10-programs will also be offer in Connell. The program allows for 10 programs in 2016 and 10 programs in 2017. Purpose of program is to help educate seniors and get senior out and about. A survey will be provided to seniors to gather information on what kind of services the seniors need within Connell. Volunteers would be needed to teach classes and a central location would need to be provided for CAC to use without cost.

Mrs. Merrill thanked Mayor Blackwell and Councilmember Minor for their involvement with CAC.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PRECONSTRUCITON GRANT APPLICATION FOR 2016

As a part of Well 6 rebuild, the City was required to do an Environmental Review, Historical Review, and Cultural Review.

Public Works Director Turner found out about a grant from the Department of Health that would help cover costs of the Well 6 rebuild. He was told about the grant on Monday and that it was due by that Friday. So he went ahead and submitted the grant before Councilmember's had a chance to approve the application. He didn't want the city to miss out on potential funding.

Motion: Councilmember Escalera moved to approve Grant Application to the Department of Health. Councilmember Quinton seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

USDA-REFINANCING CURRENT LOAN

City Clerk/Treasurer Maria Peña informed Councilmember's of changes to the Community First Bank and Us Bank loan options. Currently, the City had a good debt ratio. Clerk/Treasurer Pena's recommendation was for the City to pay off the USDA loan with City funds and not get a loan from the local banks. Her concern was that if the City needed to take a loan out for the Well 6 rebuild, and had just received a loan to pay off the USDA loan, then the city might have a hard time getting a loan for the Well 6 rebuild if it's needed.

Council consensus was to pay off the USDA Loan with City Funds.

HOTEL MOTEL 2016 ALLOCATIONS

The Hotel Motel Committee met on January 27, 2016 and reviewed the applications for the Hotel/Motel Funds. The 2016 budget was allocated for expenditures of \$21,840.

MEETING OF THE CITY OF CONNELL
Regular Meeting-February 1, 2016

The following was the recommendations from the Hotel/Motel Committee.

- 1) Chamber of Commerce 1,000 (Committee recommended \$900)
- 2) Coulee Corridor Consortium requested \$500(Committee Recommended \$450)
- 3) Columbia Basin Junior Livestock requested \$950 (Committee recommended \$900)
- 4) Miss Connell Scholarship Associating requested \$4,500(Committee recommended \$4,400)
- 5) Fall Festival requested \$3,500(Committee recommended \$3,400)
- 6) Connell Community Club \$2,500(Committee recommended \$850)
- 7) City of Connell requested \$9840 (Committee recommended \$9840)
- 8) City of Connell –Traveler Planner 1000 (Committee recommended \$1000)

Committee recommends allocating \$21,740 for tourism expenditures out of the Hotel/Motel Fund.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Huber moved to approve Hotel Motel Allocations as listed above.
Councilmember Minor seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

2015 YEAR END BUDGET DISCUSSION

City Clerk/Treasurer Maria Peña stated the 2015 Year financial books were closed. The final financial numbers were presented to Councilmember's.

001 General Fund: There was a net loss of \$40,496.44. This is actually better than the budget projection of a net loss of \$153,840.

002 General Reserve Fund: There was a net loss of \$2,268.01. This fund is a holding account for the PS Criminal Justice money as well as for capital improvements for all departments of the General Fund.

101 Street Fund: There was a net gain of \$53,472.67. In Street Operating revenues came in slightly higher than projected for the motor vehicle fuel tax and expenditures came in less than projected, needing a transfer of \$35,000 instead of \$74,350 from the General Fund. In the Street Improvement Reserve The Columbia Ave BST project was put on hold.

104 Hotel/Motel Fund: Is showing a fund loss due to the capital purchase of the float and trailer.

111 General Support Fund: Is right on track with payments being received for interfund loans from the water fund.

401 Water Fund: There was a net gain of \$250,979.60. In 2015 we did pay \$100,000 extra on the USDA loan.

402 Sewer Fund: There was a net gain of \$190,414.71

403 Solid Waste Fund: There was a net loss of \$6,662.67.

414-416: Pass through accounts

MEETING OF THE CITY OF CONNELL
Regular Meeting-February 1, 2016

633 Remittance Clearing: Net loss of \$4,392.16 partially due to a correction of \$2,754.13 for criminal victim assessments due to the county that had not been made between November 2010 and September 2015.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

City Administrator – Jed Crowther

- 1) Thanked Staff Members for their hard work
- 2) Met with Franklin County on funding options for pool
- 3) Researching allowing chickens within the City limits

Fire Chief-Chris Schulte

- 1) Franklin County Burn pamphlets available

Police Chief- Chris Turner

- 1) AED's purchased
- 2) Cleaning up junk vehicles on City streets

Public Works Director-Larry Turner

- 1) Working on Well
- 2) Working outside as weather allows
- 3) Street Sweeper being serviced
- 4) Water System plan was given to the Department of Health
- 5) Pool Expert would be coming to do a pool walk through

MEETING RECESSED

The Mayor recessed the meeting at 7:00 pm to go into an Executive session for 15 minutes to consider the selection of a site or the acquisition of, real estate by lease or purchase.

Mayor Blackwell came out at 7:15 and extended the Executive session 5 minutes.

METTING RECONVENED

The Mayor reconvened the regular meeting at 7:20 pm.

CITY COUNCIL CLOSING REMARKS

Councilmember's Remarks

- 1) Did YMCA get back to city on the pool?
- 2) Was there a grant for the pool?
- 3) Council had talked about chickens in the City before (Enforcement problems)
- 4) Is anyone doing anything about chickens that are already in town?

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business before the City Council of Connell, Mayor Blackwell adjourned the meeting at 7:28 pm.

ATTEST: _____
Rose Courneya, Deputy City Clerk/Treasurer

Bruce Blackwell, Mayor