

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

November 3, 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, Kathie Silva, and Ray Minor.

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

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

**VISITORS:** Kathy Bingham, Franklin County Graphic; Citizens: Chuck Eagy, Terry Eagy, Kara Booker, Pam Moon, and Cindy Welch.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- Motion:** Mayor Pro Tem Huber moved to approve the Consent Calendar as presented
- a) Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting October 20, 2014
  - b) Minutes of the Special Council Meeting October 27, 2014
  - c) Check Register 10/31/2014 \$224.44
  - d) Campbell & Bruce HVAC Agreement
  - e) Anderson Perry-Change Order No. 1-Park Estates Water Main Replacement
    - 1) Decrease of \$1,688.87
  - f) Accounts Payable November 3, 2014 for \$43,567.61

Councilmember Minor seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Motion:** Mayor Pro Tem Huber moved to approve the Agenda as presented. Councilmember Quinton seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC HEARING-PRELIMINARY 2015 BUDGET**

Mayor Blackwell recessed the regular meeting at 6:02 pm and opened a Public Hearing for the purpose of considering the Preliminary 2015 Budget.

**STAFF REPORT:** Clerk/Treasurer Maria Peña stated if the Preliminary Budget for 2015 stayed at the current level of expenditures and revenues some funds would show gains and some funds would have losses.

Totals for each fund were:

General Fund loss of \$-152,840.00

General Reserve Fund gain of \$20,890.00

Street Fund loss of \$-52,700.00

Hotel/Motel Tax Fund loss of \$-34,850.00

MEETING OF THE CITY OF CONNELL  
Regular Meeting-November 3, 2014

General Support Fund gain of \$124,230.00  
Capital Facilities Fund gain of \$20,600.00  
Water Fund loss of \$-29,450.00  
Sewer Fund gain of \$-20,380.00  
Solid Waste Fund loss of \$-28,600.00  
Water/Sewer Bond Redemption gain of \$1,290.00  
State Remittance Fund loss of \$-2,250.00

City Administrator Jed Crowther reviewed Budget Message. The Proposed 2015 Budget did generate increased expenditures: attributed mainly to inflationary costs for utilities and services, together with police contract and cost-of-living salary adjustment.

City Administrator Crowther explained the city receives \$1.00 from each person to use the Community Center for yoga.

Community Center Rental Fees were discussed.

Maybe set up a workshop to discuss Community Center Rental Fees.

Kara Booker- The night before an event set up fees was unbalanced.

Pam Moon-damage deposit-walk through with renters before and after events

Mayor Pro Tem Huber asked to see comparables from other facility rentals.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Pam Moon 753 Som Road- requested permission to continue Yoga class at the Connell Community Center. She was concerned with the cleanliness of the floor. Toni Meacham sent a letter requesting yoga continue in the Connell Community Center.

Terry Eggy 444 East Clark Street-would like to request continuing the Yoga class in the Community Center.

Cindy Welch Davis Street- greatly benefits from Yoga class. Would like to see the yoga classes continue.

Burl Booker -agrees with continuing the Yoga class in the Community Center. Community Center is a tool that needs to be managed.

**COUNCILMEMBERS COMMENT PORTION OF THE HEARING:** Councilmember Minor was in favor of continuing yoga. Mayor Pro Tem Huber was in favor of continuing the yoga. Council consensus was to continue yoga.

Mayor Blackwell closed the hearing and opened regular meeting at 6:35 pm.

**COMMUNITY FLOAT-KARA BOOKER REQUEST**

Kara Booker-Thanked Councilmembers for discussing the future of the Miss Scholarship float. A group of citizens met to discuss the work that needed to be done on the float going forward. A proposal was made to the Councilmembers to support the float for the Miss Scholarship with \$15,000 for a trailer and \$20,000 for a new float. The funds would be requested from the City's Hotel Motel Fund.

City Attorney Dan Hultgrenn stated the city could not contribute to equipment owned by a non-profit group. Hotel Motel fund could be used for other stuff but the request had to go to the Hotel-Motel Advisory Committee.

