

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

October 6, 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: City Attorney Heidi Ellerd, 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: Marilyn Fehrenbacher, Becky Escalera, Gail Eilmes, Quinton Booker, Burl Booker, John Eilmes, and Bob McCurry.

CORRESPONDENCE

Washington State Liquor Control Board sent a renewal notice for the Connell Gas & Food Mart.

Mid Columbia Library thanked the city for the contributions towards the 2014 summer reading program.

Police Chief Chris Turner swear in new Officer Leticia Cervantes.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

- a) Minutes of February 3, 2014 -Updated
- b) Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting September 2, 2014
- c) Minutes of the Town Hall Meeting September 8, 2014
- d) Minutes of the Special Meeting September 22, 2014
- e) Check Register 9/1/2014 for \$226.20
- f) Check Register 9/11/2014 for \$255.88
- g) Check Register 10/1/2014 for \$222.39
- h) Check Register 9/15/2014 for \$127,440.66
- i) Accounts Payable Register October 6, 2014 for \$222,486.65
- j) Payroll Check Register 8/31 – 9/5/2014 for \$90,794.60
- k) Payroll Check Register 9/15-9/20/201 for \$63,400.64
- l) Payroll Check Register 9/30-10/5/2014 for \$79,751.56

Mayor Pro Tem Huber seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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PUBLIC HEARING –Gum Street Closure

Mayor Blackwell recessed the regular meeting at 6:04 pm and opened a Public Hearing for the purpose of considering Gum Street Closure.

STAFF REPORT: City Administrator Crowther provided a report for Councilmembers on the Gum Street closure. Staff sent mailers out to all property owners that would be affected by the street closure. The City's insurance provider Canfield submitted a report on the street closure. The Washington State Department of Transportation that informed the City had jurisdiction for the Gum/Columbia intersection. However, Washington State Department of Transportation would support any traffic revision which improves Safety.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Burl Booker-asked what the infrastructure was in the street area proposed to be closed.

Marilyn Fehrenbacher-710 S. fourth- seldom uses First Street, too much congestion at First Street. Mrs. Fehrenbacher asked council not to close Gum Street.

Gail Eilmes-avoids the intersection now so doesn't matter to her if the intersection is closed.

Becky Escalera-would not like to see the intersection closed.

Jed Crowther took statements from several citizens for the record:

- 1) Dana Herron-helps Mrs. Curtis, wanted to make sure her property was accessible
- 2) Thelma Curtis asked accessible to her property.
- 3) Ernesto Gonzales-suggestion making Gum Street a one way
- 4) Molly Kunkel-has never been an accident, Gum Street was there before highway, moving the problem down a block would cause a problem at Fir Street, need solution in place before closing street with concrete barriers (not attractive to people visiting Connell), have a solution for traffic congestion at Fir street before closing down Gum Street.
- 5) Quinton Booker agreed with Molly Kunkel's and Councilmembers Escalera comments.
- 6) Bob McCurry-Inadequate site distances

COUNCILMEMBERS COMMENT PORTION OF THE HEARING:

Mayor Blackwell gave a 10 year accident report on Columbia and Highway 260.

Councilmember Escalera stated no accidents have been reported at Gum Street and Columbia. The City needed to evaluate all other city intersection. Majority of comments didn't wanted Gum Street closed.

Councilmember Quinton asked what impact closing Gum Street would have on emergency services.

Mayor Blackwell closed the hearing and opened regular meeting at 6:29 pm.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Huber moved to defer Gum Street Closure to a later date.
Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

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FIRE INCIDENT MANAGEMENT REVIEW

Fire Chief Chris Schulte provided a power point presentation on federal fires he had worked this year, and thanked Councilmembers for allowing him to help fight federal fires. The three federal fires Chief Schulte attended this year were: 1) Logging Units Complex in Oregon, 2) Chiwaukum Complex in Okanogan/Wenatchee National Forest and, 3) Deception Complex in Willamette National Forest.

PERSONNEL POLICY UPDATE-BI-LINGUAL & LONGEVITY/PERFORMANCE PAY

The Teamster Collective Bargaining Agreement for union employees included additional pay for union employees for being Bi-Lingual and having longevity with the city. City staff met with the Finance Committee to discuss bi-lingual and longevity pay for non union employees. A draft resolution was presented to Councilmembers to review.

Councilmembers held discussion and the following was heard:

- 1) Were there tests already available for bi-lingual and Longevity/Performance?
- 2) What if an employee doesn't have the support of his/her Supervisor?
- 3) Does this Resolution lock in the extra pay at \$50.00?
- 4) Does every job position get the extra bi-lingual pay?
- 5) Does the employee move from \$50.00 to \$100.00 at 15 years of service?

Motion: Councilmember Escalera moved to defer Resolution to next meeting.
Did not receive a second

Motion: Councilmember Silva moved to approve Resolution 2014-14.
Councilmember Minor seconded motion. Mayor Blackwell called for vote.
Two Councilmembers for, motion not carried.

Mayor Blackwell would vote longevity/performance pay program down-program should not be set up by employees. Program should be setup by supervisor.

Split out bi-lingual and longevity on separate resolutions.

Motion: Councilmember Quinton moved to approve Resolution 2014-14 Section 4:31
Bi-lingual section only. Mayor Pro Tem Huber seconded motion. Motion carried
unanimously.

POLICE EXPENDITURES-LAPTOPS & CAR REWIRING

Police Chief Chris Turner asked for an additional \$25,000 from the police reserve fund. The funds were not budgeted to be used in the 2014 Police Department's budget. But new laptops and the police cars were important tools used by the officer's every day. Police Chief Turner felt the need was immediate to rewiring several police cars and upgrade police tablets.

Motion: Councilmember Escalera moved to approve expenditure of not more than \$25,000 for police laptops and police car rewiring. Councilmember Silva seconded motion.
Motion carried unanimously.

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PROPOSED 2015 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

City Clerk/Treasurer Maria Peña provided Councilmembers with the 2014 end of year projected revenues and expenditures. Clerk/Treasurer Peña also reviewed each funds projected expenditures and revenues for 2015. Currently the Preliminary 2015 Budget had a deficit that Councilmembers and staff needed to look at. Further discussion would be held the next council meeting.

COMMITTEE / DEPARTMENT REPORTS

CITY ADMINISTRATOR-Jed Crowther

- 1) Working on a cooperative grant.
- 2) Appraisal of the Community Center property value came in at \$34,000

POLICE CHIEF- Chris Turner

- 1) Officer Cervantes was now on the road
- 2) Office Thorson dealing with burglary & prison cases
- 3) Stop sign issue, getting complaints on Chelan & Edison
- 4) City dog pound full-fixed dog pound pens

FIRE CHIEF-Chris Schulte

- 1) New Breathing Air Station-installed
- 2) Coyote Ridge Correctional Center asked for fire inspections
- 3) Code Red software program in Franklin County

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR-Larry Turner

- 1) Working on 3 Projects-Con Agra, Connell Park Estates,
Shutting down alley access to Connell Park Estates
- 2) Columbia Basin Health-rough graded a sidewalk
- 3) Crack seal project started

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 8:17 pm.

ATTEST: _____
Rose Courneya, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer

Bruce Blackwell, Mayor