

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

March 7, 2012

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 Monica Pruet, and Councilmembers: Lee Barrow, Rhonda Quinton, Jim Klindworth, and Jared Broberg.

STAFF: Attorney Heidi Ellerd, City Administrator Steve Taylor, Police Chief Mike Kessler, Fire Chief Chris Schulte, Public Works Director Larry Turner, and City Clerk/Treasurer Maria Peña.

VISITORS: Kathy Bingham, Franklin County Graphic; Randy Jones, Pat Kenny, Scott Herron, FCFE; Citizens: Mark Zehm, Gina Zehm, Blaine Dougherty, Jeff Dougherty, Case Vandermeulen, and Burl Booker.

CORRESPONDENCE

Ken Sellereite was interested in serving on Civil Service Commission. Mayor Walton requested Council appoint Ken Sellereite to the Civil Service Commission.

Motion: Councilmember Klindworth moved to appoint Ken Sellereite to the Civil Service Commission. Councilmember Barrow seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Walton received a Liquor License Application for Lep-Re-Kon Mart #4 to be a Spirits Retailer. The State would be working with all new retailer stores. Police Chief Kessler only issue was security of product.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Pruet moved to approve the Consent Calendar as presented.

- a) Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting February 21, 2012
- b) Check Register 3/1/2012 for \$201.32
- c) Accounts Payable 3/7/2012 for \$ 83,965.54
- d) Payroll Register 2/29 -3/2/2012 for \$70,879.30

Councilmember Quinton seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENT/NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Councilmember Barrow asked about maintaining 2nd and Elm Street. Public Works Director Larry Turner explained the main access road was railroad property but he would look into it.

Councilmember Barrow stated officer had a dead battery with no way of starting his vehicle. Mr. Barrow was concerned about what would happen if the officer had an emergency to get to.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilmember Quinton moved to approve the Agenda with the addition of 13A. Councilmember Broberg seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION ON FR. CO. CUP APPLICATION 2012-03 –PROPOSED FEEDLOT

The February 23rd edition of the Graphic contained a public notice for a Conditional Use Permit through Franklin County relating to an application for the establishment of a 3,500-head Cattle Feedlot located near the corner of Joyce and Coordes Roads about 3 ½ miles south and west of Connell city limits. Inquiries have been made as to what, if any, impacts the feed lot may have on Connell residents.

The original hearing date was set for March 6, but that had been rescheduled to April 10th. The County was receiving written comments up to the hearing. Representatives from the City and any interested individual may make comments at the hearing. Staff was seeking direction from Council as to whether the City should provide comments on the proposal prior to April 10th hearing, and the general content of the comments.

Mr. Case Vandermeulen provided pictures and information on the feedlot to Councilmembers. Councilmembers held discussion.

City Administrator Taylor explained Councilmembers had three options: 1) do nothing, 2) write a letter stating concerns, or 3) write letter opposing the feedlot.

Motion: Councilmember Quinton moved to write a letter to the County Commissioners with the concerns of the City citizens. Motion not seconded. Motion died.

Motion: Councilmember Klindworth moved to table the Conditional Use Permit 2012-03 to allow citizens to voice there concerns if they have any. Councilmember Barrow seconded motion. Motion tabled until the next council meeting.

Unfinished Business: Bring back to next Council meeting.

2012 HOTEL-MOTEL TAX ALLOCATIONS

City Administrator Taylor stated the Hotel/Motel Committee had met and reviewed applications for Hotel/Motel Tax Funds. The City Council budgeted \$12,000 for Committee allocations in 2012. \$23,300 in total expenditures was budgeted for the Hotel/ Motel Fund including \$5,000 for a tourism study, \$5,000 for the website update, and \$1,300 for Coulee Corridor advertising. The Fund balance as of 1/31/2012 was \$57,966.

Applications for funding totaling \$13,500 were received from:

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| 1. Connell Fall Festival | \$1,000 |
| 2. Connell Chamber of Commerce – Connell Float Program | \$5,500 |
| 3. Columbia Basin Junior Livestock Show | \$4,000 |
| 4. City of Connell – Fall Festival Radio Advertising | \$3,000 |

MEETING OF THE CITY OF CONNELL
Regular Meeting- March 7, 2012

The Committee felt it was important to fund activities to promote the City of Connell so they were willing to look at another round of applications. Council consensus was to allow another round of application for Hotel/Motel Funds.

