

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

April 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: Joe Escalera Kathie Silva, Rhonda Quinton and Ray Minor.

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

VISITORS: Kathy Bingham, Franklin County Graphic; Citizens: Kara Booker, Laurie Mandler, Jennifer Tuck, Terry Utecht, Jamie Utecht, James Ferguson, Jody Barker, John White, Manny Choi, Crystal Smith, Rachael Poulson, Regina Grassl, and John Lindner.

CORRESPONDENCE

Franklin County Planning and Building department sent the city 3 notices of plats Public Hearings.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

- a) Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting March 21, 2016
- b) Check Register April 1, 2016 for \$228.33
- c) Accounts Payable April 4, 2016 for \$985,807.47

Mayor Pro Tem Huber seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Councilmember Minor approved agenda as amended. Councilmember Quinton seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

PUBLIC HEARING-Transportation Benefit District (TBD)

Mayor Blackwell recessed the regular meeting at 6:02 pm and opened a Public Hearing for the purpose of Assuming the Transportation Benefit District.

STAFF REPORT: Assumption of the Transportation Benefit District was the second step in setting up the Transportation Benefit District. Ordinance NO 965-2016 allows the City to assume the rights, powers, functions, and obligations of the Connell Transportation Benefit District.

Staff made the following findings to support the assumption of the Connell TBD:

Findings

1. Chapter 36.74 RCW allows the City the authority to take over and assume the rights, powers, functions and obligations of the Connell Transportation Benefit District
2. This action will significantly simplify the collection, administration, and distribution of funds collected for streets by minimizing duplicative governing procedures.
3. The Connell Transportation Benefit District has not yet collected any funds, does not

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have any contracts, has not committed to any projects and has not spent any funds, which simplifies the transfer of authority.

4. The Connell Transportation Benefit District as yet does not have any assets, simplifying the transfer of authority.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

John White-asked Mayor to answer questions if they are asked

Mr. White was not in favor of the licenses tab fees. He was concerned that the City wanted enlarged itself but the City was discouraging people from coming to town. Would like Council and staff to review city finances and set priorities.

Helen Tobin-discouraged because did not have all the information on the vehicle tabs and fees could be raised to \$50.00 without voter approval.

COUNCILMEMBERS COMMENT PORTION OF THE HEARING:

Mayor Pro Tem Huber –would like to see Street Fund support itself and would like to table for now to review other options.

Councilmember Minor-don't want to see Streets deteriorate

Councilmember Silva-licensing machine was old so may not get \$15 fee on all addresses. Was it a lot of work to enforce fees? Would like to assume TBD

Councilmember Quinton-Assume TBD

Councilmember Escalera-Assume TBD

Mayor Blackwell closed the hearing and opened regular meeting at 6:19 pm.

Motion: Councilmember Minor moved to adopt Ordinance No. 965-2016 assuming the Connell Transportation Benefit District. Councilmember Silva seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 967-2016 Vehicle License Fee

Councilmember's would like information on other revenue sources for the Street Fund and how much each revenue source would bring into the city. City Attorney Hultgrenn stated the City could do a property tax but it would need to be approved by the vote of the people.

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-06 Material Change Policy

With the assumption of the Connell Transportation Benefit District there was a State law requirement that a material change policy be adopted. The policy was to address major plan changes that affect project delivery or the ability to finance the plan. The policy must at least address material changes to cost, scope, and schedule, and level of change that would require governing body involvement

Motion: Councilmember Minor moved to adopt Resolution No. 2016-06 adopting a material change policy. Mayor Pro Tem Huber seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

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PARK & RECREATION DIRECTOR

Recently there was discussion on providing a limited number of summer parks and recreation programs or events, and the possibility of hiring a part-time director. Park Board had met and recommended by motion to Council to authorize hiring a Park & Recreation Director. City Clerk/Treasurer Maria Peña explained she would not know what budget funds were available until the end of the year.

Motion: Councilmember Silva moved to hire a Park & Recreation Director. No seconded

Motion: Councilmember Silva moved to hire a part-time Park & Recreation Director starting with the summer and maybe longer if there were funds available. No seconded

Motion: Councilmember Silva moved to hire a part-time Park & Recreation Director and allow expenditures up to \$10,000 for the Parks & Recreation program, including the salary for a Park & Recreation Director. Councilmember Minor seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

City Administrator – Jed Crowther

- 1) Election Guidelines-MRSC provided dos and don'ts as an elected official
- 2) RR Interchange-application

Police Chief- Chris Turner

- 1) Police department running smoothly

Clerk/Treasurer-Maria Peña

- 1) Check emails: Look for an email from public disclosure commission and file report

CITY COUNCIL CLOSING REMARKS

Councilmember's Remarks

- 1) Can a member of the community be on the finance committee?
- 2) Appreciated everyone coming out to the council meeting and voicing concerns
- 3) Would like to see more community involvement
- 4) Community members can review all financial information.

John White-Franklin County Mosquito District meets once a month and are doing what they can to control mosquitos.

Mayor Blackwell Remarks

- 1) Remind everyone that the council had procedural things to handle
- 2) Heard from citizens that they want money for pool
- 3) Money raised for street fund would not have to come out of the general fund, therefore, that would leave more money in General Fund

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business before the City Council of Connell, Mayor Blackwell adjourned the meeting at 7:02 pm.

ATTEST: _____
Rose Courneya, Deputy City Clerk/Treasurer

Bruce Blackwell, Mayor

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