

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

August 5, 2013

The regular semi-monthly meeting, of the Connell City Council was called to order by Mayor Walton at 6:00 pm in the City Hall and was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor Gary Walton, Mayor Pro Tem Rhonda Quinton, and Councilmember's: Monty Huber, Kathie Silva, Lee Barrow, and Ray Minor.

STAFF: Attorney Dan Hultgrenn, Police Chief Mike Kessler, Public Works Director Larry Turner, and City Clerk/Treasurer Maria Peña.

VISITORS: Kathy Bingham, Franklin County Graphic, Citizens; Mary Geissler, Charles Raabe, Mark & Kelle Scott, Claudia Bingham, Kent Mosbrucker, Robert McCurry, and Burl Booker.

CORRESPONDENCE/APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Walton received a notice from the Washington State Liquor Control Board for the American Legion requesting a permit for liquor at the Fall Festival.

Mayor Walton received a letter from A. Spring on coal emissions and its contribution to climate change.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Quinton moved to approve the Consent Calendar as read.

- a) Minutes of the Regular Council meeting July 15, 2013
(Change Birch Street date to 2013 instead of 2012)
- b) Check Register 8/1/2013 for \$207.94
- c) Accounts Payable 8/5/2013 for \$83,227.80
- d) Payroll Check Register 7/15 -7/20/2013 for \$59,379.97
- e) Payroll Check Register 7/31-8/5/2013 for \$79,783.05

Councilmember Minor seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENT/NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mark Scott, 644 N. Columbia, asked to have CMC 8.08.130 licensing requirements included cats. Adding cat licenses to the CMC 8.08 code would increase revenues for the city. Mr. Scott spoke about the need to identify the cat issues.

City Attorney Dan Hultgrenn stated the city was without a City Administrator. Hultgrenn hadn't had time to look into the cat issue but was hoping to have something to present at the next council meeting.

Mayor Walton had been contacted by farmers who would like cats.

Norval Harper commented he had a few cats he fed every night. Mr. Harper asked what would happen with the mice and rats if the cats were gone.

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Councilmember Minor stated the cats in question were the wild ones.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Councilmember Silva moved to approve the Agenda as presented.
Councilmember Huber seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

FRANKLIN COUNTY PROPERTY-STREET ACCESS

Mayor Walton had been in contact with Columbia Basin Health Association and Franklin County on acquiring property for an access road at 800 S. First Avenue. The property would be turned into a street and would provide access for emergency services. Kent Mosbrucker from Columbia Basin Health Association stated they would like to partner with the city on making this street a reality. Franklin County would also work with the city on the property. Mayor Walton talked about replacing waterlines at the same time as the new street was constructed. Jake Hollopeter from Anderson Perry would provide an estimate of cost for construction in a few weeks. Councilmembers held discussion. Council consensus was to move forward.

FRANKLIN PUD-UTILITY TAX SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

Mayor Walton explained Franklin County Public Utility District No. 1(PUD) had collected a City of Connell utility tax on some of their customers incorrectly and had over paid the City. PUD reimbursed these customers for the previous six years. Therefore, PUD requested reimbursement of the utility taxes paid to the city in error. A Settlement Agreement between the City of Connell and PUD was presented to Councilmembers for approval. The City agreed to reimburse PUD \$12,245.09 for the previous three year period.

Motion: Councilmember Silva moved to approve Settlement Agreement with Franklin County Public Utility District No. 1 in the amount of \$12,245.09. Mayor Pro Tem Quinton seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

MEETING RECESSED

At 6:39 pm Mayor Walton announced an Executive Session for 11 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 Walton came out at 6:50 pm and extended the meeting 5 more minutes.

MEETING RECONVENED

Mayor Walton reconvened the Regular Meeting at 6:57 pm.

SEPARATION AGREEMENT WITH GIANPAOLO MAMMONE

GianPaolo Mammone's termination would be effective July 31, 2013 with 3 month severance pay in a lump sum and 3 month insurance coverage.

Motion: Councilmember Barrow moved to approve Separation Agreement with GianPaolo Mammone. Mayor Pro Tem Quinton seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

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Staff Report

Public Works Director Larry Turner attended the Benton Franklin Council of Governments meeting. He met with Department of Commerce and discussed funding opportunities.

Mayor Walton asked Councilmembers to think about what direction they would like to go on hiring a new city administrator. Discussion would be held at the next council meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business before the City Council of Connell, Mayor Walton adjourned the meeting at 7:04 pm.

ATTEST: _____
Rose Courneya, Deputy City Clerk/Treasurer

Gary Walton, Mayor