MEETING OF THE CITY OF CONNELL  
Regular Meeting-November 3, 2014

Councilmember Quinton asked about the Chamber of Commerce helping with the cost of purchasing the trailer and float. Chamber helps with the operational costs already. City Administrator Crowther spoke about the Miss Connell Scholarship request and the Hotel Motel fund usage options. Mr. Crowther also spoke on the Hotel Motel Funds and how they are equally distributed to each entity that applies for Hotel Motel funds.

Mayor Pro Tem Huber stated the city was already committed to supporting the float.

CONAGRA FOODS LAMB WESTON-WATER CONTRACT

An updated water agreement with ConAgra has been completed. Negotiations included consideration of rate increases recommended by FCS report, January 2014. The new 3-year contract includes a 7% increase in the first year, 5% in the second year, and 3% in the third-year, consistent with the FCS recommendation and with the 7% rate increase implemented to other water users. Staff's recommendation was to approve the contract.

**Motion:** Mayor Pro Tem Huber moved to approve the Water Agreement between the City of Connell and ConAgra Foods Lamb Weston, Inc. Councilmember Minor seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

MASTER FEE SCHEDULE UPDATE-SEWER & WATER RATES

The water and sewer rate increases were related to the recommendations of the FCS Study. Water rates would increase 5% for 2015 and the Sewer rates 3% for 2015. Residents would see an increase on their January 1, 2015 utility bills.

**Motion:** Councilmember Minor moved to adopt Resolution No. 2014-16 setting Water and Sewer rates for 2015. Mayor Pro Tem Huber seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

PIONEER PAVILION FLOOR REPLACEMENT

Public Works received a quote to replace the concrete floor at the Pioneer Park Pavilion for \$17,200. Public Works Director Larry Turner would like to do the whole pavilion project at one time. Councilmembers held discussion.

**Motion:** Councilmember Quinton moved to approve additional expenditure from the Park Capital Reserve to replace the concrete floor at the Pioneer Park Pavilion not to exceed \$17,200.00. Councilmember Silva seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

2015 SALARY SCHEDULE

In conjunction with the adoption of the 2015 Budget, Resolution No. 2014-17 sets the salary schedule for City employees in the coming year. The resolution includes a 2% increase for non-union employees and 3% increase for union employees. The Salary Resolution must be passed before the 2015 Budget can be adopted.

**Motion:** Mayor Pro Tem Huber moved to approve Resolution No. 2014-17 setting the 2015 Salary Schedule. Councilmember Minor seconded motion. Motion passed. Councilmember Quinton abstained from voting.

MEETING OF THE CITY OF CONNELL  
Regular Meeting-November 3, 2014

**RAILROAD QUIET ZONE**

Mayor Blackwell received a letter stating the City was free to proceed with the quiet zone in Connell. Councilmember now need to approve expenditure of \$3,456.00 for concrete curbing.

**Motion:** Councilmember Silva moved to proceed with the Railroad Quiet zone installation not to exceed \$3,456.00 including tax. Councilmember Minor seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

CITY ADMINISTRATOR-Jed Crowther

- 1) Walkway paving-Columbia Basin Health would participate. Franklin County to discuss at their next meeting
- 2) Legislative meeting set for Friday 7, 2014 at 4:15 pm
- 3) Monday Nov. 17, 2014-Hearing on over height garages
- 4) December 1, 2014-Park & Recreational Plan update

POLICE CHIEF- Chris Turner

- 1) Patrol Cars being rewired and new lab top have been purchased
- 2) Talked about a stop sign at Almira & Davis

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR-Larry Turner

- 1) Park restrooms are closed
- 2) Working on the walk path by Columbia Basin Health Association

FIRE DEPARTMENT-Chris Schulte

- 1) Working at the correction center
- 2) Eagle Scout helping with hydrant database project
- 3) Eagle compressor company-site visit and did some training

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business before the City Council of Connell, Mayor Blackwell adjourned the meeting at 8:03 pm.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Rose Courneya, Deputy City Clerk/Treasurer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bruce Blackwell, Mayor