

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

February 2, 2015

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 Dan Hultgrenn , City Administrator Jed Crowther, Police Chief Chris Turner, Public Works Director Larry Turner, and Clerk/Treasurer Maria Peña.

VISITORS: Kathy Bingham, Franklin County Graphic: Kara and Burl Booker, Community Float; and Citizens Robert McCurry, Terry Utecht.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Blackwell received a Notice of a pending Short Plat for Roger and Maureen Roylance at 9000 Mountain Vista Road, Othello.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Huber moved to approve the Consent Calendar with corrections.

- a) Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting January 20, 2015
- b) Check Register 12/31/2014 for \$2,540.35
- c) Check Register 12/31/2014 for \$1,069.40
- d) Account Payable 2/2/2015 for \$56,041.48

Councilmember Minor seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Councilmember Minor moved to approve the Agenda as presented.
Mayor Pro Tem Huber seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING –Recreational Marijuana

Mayor Blackwell recessed the regular meeting at 6:02 pm and opened a Public Hearing for the purpose of declaring an extension to the Moratorium Prohibiting the Production, Processing and Retail sales of Recreational Marijuana in all zoning districts within the City.

STAFF REPORT: City Administrator Crowther explained the Marijuana Moratorium needed to be extended to provide the City additional opportunity to complete the process. Next hearing was scheduled for March 2, 2015.

MEETING OF THE CITY OF CONNELL
Regular Meeting – February 2, 2015

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

COUNCILMEMBERS COMMENT PORTION OF THE HEARING: None

Mayor Blackwell closed the hearing and opened regular meeting at 6:05pm.

Motion: Councilmember Quinton moved to approve Resolution No. 2015- 01 declaring an extension to the Moratorium Prohibiting the Production, Processing and Retail sales of Recreational Marijuana in all zoning districts within the City. Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

2014 END OF YEAR BUDGET DISCUSSION

Clerk/Treasurer Maria Peña reviewed the following 2014 year end budget numbers.

001 General Fund: There was a net gain of \$177,482.96 when you look at actual revenues versus expenditures. What needs to be kept in mind is that we did not pay for a full year's salary for a City Administrator (\$30K), \$43K was reimbursed from Federal fires, and we received a \$19k insurance payment for damage to the Fire Truck. If you take these into account our actual revenues over expenditures for 2014 would have been approximately \$85,000. What also helped was that the Street Fund revenues came in higher than projected and the City only had to transfer \$28,400 instead of \$87,810, a savings of over \$59,000.

101 Street Fund: There was a net gain of \$100,857.02, of which \$28,400 came from the General Fund.

111 General Support Fund: There was a net loss of \$426, 041.66 due to the \$500,000 loan to the Water Fund for the retirement of USDA principal.

401 Water Fund: There was a net loss of \$239,726.34. Keep in mind that we paid \$250,000 to retire USDA principal and spent \$226,476 on capital waterline projects.

402 Sewer Fund: There was a net gain of \$189,338.

403 Solid Waste Fund: There was a net loss of \$873.28. Staff is working on analyzing cost for this fund to make changes prior to year end. This fund needs to be able to support itself and adjustments will need to be made.

HOTEL/MOTEL 2015 ALLOCATIONS

The Hotel Motel Committee met on January 29, 2015 and reviewed the applications for the Hotel/Motel Funds. The 2015 budget was allocated for expenditures of \$52,000.

MEETING OF THE CITY OF CONNELL
Regular Meeting – February 2, 2015

The following are the recommendations from the Hotel/Motel Committee.

- 1) Downtown Development requested \$2,000 (Committee recommended \$1,900)
 - 2) Coulee Corridor Consortium requested \$500(Committee Recommended \$500)
 - 3) Columbia Basin Junior Livestock requested \$600(Committee recommended \$600)
 - 4) Miss Connell Scholarship Association requested \$4,500(Committee recommended \$4,500)
 - 5) Fall Festival requested \$3,500(Committee recommended \$3,500)
 - 6) Connell Community Club \$2,500(Committee recommended \$1,000)
 - 7) City of Connell requested \$40,000 (Committee recommended \$40,000)
- Committee recommends allocating all \$52,000 for tourism expenditures out of the Hotel/Motel Fund.

Motion: Councilmember Silva moved to allocate Hotel/Motel Funds at stated above.
Councilmember Minor seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION BOARD PLANNING GRANT
APPLICATION-CONNELL RAIL INTERCHANGE

The City Council had discussed the Connell Rail Interchange grant at previous meetings. CERB required a submittal of an application along with a resolution. Staff was requesting Councilmembers approve Resolution 2015-02 CERB Planning Grant Application, Connell Rail Interchange.

Mayor Blackwell attended a meeting with the Great Northern Corridor Coalition. The group looks at railroad problems and was working to come up with rail solutions.

Motion: Councilmember Minor moved to adopt Resolution No. 2015-02 Authorizing submission of an application for a Community Economic Revitalization Board Planning grant in the approximate amount of \$50,000 for the Connell Rail Interchange –Feasibility, Preliminary Design, & Cost Estimate. Mayor Pro Tem Huber seconded motion.
Motion carried unanimously.

WELL 6 INVESTIGATIONS DISCUSSION

Public Works Director Larry Turner informed Councilmembers of Well #6 high nitrate level. Around the first of December well 6 hit a Maximum Contaminant Level. Currently Well 6 was shut down. The City was applying for a Department of Health grant to determine the cause of the nitrate problem and what steps the city needed to take to fix the problem. Discussion was held.

QUALITY COMMUNITIES SCHOLARSHIP

AWC sponsors scholarships for high-school seniors; each jurisdiction may nominate one student. For the City of Connell, applications will be invited through the school newsletter for seniors. The City would establish a selection committee to review applications and to select a nominee. Our primary focus will be on community service and involvement. Councilmember Quinton and Councilmember Escalera volunteered be on the review committee.

MEETING OF THE CITY OF CONNELL
Regular Meeting – February 2, 2015

COMMITTEE / DEPARTMENT REPORTS

CITY ADMINISTRATOR-Jed Crowther

- 1) Fire Chief Chris Schulte had 7 new volunteer firemen.
- 2) City putting out bids for the float & trailer –working on specifications

POLICE CHIEF- Chris Turner

- 1) Vandalism a the Connell Gas & Food Mart
- 2) Homicide suspect from Benton City was apprehended in Connell

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business before the City Council of Connell, Mayor Blackwell adjourned the meeting at 7:00 pm.

ATTEST: _____
Rose Courneya, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer

Bruce Blackwell, Mayor