

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

October 20, 2014

The regular semi-monthly meeting, of the City Council of the City of Connell 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, Fire Chief Chris Schulte, Public Works Director Larry Turner, and Clerk/Treasurer Maria Peña.

**VISITORS:** Kathy Bingham, Franklin County Graphic: Citizens Robert McCurry, Lauren Booker, Gene Stocking, and Burl Booker. Jeanne Hultgrenn.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

- a) Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting October 6, 2014
- b) Minutes of the Town Hall Meeting October 13, 2014
- c) Title VI Non-Discrimination Agreement
- d) Application for Payment No. 1 Sharpe & Preszler \$107,743.39
- e) Application for Payment No. 2 Sharpe & Preszler \$48,817.06
- f) Check Register 10/8/2014 for \$13,938.92
- g) Accounts Payable Register 10/20/2014 for \$161,836.23
- h) Payroll Register 10/15-10/10/2014 for \$53,140.25

Mayor Pro Tem Huber seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Motion:** Councilmember Quinton moved to approve the Order of Business as listed. Councilmember Silva seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC HEARING –Revenue Sources and Property Taxes**

Mayor Blackwell recessed the regular meeting at 6:03 pm and opened a Public Hearing for the purpose of considering Revenue Sources and Property Taxes.

**STAFF REPORT:** The 2015 Ad Valorem Property Tax Ordinance No. 948-2014 was presented to Councilmembers for review. The ordinance sets the dollar amount of the increase over the actual levy amount from the previous year at \$4,342.00 which was an increase of 1%. The number did not include additional revenue resulting from new construction or property improvements. Clerk/Treasurer Maria Peña reviewed the revenue sources for the 2015 Preliminary Budget with Councilmembers.

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**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Robert McCurry asked if the City Water Fund had enough revenue set aside to drill a city well if needed. Public Works Director Larry Turner stated the City had adequate funds and could get revenue from other sources.

**COUNCILMEMBERS COMMENT PORTION OF THE HEARING:** None Heard

Mayor Blackwell closed the hearing and opened regular meeting at 6:16 pm.

**Motion:** Councilmember Minor moved to approve Ordinance No. 948-2014 setting the 2015 Ad Valorem General Property Taxes. Mayor Pro Tem Huber seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

### WATER & SEWER RATES 2015-FCS GROUP RECOMMENDATION

The FCS Groups recommendation for water and sewer rates for 2015 was to increase the water rates 5% and sewer rates 3%. Councilmembers directed staff to bring a resolution back to the next council meeting for adoption.

### MRSC SMALL WORKS, CONSULTANT, AND VENDOR ROSTER AGREEMENT

Municipal Research Service Center (MRSC) currently handled the Small Works Roster program for the City of Connell. City Attorney Dan Hultgren explained the difference between the Small Works Roster and the Vendor list. Public Works Director Larry Turner stated the MRSC tool was a good idea.

**Motion:** Councilmember Quinton moved to adopt Resolution No. 2014-15. Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**Motion:** Councilmember Quinton moved to approve the Mayor to sign the Washington Public Agency Contract for Small Works, Consultant, and Vender Roster with MRSC. Mayor Pro Tem Huber seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

### 2015 BUDGET DISCUSSION

City Administrator Jed Crowther reviewed the prior council meeting budget discussion. Since then, staff had met to sharpen cost allocations and prioritize needs for 2015. As a result, staff elected to proceed without hiring a new police clerk, and refined expense projections, for a reduction of cost within each department. The draft 2015 budget still showed a projection of \$160,000 more expenditure in the General Fund than what the expected revenue collections for the General Fund would be in 2015.

A Special Council meeting was set for October 27, 2014 at 7:00 pm for a 2015 Budget Discussion.

### WALKWAY PAVING-SOUTH COLUMBIA AVENUE

Columbia Basin Health Association constructed a rough walking path from the CBHA sidewalk on the west side of South Columbia Avenue north towards SR-260 for the benefit of the community. Columbia Basin Health, Franklin County, and the City of Connell had collaborated on an appropriate design for a paved sidewalk. If all three entities agreed on paving of the sidewalk from CBHA to SR-260, the shared cost to each entity would be about \$3,600.

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**Motion:** Councilmember Quinton moved to authorize an expenditure of up to \$3,600 from the Street Capital Fund for paving of the walkway along South Columbia between Columbia Basin Health and SR-260. Contingent upon all 3 parties involved agree to pave sidewalk. Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE / DEPARTMENT REPORTS

CITY ADMINISTRATOR-Jed Crowther

- 1) Planning Commission Meeting-Over height garages
- 2) Park Board- Park & Recreation Comprehensive Plan
- 3) Rail road quiet zone
- 4) District Court Contract renewal
- 5) ConAgra Contract renewal
- 6) Community Center rates
- 7) Gum Street Closure discussion-gathering data
- 8) Longevity pay-set aside for now (focus more on performance pay)

FIRE CHIEF-Chris Schulte

- 1) Fire Department hosting Yoga
- 2) Working with Coyote Ridge Correctional Center
- 3) Attending training in Washugal

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR-Larry Turner

- 1) Working on getting sidewalk done
- 2) Community Center- floors being waxed

CLERK /TREASURER- Maria Peña

- 1) Financial reports handed out.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business before the City Council of Connell, Mayor Blackwell adjourned the meeting at 6:56 pm.

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

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Bruce Blackwell, Mayor