

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

November 24, 2015

The Special Council Meeting, of the Connell City Council was called to order by Mayor Blackwell at 6:00 pm in the City Hall.

ROLL CALL

- PRESENT: Mayor Bruce Blackwell, and Councilmember's: Rhonda Quinton, Kathie Silva, Joe Escalera and Ray Minor.
- ABSENT: Mayor Pro Tem Huber
- STAFF: City Administrator Jed Crowther, Police Chief Chris Turner, Public Works Director Larry Turner, Fire Chief Chris Schulte, Building Service Clerk Sterling Joyner, Police Sergeant Shane Thorson, and Clerk/Treasurer Maria Peña.
- VISITOR: Kathy Bingham, Franklin County Graphic; and many Connell Citizens

Budget/Pool Discussion

Discussion Items

- ❖ Invite 'Community Rally' fund raiser activity.
- ❖ Consider preparing a voter proposition in November of 2016 - for 2017 and beyond pool funding.
- ❖ Establish a 'Pool District' approach at the City level or expand to surrounding county residents.
- ❖ Consider Utility Tax Increase proposition.
- ❖ Consider reducing expenditures in all departments and use the money saved to fund the pool. This approach should include trade-off analysis to determine consequences of altered budget priorities.
- ❖ Examine expenditures to see if opportunities exist to reduce the cost of operations.
- ❖ Explore other agencies/partners (YMCA, Etc) that might be able to share expense and management.
- ❖ Pursue grant opportunities, such as "No Child Left Inside".
- ❖ If a funding approach is identified for 2016, then the pool could be in operation.
- ❖ Reduce slide open times in order to reduce life guard salaries. (e.g., open only one day a week?)
- ❖ Develop a "team" of sponsors that could stay the course for the long term to keep the pool open.
- ❖ Consider dedicating all Park and Recreation dollars to maintain pool, and down size efforts in parks.
- ❖ Consider creating classes at the pool to help pay a portion of expenses (e.g., Water aerobics, Etc)
- ❖ Examine cost efficient season length factors; including weather forecast, seasonal changes and enough advance time to get the pool ready.
- ❖ Examine if the money that might be made selling the lots next to the tennis courts could be used to partially fund the pool in 2016 while the long term funding approach was being developed.
- ❖ Re-examine the utilization of the pool cover as a possible cost saving measure.
- ❖ Note economic benefit of pool to keep local people in Connell rather than spend elsewhere.
- ❖ Look at fee schedule to see if any changes might help.
- ❖ Assess larger budget issues and examine needs.
- ❖ Provide employee benefit detail.

- ❖ Improve public perception of what city employees are doing for their community.
- ❖ Budget decisions are made on the State of Washington schedule months in advance.

Summary of potential action items

- ❖ Develop a short term funding plan for 2016.
- ❖ Develop a long term funding approach.
- ❖ Improve operational efficiency.
- ❖ Pursue grants and partnering.
- ❖ Discuss options with City Council.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Mayor Blackwell adjourned the Special meeting at 7:45 pm.

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

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Bruce Blackwell, Mayor