

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

January 21, 2014

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, Joe Escalera, Kathie Silva, and Ray Minor.

STAFF: Attorney Dan Hultgren, Fire Chief Chris Schulte, Police Chief Interim Alan Chertok, and Deputy City Clerk/Treasurer Rose Courneya.

VISITORS: Kathy Bingham, Franklin County Graphic; Jake Hollopeter, Anderson Perry; Citizens: Becky Escalera, Burl Booker, Jed Crowther, and Andy Sawyer.

Mayor Blackwell appointed John White to the Franklin County Mosquito Board.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Blackwell received liquor renewal notices from the Washington State Liquor Control Board for Hazy's Tavern, and Hart Foods.

East Columbia Basin Irrigation District informed Mayor Blackwell of a meeting with landowners and other interested parties to discuss the Odessa Groundwater Replacement Program.

Franklin County Planning and Building Department sent the city a notice of a pending short plat in Franklin County.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

- a) Minutes of the Regular Council meeting January 6, 2014
- b) Check Register 12/30/2013 for \$397.76
- c) Check Register 1/3/2014 for \$208.79
- d) Accounts Payable 12/31/2013 for \$66,179.94
- e) Accounts Payable 1/21/2014 for \$23,862.36
- f) Payroll Check Register 1/6-1/20/2014 for \$82,427.48

Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Councilmember Minor moved to approve the Agenda as presented.

Mayor Pro Tem Huber seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

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FCS-WATER/SEWER RATES

Chris Gonzalez from the FCS Group presented councilmember's with results of the water and sewer rate study done for the city of Connell. The FCS Group recommended the city raise water rates 7% for 2014 and increase sewer 5% for 2014. The overall increase to a utility bill for 2014 would be about \$3.58 a month. Capital Improvements, Operating Costs, and Debt Services were components looked at by the FCS Group when they conducted the rate study. The city had not imposed any increases to water/sewer rates in 2013.

ANDERSON PERRY

Jake Hollopeter reviewed the following city projects with Councilmembers:

- 1) Park Estates Waterline Replacement
- 2) Water System Plan Update
- 3) Columbia Avenue Resurfacing
- 4) Wastewater Treatment Plant Discharge Permit Renewal
- 5) Wastewater Plan for Maintaining Adequate Capacity

FIRE CHIEF CONTRACT EXTENSION

Currently the City of Connell had a contract with the Department of Corrections (DOC) for the fire chief salary. The city instated a Fire Chief position when the prison grew in size and the city was required to have a Fire Chief on staff. The current contract with DOC would expire June 30, 2014. Staff was working with DOC to put in place a new contract for this position. The current Fire Chief's contract would expire the end of February 2014. Therefore, staff would like to extend the fire chief's contract in the original form until June 30, 2014.

Motion: Councilmember Minor moved to approve the extension of the Fire Chiefs current contract until June 30, 2014. Councilmember Quinton seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

MAINTENANCE II-JOB DESCRIPTION MODIFICATION

Mayor Blackwell intended to change the job description language of the Maintenance Worker I-II. He would like to add the words service and repair of motorized vehicles and equipment to make the job more efficient and reduce repair costs. Mayor Blackwell believes the position of Maintenance Worker I-II should be able to do the basic servicing and repairs of the equipment. Council held discussion. Councilmembers consensus was to wait until Public Works Director Turner returned to work.

Tabled: Bring back to a future council meeting.

TOWN HALL MEETING

Mayor Blackwell suggested adding a third council meeting each month and calls it a Town Hall Meeting. The location would be at the Community Center the second Monday of each month. An ordinance was presented to councilmember's for approval. Council held discussion.

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Motion: Councilmember Minor moved to adopt Ordinance 943-2014 adding a section to Chapter 2.04 relating to Regular Council meetings. Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

CURFEW HOURS FOR JUVENILES

MEETING RECESSED

At 7:09 pm Mayor Blackwell announced an Executive Session for 10 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.

MEETING RECONVENED

Mayor Blackwell reconvened the Regular Meeting at 7:19 pm and the following was heard:

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Huber moved to adopt Ordinance 944-2014 amending Chapter 9.24 of the Connell Municipal Code. Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE/BOARD VACANCIES

Mayor Blackwell appointed citizens to various committees and boards.

Motion: Councilmember Escalera moved to confirm the appointment of Don Krein to the Civil Service Commission, Councilmember Minor seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: Councilmember Silva moved to confirm the appointment of Paul Clark to the Planning Commission, Councilmember Minor seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: Councilmember Silva moved to confirm the appointment of Roger Bailie to the Planning Commission, Councilmember Huber seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Fire Chief Schulte informed Councilmembers of computer issues at the fire station and talked about reverse dial 911.

Police Chief Interim Alan Chertok informed council of an active shooter drill that was done by the police department.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business before the City Council of Connell, Mayor Blackwell adjourned the meeting at 7:19 pm.

ATTEST: _____
Rose Courneya, Deputy City Clerk/Treasurer

Bruce Blackwell, Mayor