

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

September 2, 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, and Ray Minor.

**EXCUSED:** Councilmember Escalera moved to excuse Councilmember Quinton. Councilmember Silva seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**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: Rick Miller, Franklin County Commissioner; Citizens: Robert McCurry, Melissa Bushong, Sherry Koreis, Melissa Kelly, Tamara Millage, and Jennifer Walker.

CORRESPONDENCE

Kevin Besel from Connell Grange appreciated officer Thorson's business checking after hours.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

- a) Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting August 4, 2014
- b) Minutes of the Town Hall Meeting August 11, 2014
- c) Check Register 8/13/2014 for \$483.47
- d) Check Register 8/1/2014 for \$220.93
- e) Check Register 8/18/2014 for \$179,726.13
- f) Check Register 8/19/2014 for \$154.21
- g) Accounts Payable Register 9/2//2014 for \$83,639.18
- h) Payroll Register 7/31-8/5/2014 for \$96,432.26
- i) Payroll Register 8/15-8/20/2014 for \$73,415.00

Mayor Pro Tem Huber seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENT/NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Melissa Kelly-675 E. Ash St.-Thanked City for the wonderful park & recreation activities this summer. Mrs. Kelly participated in the triathlon and thought it was a great event.

Jennifer Walker-Thought the summer's park & recreation activities were awesome with all the different activities. Activities included were for all ages. Mrs. Walker liked that the park & recreation activities were on City's website.

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Mayor Blackwell was working on bringing Night Court and the Boys & Girls Club to Connell.

Sherry Koreis-Appreciated park & recreation activities this summer.

Tamara Millage-Thanked Council for investing in the community. She saw tremendous growth with swim team this summer.

Councilmember Minor- Asked people that spoke on behalf of the great park & recreation activities to let other people know.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Motion:** Councilmember Minor moved to approve the Order of Business with the addition of:  
12A) Utility Easement with Avista  
Mayor Pro Tem Huber seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC HEARING –Recreational Marijuana**

Mayor Blackwell recessed the regular meeting at 6:16 pm and opened a Public Hearing for the purpose of considering 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 stated the following:

- 1) The Public Hearing was properly advertised.
- 2) The Draft Resolution presented would provide legal basis to extend the Recreational Moratorium.
- 3) The marijuana issue was being dealt with Statewide
- 4) Each Jurisdiction had a set of criteria to follow
- 5) Extending the Moratorium period allowed time for further research

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

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

Mayor Blackwell closed the hearing and opened regular meeting at 6:19 pm.

**Motion:** Councilmember Silva moved to approve Resolution No. 2014-13 extending the Moratorium Prohibiting the Production, Processing and Retail Sales of Recreational Marijuana in all zoning districts within the city. Councilmember Minor seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously

**CONNECTED LANDSCAPES COOPERATIVE PARTNERSHIPS PRESENTATION**

Michael Ritter from Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife gave a presentation on Connected Landscapes and Cooperative Partnerships. He spoke about the habitat in Franklin County. Mr. Ritter stated there are many programs that encourage the maintenance, preservation, and conservation of lands within the area.

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PARK & RECREATION PRESENTATION

Amy Williams the Park & Recreation Director for the City of Connell gave an end of the summer season report to Councilmembers.

Mrs. Williams spoke about the following items:

- 1) Eventbrite-used to pay for activities online
- 2) Social Media-City website used to get information out to citizens
- 3) Volunteers-played a big role in success of summer activities
- 4) Some citizen would like to see park & recreation activities throughout the year
- 5) Benefits of continuing programs year around
- 6) Budget for 2015 Park & Recreation

Councilmembers held discussion.

ANDERSON-PERRY UPDATE

Jake Hollopeter gave an update on the upcoming projects for the City.

- 1) Columbia Avenues - overlay and upgrade handicap ramps
- 2) Water System Plan Update-Department of Ecology requires every six years.
- 3) Birch Street- Rehabilitate Street from Columbia to park and add sidewalks
- 4) Wastewater discharge Permit update-due every five years

CONAGRA & PARK ESTATES WATERLINE REPLACEMENT CONTRACT

On August 29, 2014 the City held a bid opening for the ConAgra and Park Estates waterline project. The City received four bid packets. The lowest bidder was Sharpe & Preszler at \$166,691.52 including tax.

