

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

July 7, 2014

The regular semi-monthly meeting, of the City Council of the City of Connell was called to order by the Mayor 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, and Ray Minor.

EXCUSED: Councilmember Quinton moved to excuse Councilmember Silva. Mayor Pro Tem Huber seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

STAFF: City Attorney Dan Hultgrenn , City Administrator Jed Crowther, Fire Chief Chris Schulte, Police Chief Chris Turner, Public Works Director Larry Turner, and Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Rose Courneya.

VISITORS: Kathy Bingham, Franklin County Graphic and Citizens: Robert McCurry, Helen Tobin, Bridget Smith, Jamie Utecht, Camelia Henry, John Lindner, Larry Hueter, and Marci Hueter.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

- a) Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting June 16, 2014
- b) Check Register 6/20/2014 for \$659.86
- c) Check Register 7/1/2014 for \$222.39
- d) Accounts Payable Register \$229,570.63
- e) Payroll Check Register 6/15 -6/20/2014 for \$59,910.68

Councilmember Quinton seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENT/NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Camelia Henry expressed concerns with drivers speeding on Burke and Elm.
Helen Tobin also had concerns with parking along the same streets.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Councilmember Minor moved to approve the Agenda with the removal of Item #11. Mayor Pro Tem Huber seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

CONNELL HERITAGE MUSEUM UPDATE

Representatives from the Connell Heritage Museum outlined the basic construction plans for an annexation. The building expansion was needed for more space to display historical articles. The current building was too small to house all the articles the museum had collected over the years. The Connell Heritage Museum representatives were asking Councilmembers to approve an amendment to the current Memorandum of Understand

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between the Connell Heritage Museum, Downtown Development Association, and the City of Connell. The amendment included an automatic renewal each year and the current officer's names of the contracting parties were updated.

Motion: Councilmember Quinton moved to approve Amendment to Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Connell, Connell Heritage Museum, and Connell Downtown Development Association. Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

AWC CONFERENCE REPORT

Mayor Blackwell and Councilmember Minor attended the Association of Washington Cities Conference in Spokane. Some of the items discussed were: Future Scenarios, Networking, The Public Works Trust Fund, Open Government, Debt, and Budgeting. Councilmember Minor complimented city staff and their work.

FIREWORKS FUND REQUEST

The 2014 City Budget allocated \$2,500 for Spectator & Community Events. Historically, the money was used toward 4th of July fireworks. Because of insurance coverage complications the firework show did not take place. Therefore, funds were still available for other events. Park & Recreation Director Amy Williams requested \$926 to host Cinema in the Park, and the Fall Festival Committee request \$1,000 to help cover costs of activities for the Fall Festival weekend.

Motion: Councilmember Quinton moved to approve the Parks & Recreation request for \$926 from the Spectator and Community Event fund. Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Humber moved to approve Fall Festival request in the amount of \$1,000 from the Spectator and Community Event fund. Councilmember Minor seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

RAILROAD QUIET ZONE

Mayor Blackwell declared that Connell could establish a Railroad Quiet Zone. If a quiet zone was established train conductors wouldn't be required to blow their horns at the Adams and Clark Street crossings. Staff met with Burlington Northern Santa Fe officials on June 4 to outline basic requirements for a quiet zone.

The following safety standards were recommended by BNSF Railroad:

- 1) **Medians**-Design and install 100' center medians(City to submit civil engineered plans.) Width 6" minimum, non-mountable curb, one-way reflectors, MUTCD standards.
- 2) **Gates**-Install appropriate Forest-Service style entry-restricted gates(by City.) 4-gates total-on NW & SE side of each crossing, at BNSF access roadway locations.
- 3) **Constant Warning Time**-Required for all three tracks (to be installed by BNSF, cost to be borne by City)
Generally main track already had this feature; likely will need 2 tracks x 2 crossings (Cost TBD by BNSF)

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The cost to establish a Railroad Quiet Zone in Connell was estimated at a lower amount than at previous council meetings. Councilmembers would now need to look into budgetary constraints, and request citizen input.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

City Administrator Crowther explained that Code Enforcement was a challenge that required continuing vigilance and attention. Compliance issues for many properties had been addressed, with valid complaints for certain properties. Public Works Director Larry Turner showed a property with a code enforcement issue that the city went in and cleaned up due to the property owner not responding to the notices of violation. The cleanup costs are charged to the property owner through a tax lien on their personal property taxes through Franklin County.

HOUSING AGENCIES

City Administrator Crowther was working with several housing agencies to help with the challenges of older structures that could have health and safety issues. Various State and Federal programs were available to help with community housing needs. Kim Herman from the Washington State Housing Finance Commission was reviewing redevelopment programs specific to Connell.

COMMITTEE / DEPARTMENT REPORTS

CITY ADMINISTRATOR-Jed Crowther

- 1) AWC was offering training in August if any Councilmembers were interested in going

CHIEF OF POLICE-Chris Turner

- 1) Leticia Cervantes doing well at Police Academy
- 2) Physically cleaning up Police Department

FIRE DEPARTMENT – Fire Chief Chris Schulte

- 1) Received 6 callouts for the fire department (4 faults alarms)
- 2) Trainings were scheduled

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR-Larry Turner

- 1) Completed 4 public works reports
- 2) Parks & Pool running smooth
- 3) Several Fire Hydrants needed to be brought to current height.

MEETING RECESSED

At 8:05 pm Mayor Blackwell announced an Executive Session for 15 minutes to discuss with legal counsel representing the City litigation or potential litigation to which the City, or a city council member or employee is, or may be, a party.

Mayor Blackwell came out 8:20 pm and extended the Executive Session for 10 minutes.

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MEETING RECONVENED

Mayor Blackwell reconvened the Regular Meeting at 8:40 pm.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business before the City Council of Connell, Mayor Blackwell adjourned the meeting at 8:41 pm.

ATTEST: _____
Rose Courneya, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer

Bruce Blackwell, Mayor