

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

February 18, 2014

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, Kathie Silva, and Ray Minor.

EXCUSED:

**Motion:** Mayor Pro Tem Huber moved to excuse Councilmember Quinton. Councilmember Escalera seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

STAFF: Attorney Heidi Ellerd, Fire Chief Chris Schulte, Police Chief Interim Alan Chertok, and City Clerk/Treasurer Maria Peña.

VISITORS: Kathy Bingham, Franklin County Graphic; Citizens: Robert McCurry and Andy Sawyer.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Franklin County Planning & Building Department was informing the city about a wireless cell tower going up around the Eltopia area. A public hearing was scheduled for March 4, 2014.

Mayor Blackwell received a liquor license renewal notice from the Washington State Liquor Control Board for Mei-Ling Inn.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

- a) Minutes of the Regular Council meeting February 3, 2014
- b) Minutes of the Regular Town Hall meeting February 10, 2014
- c) Benton-Franklin Regional SWAT Services Contract
- d) Check Register 2/13/2014 \$1,875.70
- e) Accounts Payable 2/18/2014 \$89,716.32
- f) Payroll Check Register 1/31 - 2/5/2014 for \$64,743.35

Mayor Pro Tem Huber seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENT/NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Police Chief Interim Alan Chertok stated Police Officer Shane Thorson received a grant for \$3,748 for training on child safety seats, and child safety seats to handout. The child safety seats will be handed out to citizens.

Councilmember Escalera asked about the council meetings being audio recorded, and availability of the recordings on the city website.

Councilmember Escalera also asked about the SWAT contract. Police Chief Interim Alan Chertok answered Councilmember Escalera's questions.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Motion:** Councilmember Minor moved to approve the Agenda as presented.  
Councilmember Silva seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

2013 YEAR END FINANCIAL REPORT

City Clerk /Treasurer Maria Peña presented a 2013 Year End budget comparison report to Councilmembers. The Clerk/Treasurer reviewed the final budget numbers and highlighted some details within the report. Both expenditures and revenues were discussed for 2013. Revenues came in higher or at what was projected. Expenditures came in below or lower than projected. Overall City Clerk /Treasurer Maria Peña was pleased with the ending fund balances.

REPORTS

Fire Chief Chris Schulte was asked about the availability of a radio tower to broadcast emergencies. The new tower was not available but the old tower maybe available. He was still checking into it. Fire Chief Schulte advised the fire truck was backed into the fire bay doors. The cost to fix the damage would be about \$1,000 out of the fire department budget. MedStar was holding a practice landing training on February 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. The location for the landing was the high school football field.

MEETING RECESSED

At 7:38 pm Mayor Blackwell announced an Executive Session for 10 minutes to evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment.

At 7:48 pm Mayor Blackwell extended the meeting 10 minutes.

MEETING RECONVENED

Mayor Blackwell reconvened the Regular Meeting at 7:58 pm.

Mayor Blackwell stated Michael Morales had turned down the city administrator position. A second choice would have to be made.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business before the City Council of Connell, Mayor Blackwell adjourned the meeting at 7:58 pm.

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

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