**Motion:** Mayor Pro Tem Huber moved to award the ConAgra & Park Estates Waterline Project to the lowest bidder Sharpe & Preszler for \$166,691.52 including tax.  
Councilmember Minor seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

UTILITY EASEMENT WITH AVISTA

Public Works Director Larry Turner received an email from Avista looking for a Utility Easement. City Attorney Dan Hultgren reviewed the proposed easement and made a few changes. Staff was now asking Councilmember to approve utility easement between the City of Connell and Avista.

**Motion:** Councilmember Escalera moved to approve the Avista Natural Gas Utility Easement presented to council. Councilmember Minor seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

RAILROAD QUIET ZONE UPDATE

A Railroad Quiet Zone option for the City of Connell was presented to council on July 7, 2014. Staff had met with Burlington Northern officials to discuss quiet zone. The quiet zone costs would be funded out of the Street Reserve Fund. The next steps to have a quiet zone in Connell would be to issue a Notice of Intent to Create a Quiet Zone.

Councilmembers held discussion and the following was heard:

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- 1) Quiet Zone was safer-cars couldn't go around
- 2) Trains would still have the ability to blow their whistles
- 3) Educate the citizens
- 4) Need total project costs
- 5) Support to issue a Notice of Intent
- 6) Public Hearing at a future council meeting
- 7) How to inform train engineers to change and not blow whistles
- 8) Comments from other cities with quiet zones were positive
- 9) Quiet zone doesn't mean all train whistles will go away but could reduce the train whistle noise.

Council consensus was to send off letter of intent and hold meetings.

**MASTER FEE SCHEDULE AMENDMENT**

Schedule F-Police Department of the Master Fee Schedule was updated to reflect the correct charge for a Concealed Pistol License. A police report charge of \$5.00 was also added to Schedule F of the Master Fee Schedule.

**Motion:** Councilmember Silva moved to approve Resolution No. 2014-12 amending the Master Fee Schedule. Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**BUSINESS LICENSING SERVICE PARTNERSHIP CONTRACT**

In 2010, Council approved the City to enter into an agreement with the Washington State Department of Licensing to provide the city services related to the processing and issuance of city business licenses. The City saves money by contracting the city's business licenses. The City Clerk/Treasurer Maria Peña recommends approval of the Business Licensing Service Partnership Contract.

**Motion:** Councilmember Silva moved to approve renewal of the Business Licensing Service Agreement. Mayor Pro Tem Huber seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**NEW STOP SIGN PLACEMENT**

Police Chief Turner was requesting approval to place two new stop sign within city limits. New stop signs would be placed on North 5<sup>th</sup> & Davis intersection and Burke & Borah intersection. City code stated that council had to approve new stops being placed.

**Motion:** Councilmember Silva moved to approve new Stop Signs placed on North 5<sup>th</sup> & Davis intersection and Burke & Borah intersection. Councilmember Minor seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**COMMITTEE / DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

CITY ADMINISTRATOR-Jed Crowther

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- 1) Presented at Franklin County for Waterline Easement and Community Center Property
- 2) Birch Street funding TIP was submitted
- 3) Attended an AWC Finance Conference
- 4) Submitted a memo on Communication System Consolidation
- 5) Worked with Columbia Basin Health on a walking path
- 6) Attended a Transit meeting
- 7) Public Records training was now available and would take about 1 1/2 hour  
-required training

POLICE CHIEF- Chris Turner

- 1) Homicide Suspect in custody & 2 others
- 2) Leticia Cervantes graduated Friday

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR-Larry Turner

- 1) Waterline project moving forward
- 2) Each Councilmember was issued new Tablets through Verizon

CLERK /TREASURER- Maria Peña

- 1) Finance meeting set for September 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business before the City Council of Connell, Mayor Blackwell adjourned the meeting at 7:52 pm.

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

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Bruce Blackwell, Mayor