

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

March 7, 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 Turnery, Police Chief Chris Turner, Fire Chief Chris Schulte, and City Clerk/Treasurer Maria Peña.

VISITORS: Kathy Bingham, Franklin County Graphic; Citizens: Carol Lindner, John Lindner, John White, Jaeniffer Kaiser, Tamara Millage, Rachel Poulson, and Regina Grassl.

CORRESPONDENCE

Anderson Perry was offering a \$750.00 Scholarship to a High School Student. Washington State Liquor and Cannabis sent the City a liquor renewal for Mei-Ling.

Franklin County Planning and Building department sent the city 5 notices of plat Public Hearings.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

- a) Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting February 16, 2016
- b) Check Register 3/1/2016 for \$223.61
- c) Accounts Payable March 7, 2016 for \$134,772.53
- d) Payroll Check Register 2/15-2/20/2016 for \$55,129.16
- e) Payroll Check Register 2/29-3/5/2016 for \$83,414.46

Councilmember Quinton seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Councilmember Quinton approved agenda as amended.

Transportation Benefit District Public Hearing date changed from March 21, 2016 to April 4th, 2016

Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

PUBLIC HEARING-Establishing a Transportation Benefit District

Mayor Blackwell recessed the regular meeting at 6:03 pm and opened a Public Hearing for the purpose of Establishing a Transportation Benefit District.

STAFF REPORT: The 2016 budget did not approve any funds being transferred from the General Fund into the Street Fund to help with operations. The purpose of establishing a Transportation Benefit District (TBD) was to authorize a vehicle tax fee of \$20.00. This fee would go into the Street Fund for transportation

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improvements that preserve, maintain operation and/or improve the existing transportation infrastructure of the City. Council in the 2016 Budget reallocated revenue from the Natural Gas Tax that was designated for Street Capital Improvements. Of 60% of the tax that was designated for capital improvements, the city reallocated 45% to operations and left 15% for capital. City Administrator Crowther provided information on other City's that had adopted a Transportation Benefit District. The City of Connell could receive an additional \$30,000.00 a year from the car tabs fee. City Clerk/Treasurer Maria Peña stated the statute allows up to \$20.00 when the district is first put into place.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Helen Tobin asked if the car tab fee would be on all vehicles and if the Street Fund was in trouble? Asked how much revenue was generated by the car tabs.

John White asked again that each vehicle would receive an additional \$20.00 fee. Mr. White stated the quiet a chunk of money. Mr. White was against the \$20.00 tabs fee.

COUNCILMEMBERS COMMENT PORTION OF THE HEARING:

Mayor Pro Tem Huber doesn't want the General Fund supporting the Street Fund. Councilmember Escalera thought the tab fee was a good idea and city would always use the funds created by the tab fee.

Councilmember's Quinton and Silva also agreed that the car tab fee was a good idea.

Councilmember Minor asked what the criteria were for putting on the car tab or not. Councilmember Minor agreed with proceeding with establishing a TBD.

Mayor Blackwell closed the hearing and opened regular meeting at 6:25 pm.

Motion: Councilmember Silva moved to adopt Ordinance No. 964-2016 establishing a Transportation Benefit District. Councilmember Minor seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: Councilmember Minor moved to adopt Resolution No. 2016-03 setting the date for public hearing concerning the City Council's intent to assume the rights, powers, functions and obligations of the Connell Transportation Benefit District. Mayor Pro Tem Huber seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

POOL CONDITION UPDATE

Herr Enterprises, Inc. evaluated the city's pool condition. The pool had been losing water at an undetermined location. Mr. Herr gave staff recommendations on finding the water leak. The pool could be opened this year. There were no major problems with the pool according to Mr. Herr. There was visual deterioration of the plaster finish but it was not necessary to replaster the pool at this time.

City Administrator Crowther reminded Councilmember's and citizens he would need some input on the utility tax to support the pool.

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RESOLUTION 2016-02-Foley Memorial Highway

Mayor Blackwell had been involved in collaborative efforts with many regional municipalities to name U.S. Highway 395 after Tom Foley. Resolution No. 2016-02 was being presented to Councilmember for adoption. The Resolution was requesting naming U.S. Highway 395 after Tomas Stephen Foley.

