

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

February 16, 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: Joe Escalera and Ray Minor.

**EXCUSED:** Mayor Pro Tem Huber moved to excuse Councilmember Quinton and Councilmember Silva. Councilmember Minor seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

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

**VISITORS:** Kathy Bingham, Franklin County Graphic; Jacque Cook and Sean Davis, Franklin County Emergency Management; Jaeniffer Kaiser and Dave Gribble, Park Board; Steve Howland, YMCA; Citizens: John White, Terry & Jamie & Taylor Utecht, Kent Olsen, Helen Tobin, Laurie Mandler, Manny Choi, Paul Clark, Rachel Cisneros, and Alyssa Clark.

CORRESPONDENCE

Franklin County Planning and Building Department sent a notice of two Pending Short Plats for Paul Miller, 585 Dogwood Road, Pasco.

CONSENT CALENDAR

**Motion:** Mayor Pro Tem Huber moved to approve the Consent Calendar as presented.

- a) Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting February 1, 2016
- b) Franklin County Public Works Task Order 1
- c) Accounts Payable February 16, 2016 for \$109,189.20
- d) Payroll Check Register 1/31 to 2/5/2016 for \$86,829.47
- e) Washington State Department of Corrections, Contract Number K11103.

New rate agreement; consistent with Class IV Work Crew Master Agreement.

Rate reduction; \$1.10 rather than \$1.45 per hour, to reflect added duties by City Councilmember Minor and Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Blackwell temporarily appointed Councilmember Minor to Finance Committee.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Motion:** Mayor Pro Tem Huber approved agenda as presented.

Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

FRANKLIN COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN-SEAN DAVIS, DIRECTOR

Sean Davis spoke on the Franklin County Comprehensive Emergency Plan. The Comprehensive Plan was updated and presented to Councilmember's for approval. This agreement provides emergency services in the event of a disaster or major emergency to the City of Connell.

**Motion:** Mayor Pro Tem Huber moved to authorize the Mayor to sign the Connell Promulgation Letter which adopts the 2015 Franklin county Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

POOL REVIEW

***YMCA Programs***

Steve Howland from YMCA gave presentation to councilmember's. He spoke on behalf of helping out with the pool in Connell. He had met with staff on the pool and what the city was doing. Mr. Howland stated the city was doing the initial things right pertaining to the pool. YMCA looks for partnership with cities. What could the YMCA offer Connell? They could help out with grants, programs, talk with Park Board for ideas, and offer Knowledge. The Cities current pool designed makes it a challenge for the lifeguarding.

City Administrator Crowther reviewed the following items with Councilmember's:

***Pool Condition:*** The pool condition would be presented at the next council meeting.

***Funding Methods:*** Met with Steve Marks (Franklin County Assessor) & discussed levy lid lift and park district. Utility Taxes, Grants and Community support to help fund the city pool.

***Next Step:***

Pool condition report on March 7, 2016

Council to determine if/when to create Ballot Measure Resolution

Citizen committee to raise funds or solicit donations

Apply for grants, as appropriated

All of this work on funding would be for future use, not 2016.

Councilmember's held discussion.

SURPLUS OF POLICE VEHICLES

Police Chief Turner was requesting permission to surplus two city vehicles at auction.

Both vehicles are currently not being used and are parked at the city shop.

1. 2009 Ford Crown Victoria Police Interceptor VIN# 2FAHP71V89X129304
2. 2002 Volvo V70XC Cross Country VIN# YV1SZ58D521067607

**Motion:** Councilmember Escalera moved to approve surplus of the 2009 Ford Crown Victoria and 2002 Volvo. Mayor Pro Tem Huber seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

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**TRANSPORTATION BENEFIT DISTRICT-CAR TAB FEES**

Last fall during budget season, staff introduced the idea of creating a Transportation Benefit District. Since then, Mayor and staff have checked into applicable regulations and required process steps. A draft Ordinance No. 964-20 is attached; which explains purpose and implementation. City Clerk/Treasurer Maria Peña asked if Councilmember's wanted to continue in the process for the Transportation Benefit District. Fund raised would be for the Street Fund. Council consensus was to move forward with Transportation Benefit District.

A Public Hearing was scheduled for March 7, 2016.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

City Administrator – Jed Crowther

- 1) Bid opening- Columbia Ave BST Street Project
- 2) Clean up days in Connell-Residents requested
- 3) Housing Grant Results
- 4) Art work reinstallation –Artist approved site
- 5) Talked about Chickens within limits-provided councilmember with information

City Clerk/Treasurer-Maria Peña

- 1) Handed out Monthly Financial Statements
- 2) Talked sanitation expenditures and revenues

Fire Chief-Chris Schulte

- 1) EVIP Training Scheduled
- 2) Reviewed retirement eligibility list for volunteer firemen
- 3) Shelving installed on Fire trucks
- 4) Basin Disposal Inc., dropping recycling bin by bus garage

Police Chief- Chris Turner

- 1) Teenagers been keeping police department busy (were from Kennewick so returned them to Kennewick)
- 2) Teenager reported with alcohol bottles

CITY COUNCIL CLOSING REMARKS

Councilmember's Remarks

- 1) Appreciated the Budget Book
- 2) Appreciated more information on the pool coming back to councilmember's
- 3) Thanked staff for all the hard work they do
- 4) Would like to see a place in Connell to recycle plastic

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business before the City Council of Connell, Mayor Blackwell adjourned the meeting at 7:07 pm.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bruce Blackwell, Mayor

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