

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF CONNELL, WASHINGTON
CONNELL, FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON
March 20, 2024

The Regular meeting of the Connell City Council was called to order by Mayor Lee Barrow at 6:03 pm in the City Hall and was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Lee Barrow and Councilmember's: Joe Escalera, Pat Barrera, Shelly Harper, and Preston Hart.

EXCUSED:

Councilmember Escalera moved to excuse Councilmember John White. Councilmember Hart seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

STAFF PRESENT:

Fire Chief Ken Woffenden, City Administrator Cathleen Koch, City Clerk Marissa Ortiz, Public Works Director Hallie Tuck, City Treasurer Teresa Steele, and City Attorney Heidi Ellerd.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Barrow announced that Anderson Perry & Associates, Inc. the city's engineering firm, had chosen the City of Connell as an area where they planned to sponsor a scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 for a deserving Connell high school senior spring of 2024.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Harper moved to approve the consent calendar as presented:

- a) Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting March 06, 2024
- b) Accounts Payable 3/20/24 for \$117,923.11
- c) Check Register 3/01/24 for \$319.52
- d) Payroll Register 3/05/24-3/05/24 for \$118,428.76

Councilmember Barrera seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Harper moved to approve the agenda as presented.

Councilmember Barrera seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

WATER LEAK ADJUSTMENT ORDINANCE

During the February 21 City Council Meeting, Councilmembers discussed what to bring forth for an ordinance that would include a water leak adjustment and a one-time waiver for late fees. The proposed ordinance outlined City Municipal Code amendments that would include a water leak adjustment with set criteria and the one-time waiver of late fees would be implemented between January 1 and December 31 of each year.

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Motion: Councilmember Barrera moved to adopt Ordinance No. 1040-2024 to include in the Municipal Code a Leak Adjustment Provision and One-Month late fee waiver. Councilmember Escalera seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSS FLOAT, TRUCK AND TRAILER

Mayor Barrow informed City Council that the float trailer utilized by the Miss Connell Scholarship Program was owned by the City of Connell and the float truck was owned by the Chamber of Commerce. The arrangement was implemented over a few years, along with a float committee that took the responsibility of building the float. With the former volunteer committee retiring, it was unfortunate that no one had committed to a long-term role in maintaining the float program. There had been disagreement within the current Chamber board regarding whether to keep and maintain the truck and it was suggested the truck be offered to the City for purchase to keep the truck and trailer together for future use. The Mayor stated he did not believe purchasing the truck would be the best option for city funds based on the uncertainty of the float program. His alternative would be to surplus the trailer to the Chamber to keep the truck and trailer together and better serve the community due to their past relationship with the program and the previous float committee.

Chamber President Bevon Davis and Kara Booker former float committee and chamber board member engaged in a discussion and answer session with City Councilmembers.

DISCUSS ZONING / SUBDIVISION CODE AMENDMENTS - HOUSING

City Administrator Cathleen Koch presented the discussion regarding planning items that were previously discussed. She was seeking guidance from the Council on how they would like to proceed with the items. The items included several proposed code amendments to the zoning and subdivision code, and the creation of a new zoning district for certain types of high-density housing. The scope had expanded with State Legislature adoption requirements for cities to address ADUs and unit lot subdivisions in codes and removing the possibility of cities imposing certain housing restrictions. Discussion was held on whether to have staff and the Planning Commission review further before coming back to the Council.

The Consensus was to have the items be examined further by the Planning Commission.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Mayor Barrow – Reported that Ed Brown had officially retired from the City of Connell on Friday, March 22, 2024.

City Clerk, Marissa Ortiz – Welcomed the newest employee of the city, Heather Keel, in the position of Accounting Clerk I.

Public Works Director, Hallie Tuck - Confirmed the City-wide cleanup for 2024 was around the corner. He added that the Pioneer Pool slides were being prepared for surplus.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Harper moved to approve the surplus of the Pioneer Pool Slides. Councilmember Escalera seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

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COUNCILMEMBERS REMARKS

Councilmember Barrera – Welcomed Heather Keel to the City of Connell.

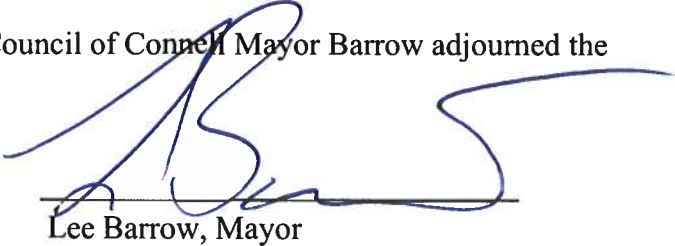
Councilmember Hart – Expressed his appreciation to City Staff for preparing the ball fields for the Little League program.

Mayor Pro Tem Harper – Stated she had applied for the Connell Heritage Museum to be on the Washington Heritage Register. After a year, the induction was granted and received a plaque.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business before the City Council of Connell Mayor Barrow adjourned the meeting at 6:56 pm.

ATTEST: 
Marissa Ortiz, City Clerk


Lee Barrow, Mayor