Motion: Councilmember Barrow moved to approve the allocation of Hotel/Motel Tax Funds recommended by the Motel Tax Advisory Committee in the amount of \$13,500. Mayor Pro Tem Pruett seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

POLICE VEHICLE BID AWARD

Police Chief Mike Kessler had issued a Notice of Bid for Police Vehicles and Equipment that closed February 24, 2012.

Three bids were received:

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| 1) Legacy Ford, Pasco, WA (Low Bid) | \$99,048.76 |
| 2) Financial Consultants International, Inc., North Bend, WA | \$103,146.48 |
| 3) Day Wireless, Pasco, WA | (Bid did not meet specs) |

Staff was recommending acceptance of the low bid received by Legacy Ford. Financing for vehicles was through the LOCAL Program administered by the Washington State Treasurer's Office.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Pruett moved to accept the low bid from Legacy Ford of Pasco, Washington for the provision of three police vehicles and associated equipment in an amount close to \$99, 000.00, and authorize the Mayor to execute all documents necessary to complete the purchase of the same. Councilmember Broberg seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

CITY INVESTMENTS

Staff was seeking direction from the Council to authorize the direct investment of funds in a portfolio of federal government agency bonds authorized for investment by state law. The City would purchase a series of bonds ranging in maturity from 2 ½ to 5 years with an initial value of \$2.5 to \$3 million representing 50-60% of the City's fund balances. The City's remaining funds would continue to be held in checking and the LGIP in amounts to more than adequately cover cash flow needs and annual capital investments. Staff would engage with a brokerage firm with extensive experience working with other Washington municipalities to establish a similar portfolio for the City of Connell. Councilmembers held discussion and asked staff to bring back a speaker to give them more information on City Investment options.

Unfinished Business: Bring back to a future Council meeting.

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER COMPENSATION

Fire Chief Chris Schulte was recommending to Councilmembers to change the current City of Connell Fire Department practice of paying different rates for different hours worked (\$16.00 for first hour, \$11.00 an hour for subsequent hours) to one standard rate of (\$15.00) for all hours of compensation. Mr. Schulte reviewed with Councilmembers the reasons for his recommendation.

MEETING OF THE CITY OF CONNELL
Regular Meeting- March 7, 2012

Mayor Walton asked about payment to the State Retirement System for the volunteer firemen and police reserves.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Pruett moved to set fireman rate at \$15.00 per hour of compensation for training and fire fighting. Effective December 21, 2011. Councilmember Klindworth seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

SEWER CODE DISCUSSION

City Administrator Taylor presented Councilmembers with a Power Point presentation outlining proposed updates to the Sewer Code. The Sewer Code was originally adopted in 1971 and the sewer rates have been periodically amended. The Sewer System Participation Fees were established in 2006. The City Attorney was involved with the Sewer Code update process. Staff was asking direction from Council on updating the Sewer Codes. Council held discussion.

Unfinished Business: Bring back to a future Council meeting.

CHS SEWER EASEMENT

The City's engineering consultant was recommending an alternate route for the CHS sewer forcemain that reduces interference with CHC operations and places the new sewer line closer to the City's existing right-of-way along Columbia. The City would release its existing sewer line easement with CHS following the completion of the forcemain project and appropriate decommissioning of the line. CHS, Inc. approves of the relocation of the line and had granted the new easement without cost to the City.

Motion: Councilmember Broberg moved to accept the easement from CHS, Inc. Councilmember Barrow seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Mayor Walton attended the Park Board Meeting. He thanked the Park Board for their work.

Mayor Walton called for a 2 minute break at 8:13 pm.

MEETING RECESSED

At 8:15 pm Mayor Walton announced an executive session for 5 minutes to consider the minimum price at which real estate will be offered for lease or sale.

Mayor Walton came out at 8:20 pm and extended meeting for another 5 minutes.

MEETING RECONVENED

Mayor Walton reconvened the Regular Meeting at 8:25 pm.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business before the City Council of Connell, Mayor Walton adjourned the meeting at 8: 25 pm.

ATTEST: _____
Rose Courneya, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer

Gary Walton, Mayor