

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

March 21, 2016

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: Joe Escalera Kathie Silva, Rhonda Quinton and Ray Minor.

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

VISITORS: Kathy Bingham, Franklin County Graphic; Citizens: Manny Choi, and Rachel Poulson

CORRESPONDENCE

Franklin County Planning and Building Department send the City of Connell a Notice of a pending Short Plat.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

- a) Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting March 7, 2016
- b) Accounts Payable 3/21/2016 for \$122,608.34
- c) Payroll Check Register 3/15- 3/20/2016 for \$54,141.00

Mayor Pro Tem Huber seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Councilmember Silva approved agenda as presented

Councilmember Quinton seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

CONNELL RAIL INTERCHANGE-WSDOT CONNECTING WASHINGTON
DESIGN AGREEMENT

City Administrator Crowther provided a diagram of the Connell Rail Interchange and presented information about the interchange to Councilmember's. The City appreciated solid regional support and legislative approval last summer of \$10 million dollars. WSDOT Rail Division administered state funding for the Connell Rail Interchange project. The City of Connell's investment would be \$1000 at his time.

A contract was being presented for councilmember's to approve the Connecting Washington Design Agreement Number GCB 2372 with Washington State Department of Transportation in an amount not to exceed \$600,000 for design. The \$600,000 would come from the allocated \$10 million dollars of state funding from WSDOT.

Councilmember's held discussion and the following were heard:

- A) The City would oversee the project
- B) Accurate record keeping was required

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- C) WSDOT wanted to make sure they have a good project to present for money spent
- D) No cost was incurred by the City prior to design contract(no work/no bills)
- E) Was the deadline for design 8/10/2017?
- F) Does railroad do the project themselves or hire out?
- G) Contract contained typical State language
- H) Total cost of project was \$23 million
- I) Who would own railroad project when done and maintain it?

Motion: Councilmember Minor moved to approve Connecting Washington Design Agreement Number GCB 2372 with Washington State Department of Transportation in an amount not to exceed \$600,000. Mayor Pro Tem Huber seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

City Administrator – Jed Crowther

- 1) Had received a comment of the TBD
- 2) Social Media-Clarify car tab fees related to people
- 3) Car tab fees would be to residents within city limits
- 4) Clean up for the City-process in place already
- 5) Park Board-would like to meet to discuss the Park & Recreation position
- 6) Published Park & Recreation position last fall-had only one applicant

Police Chief- Chris Turner

- 1) Law enforcement Training Simulation-Police Staff attended training
- 2) Crime has been quiet in Connell
- 3) Still have an officer position vacant-hoping to feel position by May

Public Works Director-Larry Turner

- 1) Provided history on previous spring cleanups in Connell-Basin Disposal picks up garbage throughout the year and city takes chipping material.
- 2) Motor went out on Well #8
- 3) Working on water isolating valves
- 4) Replaced piping on Well #5
- 5) Working on Fire hydrants
- 6) Community Center landscaping being worked on
- 7) Videoing sewer lines in April
- 8) Attended CBDG grant seminar in Moses Lake

Clerk/Treasurer-Maria Peña

- 1) Month end financial reports handed out
- 2) Attended clerks training-good training
- 3) Attending Treasurer training next month

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MEETING RECESSED

At 7:02 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 7:12 pm

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business before the City Council of Connell, Mayor Blackwell adjourned the meeting at 7:12 pm.

ATTEST: _____
Rose Courneya, Deputy City Clerk/Treasurer

Bruce Blackwell, Mayor