

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

May 2, 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, Rhonda Quinton, Kathie Silva, and Ray Minor.

STAFF: Attorney Dan Hultgren, City Administrator Jed Crowther, Police Chief Chris Turner, and Fire Chief Chris Schulte.

VISITORS: Kathy Bingham, Franklin County Graphic: Citizens: Manny Choi, John Lindner, and the Miss Connell Scholarship Finalists.

CORRESPONDENCE

Councilmember Minor presented the Community Action Connections Award given to the City of Connell.

Manny Choi was appointed as the Park & Recreation Director.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

- a) Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting April 4, 2016
- b) Proclamation Older American Month 2016
- c) Check Register 4/18/2016 for \$143,558.60
- d) Accounts Payable May 2, 2016 for \$19,748.05
- e) Payroll Register 3/31/2016 -4/5/2016 for \$82,566.12
- f) Payroll Register 4/10/2016-4/20/2016 for \$67,287.41

Councilmember Quinton seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION FOR COUNCILMEMBERS

Miss Connell Scholarship Finalists Thanked the City of Connell for the cities support and provided the councilmember's with information on the program and its activities.

CITIZEN COMMENT/NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Burl Booker asked that all property owners within the City of Connell receive a letter if their properties contain weeds that need to be taking care according to the City code.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Huber approved agenda as presented.

Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

CONNELL RAIL INTERCHANGE STUDY AMENDMENT 1-FINAL DESIGN AND PERMITTING

City Council previously approved the WSDOT Rail Agreement in order to access State funds for the Connell Rail Interchange project. HDR Engineering was prepared to perform Final Design and Permitting. Costs for this upcoming work would be reimbursed by the WSDOT agreement.

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City Attorney Hultgrenn had reviewed the agreement. Staff recommended Council approve the Connell Rail Interchange Study Amendment 1 by HDR Engineering, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$439,319.70 upon receiving written approval from WSDOT.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Councilmember Minor moved to approve the Connell Rail Interchange Study Amendment 1 by HDR Engineering, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$439,319.70 upon receiving written approval from WSDOT. Mayor Pro Tem Huber seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS-INMATE WORK CREW AGREEMENT

The Department of Corrections had informed the City that the ongoing inmate work crew agreement would increase \$0.15 per offender hour worked. The inmates perform various jobs within the city. Councilmember's held discussion.

Motion: Councilmember Quinton moved to approve Agreement No. K11103 between the Washington State Department of Corrections and the City of Connell. Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

SURPLUS AND/OR SCRAP MISC. VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT

Public Works Director Turner would like to surplus the 2002 Ford Taurus and a 2015 Chevy pickup box. City Administrator Crowther stated the city would have to look into replacing the taurus with another vehicle for city staff to use.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Huber approved surplus of the 2002 Ford Taurus and a 2015 Chevy pickup box. Councilmember Minor seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

TRANSPORATION BENEFIT DISTRICT INFORMATION

City Council had requested further information about the Transportation Benefit District (TBD). Council also had inquired about other funding sources. City Administrator Crowther provided councilmember's with information from MRSC on Transportation Benefits Districts within other cities around the state. The funding sources from the TBD would come from Vehicle License Fees or a Sales & Use Taxes. In order to impose TBD sales & use tax, it would have to be approved by voters.

Council held Discussion:

- 1) When could the TBD Sales & Use tax be put on the ballot?
- 2) A Resolution or Ordinance would have to be approved before the Sales & Use tax could go on the ballot.
- 3) What percentage could be put on the ballot? (.2%)
- 4) Tax could possibly be put on the November ballot? (What was the cost?)
- 5) Who would this tax impact?
- 6) What was the deadline for the utility tax for the swimming pool?
- 7) City cannot promote the taxes, only provide general information.

Motion: Councilmember Quinton moved to have city staff compile more information relating to a .2% sales tax increase for street funding and what the cost would be to put the tax on the ballot for voter approval. Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

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DEPARTMENT REPORTS

City Administrator – Jed Crowther

- 1) Thanked Staff for their hard work on public record requests

Fire Chief-Chris Schulte

- 1) Working with school district for the 4th of July fireworks display
- 2) Fire training held. Both county and city firemen attended training

Police Chief- Chris Turner

- 1) Police department been quite.

MEETING RECESSED

Mayor Blackwell recessed the Regular Council meeting at 6:55 pm to go into an executive session for 10 minutes to consider the minimum price at which real estate will be offered for lease or sale and to discuss with legal counsel representing the City litigation or potential litigation to which the City, or city council member or employee is, or may, a party.

METTING RECONVENED

The Mayor Blackwell reconvened the Regular Council meeting at 7:06 pm.

CITY COUNCIL CLOSING REMARKS

Councilmember's Remarks

- 1) Thank citizens for coming
- 2) Would like to see city obtain more businesses.
- 3) Welcomed Manny as the new Park & Recreation Director
- 4) Thanked staff for hard work
- 5) Would like to see someone in the community step up to help the pool issue
- 6) Congratulations to John Lindner as the man of the year.
- 7) Thanked everyone that worked on the float

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business before the City Council of Connell, Mayor Blackwell adjourned the meeting at 7:11 pm.

ATTEST: _____
Rose Courneya, Deputy City Clerk/Treasurer

Bruce Blackwell, Mayor