

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

April 4, 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 Pruett, and Councilmembers: Lee Barrow, and Jim Klindworth.

EXCUSED:

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Pruett moved to excuse Councilmember Broberg and Councilmember Quinton. Councilmember Klindworth seconded. Motion carried out unanimously.

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

VISITORS: Kathy Bingham, Franklin County Graphic; Ed Thornbrugh, Benton & Franklin Counties Human Service; Citizens, Bob Widows and Jody Barker.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Walton received a Liquor License Application for Joel Rivera Quesada doing business as El Jazmin.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

- a) Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting March 19, 2012
- b) Account Payable 4/4/2012 for \$37,890.08
- c) Payroll Check Register 3/15-3/19/2012 for \$44,668.18

Mayor Pro Tem Pruett seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Klindworth was temporally appointed to the Finance Committee.

CITIZEN COMMENT/NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Bob Widows, 640 Dayton, on behalf of the Fall Festival Committee was requesting permission from Councilmembers to put a windmill at the end of Pioneer Park. The windmill would be used for hanging signs to advertising community events.

City Administrator Taylor asked Mr. Widows to put a plan together and present it to the Park Board.

Mr. Widows also asked permission to clean up the area along the railroad tracks.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem Pruett moved to approve the Agenda as listed. Councilmember Barrow seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

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PUBLIC HEARING-CANNABIS COLLECTIVE GARDENS MORATORIUM

Mayor Walton recessed the regular meeting at 6:18 pm and opened a Public Hearing for the purpose of discussing Cannabis Collective Gardens Moratorium.

STAFF REPORT:

City Administrator Taylor stated the City Council adopted Resolution 2011-12 on September 19, 2011 establishing a six-month moratorium on the sitting of collective gardens for the purpose of cultivating cannabis for medical use. The City then held a public hearing on November 2nd to take testimony on the establishment and retention of the moratorium. Following the hearing, the Council adopted Resolution No. 2011-13 retaining the moratorium and approving findings of fact supporting the action taken.

The City Council would be considering extending the moratorium for an additional six months through Resolution No. 2012-04. Before the moratorium could be extended, a public hearing was required.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None Heard

COUNCILMEMBERS COMMENT PORTION OF THE HEARING: None Heard

Mayor Walton closed the hearing and opened regular meeting at 6:23 pm.

CANNABIS COLLECTIVE GARDENS MORATORIUM EXTENSION

City Attorney Dan Hultgrenn advised Councilmembers to expect the Cannabis Collective Gardens Moratorium to be presented to them again in the future for another extension.

Motion: Councilmember Barrow moved to approve Resolution 2012-04 retaining the moratorium on cannabis collective gardens uses within the City and adopting findings of fact in support of extending the moratorium. Mayor Pro Tem Pruett seconded. Motion carried out unanimously.

BENTON FRANKLIN HUMAN SERVICES PRESENTATION-ED THORNBRUGH

Mr. Thornbrugh explained the roles and services of the Benton Franklin Human Services. The department managed programs are as listed: Shelter Plus Care, Housing Opportunities for People with HIV/AIDS, Housing and Essential Needs, Consolidated Homeless Grant, 2060 Affordable Housing, and 2163 Homeless Housing. Mr. Thornbrugh recommended that city members attend the Public Hearing for the CDBG grant to advocate funds going to Connell.

PUBLIC WORKS STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS & STANDARD PLANS

Councilmembers received a copy of the updated Public Works Standard Specification & Standard Plans from Anderson Perry at a previous meeting. Public Works Director Larry Turner asked Councilmembers to approve Resolution No. 2012-03 adopting the updated Connell Public Works Standard Specifications & Standard Plan.

Motion: Councilmember Barrow moved to approve Resolution No. 2012-03 adopting the Connell, Washington Public Works Standard Specifications and Standard Plans. Mayor Pro Tem Pruett seconded. Motion carried out unanimously.

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CONNELL INVESTMENT POLICY RESOLUTION

The Council has held discussion at the prior two regular council meetings pertaining to the investment of City funds not readily needed for cash flow purposes. Staff had proposed to establish a formal investment policy outlining the types of investments authorized and extending the length of maturities the investments may be held in. A draft investment policy was presented at the March 19th, 2012 regular meeting, and Council asked staff to bring it back for consideration in resolution form. Staff now presented Councilmembers with an investment policy in resolution form. City Administrator Taylor reviewed the investment policy with Council. Council held discussion. Staff was asked to check on the availability of purchasing insurance on the bonds.

Motion: Councilmember Klindworth moved to table discussion until the next council meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Pruett seconded. Motion carried out unanimously.

AMENDING CMC 1.20-LOW-INCOME SENIOR CITIZEN & DISABLED CITIZEN DESIGNATION

Chapter 1.20 of the Connell Municipal Code was established in 1999 authorizing the designation of “low-income senior citizens” and “low-income disabled citizens” residing within the City. Individuals designated as such would be eligible for a reduction in water and sewer utility rates. The Class A designation would authorize a reduction of up to 50%, while the Class B designation would allow for a 25% reduction of the monthly water and sewer bills. Unfortunately, the income limitations established in the original ordinance identified static dollar amounts which have become outdated over the previous twelve years. Staff was proposing an update in the language to tie the low-income designation to the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Low-income definitions based on area median income (AMI) for Benton and Franklin Counties. The City had also held discussions with executive staff of Benton Franklin Community Action Committee, (BFCAC), about having the organization assist the City in verifying the low-income status of senior and disabled citizens who were Connell residents. Ordinance No. 925 had been modified to align the City’s low-income status designation verification process with the BFCAC’s established procedures. City Administrator Taylor reviewed the updated ordinance with Councilmembers. Council held discussion and asked staff to set the age at 62 years of age instead of changing it to 65 years of age.

Motion: Councilmember Barrow moved to approve Ordinance No. 925 amending 1.20 of the Connell Municipal Code relating to Low-Income Status for City residents with a change to section 1.20.010 A(1) to age 62 instead of 65. Mayor Pro Tem Pruett seconded. Motion carried out unanimously.

FRANKLIN PUD RIGHT-OF-WAY INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT

Franklin County PUD had asked the City for an annual permit for working in the right-of-way with one annual payment due to the City at the end of each year. A separate permit would be required for any excavation work conducted within the right-of-way and additional plans-check fees would be assessed if the City required Anderson Perry to review the restoration plans. PUD would still be required to notify the City

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within 48 hours of obstructing City's right-of-way. PUD staff had reviewed the agreed to the language within the interlocal agreement.

Motion: Councilmember Klindworth moved to approve the interlocal agreement with Franklin Public Utility District concerning right-of-way permit issuance. Mayor Pro Tem Pruett seconded. Motion carried out unanimously.

STAFF REPORT

City received notice from the State Treasurer office that the interest rate for purchasing the police cars would be set at .84%.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business before the City Council of Connell, Mayor Walton adjourned the meeting at 7:32 pm.

ATTEST: _____
Rose Courneya, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer

Gary Walton, Mayor