

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

February 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, Joe Escalera, Kathie Silva, and Ray Minor.

STAFF: Attorney Dan Hultgren, Fire Chief Chris Schulte, Police Chief Interim Alan Chertok, Public Works Director Larry Turner, and City Clerk/Treasurer Maria Peña.

VISITORS: Kathy Bingham, Franklin County Graphic; John Darrington, Colin Baenziger & Associates; Citizens: Karen Eden, Peter Eden Sr., Jamie Forsyth, Marilynn Coulson, Robert McCurry, Beverly Stone, Bob Widows, Sterling Joyner, Shelly Hewey, Brenda Cram, and Desiree McCombs.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Blackwell received a thank you card from Jed Crowther for the opportunity to interview for the city administrator position.

Benton –Franklin Regional Transportation Planning Organization was reporting to the city project selections for the 2013 Surface Transportation Program.

Mayor Blackwell received a liquor license application notice from the Washington State Liquor Control Board for the Connell Gas & Food Mart.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion: Councilmember Quinton moved to approve the Consent Calendar with corrections.

- a) Minutes of the Regular Council meeting January 21, 2014
- b) Minutes of the Special Council meetings January 24, - January 25, 2014
- c) Minutes of the Special Council meeting January 28, 2014
- d) Accounts Payable 2/3/2014 for \$54,554.31

Councilmember Minor seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENT/NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Bob Widows-640 Dayton-
1) Street light on 24 hours a day
2) Clark Street Park-bathrooms left open during the day
3) Chickens in city limits

Jamie Forsyth- Spoke on behalf of the community preparedness meetings and would like to see them continue. Mrs. Forsyth was concerned with the charge of using the community center for these meetings.

Fire Chief Schulte would work with the community preparedness group.

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City Clerk/Treasurer Pena spoke on the rules for use of the community center for no charge.

Mayor Blackwell also addressed Mrs. Forsyth's concerns. The Mayor directed Fire Chief Schulte to work with emergency preparedness group.

Councilmember Quinton received an email at work ranking Connell as #1 safest city in Washington.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Councilmember Minor moved to approve the Agenda with addition.
Public Works Job Description Maintenance I-II
Mayor Pro Tem Huber seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

MAINTENANCE I- II-JOB DESCRIPTION MODIFICATION

Public Works Director Larry Turner agreed with the language change to the job description for the public works Maintenance I-II position. Mr. Turner stated general maintenance was already being performed on city equipment and vehicles by city employees. Salaries and wages would not be affected by the job description change. Councilmember's held discussion.

Motion: Councilmember Escalera moved to approve the Maintenance I-II job description that was presented at the January 21, 2014 council meeting. Councilmember Minor seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

WASHINGTON MILITARY DEPARTMENT CONTRACT NUMBER E14-155

Franklin County Emergency Management provided the city with a contract to receive reimbursement of expenses for the radio tower site project. The reimbursement would come from a Homeland Security Grant through Franklin County to the city. The city would receive \$24,214 from the 2012 grant and \$15,000 from the 2013 grant.

Motion: Councilmember Quinton moved to approve the Mayor to sign the Washington Military Department Contract Number E14-155. Councilmember Minor seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously

WATER AND SEWER RATES

The FCS Group was hired by the city to perform a water and sewer rate study. At the council meeting on January 21, 2014, the FCS Group made recommendations to increase water rates 5% and sewer rates 7% based on the study's findings. Staff prepared a resolution with increases as recommended by the FCS Group. Councilmember held discussion and the following were discussed:

- 1) Increase maybe at a lower rate now and increase more later in the year.
- 2) Increases are needed at rate recommended by FCS Group
- 3) Programs to help citizens on fixed income

Beverly Stone was concerned with the increase for citizens that live on fixed incomes each month.

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Motion: Councilmember Silva moved to adopt Resolution No. 2014-01 amending Schedule I-Water and Schedule H-Sewer of the Master Fee Schedule. Councilmember Minor seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously

CASCADE EARTH SCIENCE AGREEMENT

Mayor Blackwell stated Cascade Earth Science provided soil sampling and help with the annual crop management plan. The annual report was required by the Department of Ecology. The Cascade Earth Science Agreement is renewed annually.

Motion: Councilmember Silva moved to approve the contract with Cascade Earth Sciences. Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously

CITY ADMINISTRATOR POSITION

MEETING RECESSED

At 7:25 pm Mayor Blackwell announced an Executive Session for 10 minutes to evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment.

At 4:35 pm Mayor Blackwell extended the meeting 10 minutes.

At 4:45 pm Mayor Blackwell extended the meeting 10 minutes.

MEETING RECONVENED

Mayor Blackwell reconvened the Regular Meeting at 7:55 pm and the following was heard:

Council consensus was to offer the City Administrator Position to Michael Morales pending contract negotiations.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Public Works Director Turner hired a new Maintenance I-II person to fill the current vacant public works position. The Public Works Supervisor position was also going to be advertised and would close February 28, 2014.

Street chip seal, Connell Park Estates waterline replacement, and the wastewater permit renewal were all things the public works director was working on.

Police Chief Interim Alan Chertok informed council members the Police Officer/Animal Control position was offered to Leticia Cervantes.

Fire Chief Schulte was the guest speaker at the emergency preparedness meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business before the City Council of Connell, Mayor Blackwell adjourned the meeting at 7:55 pm.

ATTEST: _____
Rose Courneya, Deputy City Clerk/Treasurer

Bruce Blackwell, Mayor