Motion: Councilmember Escalera moved to adopt Resolution No. 2016-02 requesting the naming of U.S. Highway 395 after Thomas Stephen Foley. Councilmember Quinton seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

RESERVE OFFICERS SECURITY RATES

Police Chief Turner stated current reserve officers wage was \$10.00 and he would like to pay the reserve officers \$20.00 an hour.

Motion: Councilmember Quinton moved to approve reserve officers security rates as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Huber seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION 2016-04-Master Fee Schedule

The Master Fee Schedule update included the increase for hiring reserve officers for security through the City of Connell.

Motion: Councilmember Quinton moved to approve Resolution No. 2016-04 adding the Reserve Officer Security charge to the Master Fee Schedule. Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

COLUMBIA AVENUE BST STREET BID

Bids were opened on February 25th for the Columbia Avenue BST project. The City received three bids. Bids again came in higher than expected. Staff was requesting Councilmember's reject all bids at this time. Staff would look at options of how to best fund this project in the future.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Huber moved to reject all bids received for the Columbia Avenue BST project. Councilmember Minor seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION 2016-05-ARBOR DAY

The Connell Tree Advisory Board was recently established. One of the criteria to apply for Tree City USA is to celebrate Arbor Day. Resolution No. 2016-05 Proclaiming April 29, 2016 as "Arbor Day" was being presented to Councilmember's for approval.

Motion: Councilmember Minor moved to adopt Resolution No. 2016-0 Proclaiming April 29, 2016 as "Arbor Day" in the City of Connell. Councilmember Quinton seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE 966-2016-2016 Budget Amendment

Ordinance No. 966-2016 allows for the retirement of the USDA loan in full. The City had received a letter from the USDA asking us to refinance the current USDA loan and after consideration, it was determined that it would be in the City's best interest

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to retire the loan completely. The budget amendment reflects a \$490,000 increase to pay off the USDA loan. The Water/Sewer Bond Redemption Fund had a \$490,000 expenditure increase.

Motion: Councilmember Minor moved to adopt Ordinance No. 966-2016 amending the 2016 Fiscal Year Budget. Mayor Pro Tem Huber seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

City Administrator – Jed Crowther

- 1) Had a request on fowl policy-Council still need to advise staff
- 2) Near completion of the Rail design 30%
- 3) Upcoming Contract WA State Dept. Rail Division
- 4) Contract with engineer firm for 100% design. Complete design work by next spring for Construction in 2017.
- 5) AWC Scholarship-need Councilmember's to review applications
(Quinton & Silva volunteered)

Fire Chief-Chris Schulte

- 1) February 24, attended a fire at CPE-Volunteers did a great job
- 2) Retired 3 volunteers that were no longer participating
- 3) Invited to a national form to talk about incident Management
- 4) Esquatzel Coulee-watching it –hoping to burn soon
- 5) Converted a 4' florescent light to led light

Police Chief- Chris Turner

- 1) Police department had officers out sick
- 2) Attended supervision leadership training
- 3) Fairly quiet-working on junk vehicles.

Public Works Director-Larry Turner

- 1) Well #6-will be attending training for CDBG and DWSRF and looking for funding
- 2) Awarded a \$20,000 for cultural review of the Well 6 site
- 2) Working on sewer line repair-Camera to look at area to see what needs to be done
- 3) Hawthorne water line project still working on
- 4) Working on getting Led street lighting for the city-grants funds available
- 5) Time to look at HVAC's in Community Center-looking for grants to help with cost

Clerk/Treasurer-Maria Peña

- 1) Maria and Rose will be gone to class March 14- March 18, 2016

CITY COUNCIL CLOSING REMARKS

Councilmember's Remarks

- 1) Appreciate the input on the Transportation District-hoping streets can support itself
- 2) Glad to hear the pool in pretty good shape-hope the community members step up
- 3) Glad to see people at the council meeting-that way people know what's going on
- 4) Could the Park & Recreation Director be put back into the budget?
(Would like it back in the budget)
- 5) What are the guidelines for someone to put on classes in the community center?
- 6) Don't want to see Fowl within the city limits
- 7) Thanked Community for speaking on TBD
- 8) City needs the TBD for street fund

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MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business before the City Council of Connell, Mayor Blackwell adjourned the meeting at 7:34 pm.

ATTEST: _____
Rose Courneya, Deputy City Clerk/Treasurer

Bruce Blackwell, Mayor