

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

May 16, 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, Rhonda Quinton, and Ray Minor.

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

STAFF: Attorney Dan Hultgren, 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 and Park & Recreation Director Manny Choi.

CORRESPONDENCE

Jolee Booker was the recipient of the AWC scholarship.

Councilmember Minor would be attending the AWC Conference in June.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Huber moved to approve the Consent Calendar as presented.

- a) Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting May 2, 2016
- b) Check Register May 3, 2016 for \$221.88
- c) Accounts Payable May 16, 2016 for \$187,846.40
- d) Payroll Check Register April 30-May 5, 2016 for \$83,621.90
- e) Appoint Alan Gunter as Hearing Examiner, as per CMC 11.30.070
- f) Task Order Well No. 6 and Selected Phase I Water System Improvements Engineering Services between the City of Connell and Anderson & Perry not to exceed \$25,000.

Councilmember Quinton seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Councilmember Escalera approved agenda as presented.

Councilmember Quinton seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

STAFF CAR DISCUSSION

The Finance committee discussed replacement of the old city staff Ford Taurus. The Police Department had a 2009 Ford Explorer that could replace the Taurus with the understanding that the police department would need to purchase a new vehicle in the next year's budget. Council held discussion. Council's consensus was to replace the Taurus with the 2009 Ford Explorer.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES UPDATE

Staff had attended several grant training sessions. The city considered various grant applications strategies that included grants from the following agencies: Department of

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Health (DWSRF) for Well #6, Transportation Improvement Board, Community Development Block Grant, Department of Commerce, Heritage Capital Programs, and Department of Commerce Youth Recreational Facilities. The grants had matching requirements and some restrictions. Staff looked at grants that would match or fit the cities needs. Mayor Blackwell was working with Sean Davis on grants for broadband connectivity for rural cities and a grant for replacing the emergency siren tower.

TRANSPORTATION BENEFIT DISTRICT-SALES TAX METHOD

Staff provided information on the Transportation Benefit District (TBD) Sales Tax Method as requested by Councilmember's. A sales and use tax increase would add up to 0.2% to existing rate (8.2% rather than 8.0%). In terms of dollar impact, it equals 20 cents on \$100, or \$2 per \$1000 on most retail purchase. Sales of food and food ingredients are exempt from retail sales tax. However, prepared foods, dietary supplements, and soft drinks are taxable. Council must consider impact to local residents and businesses but also be aware of the Cities Street needs. Revenues from implementing a car tab fee would be about \$23,070 and revenues from implementing a sales and use tax method would be about \$40,000.

Council held discussion and the following were heard:

- 1) Talked to business people in Connell and received positive feedback
- 2) Citizens would have a vote
- 3) Put out a survey to citizens
- 4) Talk to different committees in town on car tabs vs sales tax
- 5) Educate the citizens in town before August ballot
- 6) Streets need to be maintained
- 7) Put information in the graphic
- 8) City has to figure out how to finance street projects

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Public Works Director-Larry Turner

- 1) Attended several meetings
- 2) Not going through with Columbia Avenue project this year
- 3) Sewer line inspection on Striker –not as bad as originally thought
- 4) Went out to bid for Pioneer lift station
- 5) Worked on Well 8 booster

Clerk/Treasurer-Maria Peña

- 1) Attended Training
- 2) Working on Annual Report
- 1) Thanked Staff for their hard work on public record requests

Fire Chief-Chris Schulte

- 1) Had structure fire on wheels
- 2) Fires season could be interesting-lot of fuel growing

Police Chief- Chris Turner

- 1) Attended training
- 2) Department did fire arms training
- 3) Police department been quiet.

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CITY COUNCIL CLOSING REMARKS

Councilmember's Remarks

- 1) Thanked Sterling for updated code enforcement report
- 2) Thanked City staff for all their hard work

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business before the City Council of Connell, Mayor Blackwell adjourned the meeting at 6:46 pm.

ATTEST: _____
Rose Courneya, Deputy City Clerk/Treasurer

Bruce Blackwell, Mayor