

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

January 5, 2015

The regular semi-monthly meeting, of the Connell City Council 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: Rhonda Quinton, Kathie Silva, and Ray Minor.

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

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

VISITORS: Kathy Bingham, Franklin County Graphic; Randy Hayden and Gary Ballew, Port of Pasco; Dale Pomeroy, Port of Warden; Pat Millard, Port of Warden; Marvin Price, ConAgra Lamb Weston; Ward Angelos, BNSF; Jim Klindworth, Port of Pasco; John Marshall, Adams County; Stephen McFadden, Adams County; Gene Stocking, CFB; Ross Lane, BNSF; and Patrick Boss, Columbia Rail; Bob Koch, Franklin County Commissioner; and Allen Peterson, WSBDC.

Election of Mayor Pro Tem differed to next Council Meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

Reappoint John White to the Mosquito Control Board.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Huber moved to appoint John White to the Mosquito Control Board. Councilmember Quinton seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

- a) Minutes of the Regular Council December 1, 2014
- b) Check Register 12/15/2014 for \$80,031.11
- c) Check Register 12/2/2014 for \$224.74
- d) Check Register 12/18/2014 for \$12,316.80
- e) Accounts Payable 12/30/2014 for \$86,691.70
- f) Accounts Payable 1/5/2015 for \$137,092.01
- g) Payroll Register 11/30-12/5/2014 for \$98,683.27
- h) Payroll Register 12/15 – 12/20/2014 for \$53,253.04
- i) Payroll Register 12/31/2014 for \$33,721.30
- j) Payroll Register 1/5/2015 for \$50,982.09

Councilmember Silva seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Councilmember Quinton moved to approve the Agenda as presented. Councilmember Minor seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

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Regular Meeting-January 5, 2015

COLUMBIA BASIN RAILROAD-CONNELL RAIL INTERCHANGE PRESENTATION

Pat Boss from Columbia Basin Railroad gave a presentation on the Connell Rail Interchange. The Columbia Basin Railroad line has become the busiest short line in Eastern Washington. The interchange line has gone from 5,000 car loads to 12,000 car loads. Because of the growth in rail traffic on both Columbia Basin Railroad and the BNSF Railway lines, there are some infrastructure issues that need to be addressed. The current Connell Rail Interchange and its configuration need to be upgraded and improved to accommodate growth in rail traffic that is flowing to/through Connell.

A Connell Rail Interchange Coalition was formed that included: Ports, Counties, Cities, State Legislators, and the railroads. Discussion was held.

Councilmembers consensus was for staff to start application for a CERB grant.

ANDERSON PERRY-APPLICATION FOR PAYMENT NO. 3-FINAL RETAINAGE RELEASE

Anderson Perry presented the City of Connell an Application for Payment No. 3. Final Release of Retainage to Sharp & Preszler Construction for the Park Estates Water Main Replacement Project and ConAgra Water Main Extension project.

Motion: Councilmember Silva moved to approve Application for Payment No. 3-Final – Release of Retainage to Sharp & Preszler Construction in the amount of \$7,600.02 once all proper paper work received.
Councilmember Minor seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

MEETING RECESSED

At 7:08 pm Mayor Blackwell announced an Executive Session for 20 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 at 7:30 pm and extended Executive Session for 10 minutes.

MEETING RECONVENED

Mayor Blackwell reconvened the Regular Meeting at 7:40 pm and the following was heard:

Motion: Councilmember Quinton moved to decline the offer to settle the McKee vs the City of Connell case as set forth in the letter from Mr. McKee dated December 21, 2014.
Councilmember Minor seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business before the City Council of Connell, Mayor Blackwell adjourned the meeting at 7:41 pm.

ATTEST: _____
Rose Courneya, Deputy City Clerk/Treasurer

Bruce Blackwell, Mayor