

MEETING OF THE CITY OF CONNELL, WASHINGTON  
CONNELL, FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON  
March 21, 2022

The Regular meeting of the Connell City Council was called to order by Mayor Lee Barrow at 6:00 pm in the City Hall.

ROLL CALL

ROLL CALL: Mayor Lee Barrow and Councilmember's: Pro Tem Escalera, Pat Barrera, Shelly Harper, Katrina Kunkel, and John White.

PRESENT: City Administrator Cathleen Koch, City Clerk Marissa Ortiz, City Treasurer Michelle Fry, Fire Chief Ken Woffenden, City Attorney Dan Hultgrenn and Public Works Director Hallie Tuck.

PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Lee Barrow presented Resolution No. 2022-03 in Recognition of Dan F. Hultgrenn, along with a plaque of appreciation. Since 2006 he served as legal counsel for the City of Connell. The city was very appreciative of his years of service and recognized the value of his contributions for the improvement of the city. City Council expressed thanks to him.

CONSENT CALENDAR

**Motion:** Councilmember Kunkel moved to approve the consent calendar as amended:

- a) Minutes of the Regular Meeting March 7, 2022
  - b) Accounts Payable 3/21/22 for ~~\$95,068.02~~ \$164,026.26
  - c) Payroll Register 3/18/22 – 3/18/22 for \$69,387.84
- Pro Tem Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Motion:** Councilmember Barrera moved to approve the agenda as presented. Pro Tem Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

2022 HOTEL/MOTEL EXPENDITURE ALLOCATIONS

The Hotel/Motel Committee met to review applications on March 9 and voted to recommend full funding for each of the applicants for a total of \$18,000.

The following applications recommended for funding were received from:

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| 1. Columbia Basin Junior Livestock Show                   | \$3,500 |
| 2. Connell Community Club                                 | \$3,000 |
| 3. Connell Community Float/Miss Connell Scholarship       | \$5,000 |
| 4. Greater Connell Area Chamber of Commerce/Fall Festival | \$4,000 |

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| 5. Greater Connell Area Chamber of Commerce/Harvest Wine & Brew | \$1,000 |
| 6. Connell Heritage Museum                                      | \$1,500 |

**Motion:** Pro Tem Escalera moved to approve the Committee’s allocation recommendations in the amount of \$18,000. Councilmember Barrera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

FRANKLIN CO COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN (CEMP)

The City of Connell was required to either establish an organization or be a part of a joint local organization for emergency management purposes (RCW 35.52.070). The city partnered with Franklin County and other local agencies through an interlocal agreement. The city adopted the 2015 emergency management plan in 2016. It was time for the city to consider adoption once again since the plan needed an update every 5 years.

**Motion:** Councilmember Kunkel moved to adopt the Franklin County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) and authorize the Mayor to sign on behalf of the City of Connell. Councilmember White seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO 2022-04 MASTER FEE SCHEDULE AMENDMENT WATER/SEWER RATES

Provided for Council’s consideration was Resolution No. 2022-04 Amending Water and Sewer rates within the Master Fee Schedule. The proposed increases were recommended by FCS Group per the water/sewer rate study. City residents would see an increase of 2% for sewer and 3% for water. This change was estimated to increase customer water/sewer utility bills \$1.76 per month. Without these rates increases the city would have to continue to use reserves in sewer and water to balance the fund.

**Motion:** Councilmember Harper moved to approve Resolution No. 2022-04 amending the Master Fee Schedule. Councilmember Kunkel seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 1022-2022 BUDGET AMENDMENT

When the 2022 Budget was adopted in November of 2021, uses for the ARPA funds hadn’t been discussed. On January 31, 2022, a Council Workshop was held, and various uses were considered. Provided to Council was Ordinance No. 1022-2022, it would allow staff to move forward with all items that were presented in January and a few others that had surfaced since that time. The total increase to the budget amounted to \$1,491,000 with \$1,476,000 of that for ARPA fund uses and \$15,000 for miscellaneous needs. Discussion was held.

**Motion:** Councilmember Harper moved to adopt Ordinance No. 1022-2022 amending the 2022 Budget as described changing the total to \$19,312,107 with a deduction of \$21,000 which would be granted to the Connell Food Bank and if the two grants were not received for the Fire Department the total amounts would remain in their fund. Councilmember Barrera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

SETTING THE 2022 DEADLINE FOR COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT APPLICATIONS

City staff recommended that Council fix the date of Monday, May 2, 2022, to be the deadline for persons to submit applications for any changes to City’s Comprehensive Plan. Amendments to

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the City's Comprehensive Plan were legislative actions and in accordance with the State of Washington Growth Management Act (WAC Chapter 365-196) the City could amend its Comprehensive Plan on an annual basis. Connell Municipal Code (CMC) 16A.2.060(e)(1), the City Council could fix a date each year, via a vote at a regular or special meeting, which would serve as the deadline for submitting applications to amend the Comprehensive Plan for consideration in a given year. The deadline would generally occur no later than October 1, 2022. At least thirty days prior to the application due date, the city should notify the public that the Comprehensive Plan amendment process had begun.

**Motion:** Councilmember Barrera moved to establish Monday, May 2, 2022, as the deadline for submitting applications for Comprehensive Plan amendments for consideration in the 2022 annual amendment cycle, and direct staff to arrange for notices to be distributed as set in the code. Pro Tem Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

RECYCLE BINS DISCUSSION

After the last discussion held regarding the future of the recycling program, City staff received further feedback from the community. Mayor Lee Barrow opened the floor to councilmembers for discussion. No decision was made.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business before the City Council of Connell Mayor Barrow adjourned the meeting at 7:25 pm.

ATTEST:   
Marissa Ortiz, City Clerk

  
Lee Barrow, Mayor