

MEETING OF THE CITY OF CONNELL, WASHINGTON  
CONNELL, FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON  
March 7, 2022

Remote 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: Pat Barrera, John White, Shelly Harper, and Pro Tem Escalera.

EXCUSED: Councilmember Barrera moved to excuse Councilmember Kunkel. Pro Tem Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

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.

APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Lee Barrow appointed Dale Kuehny to the Hotel Motel Tax Advisory Committee.

**Motion:** Pro Tem Escalera moved to appoint Dale Kuehny to the Hotel Motel Tax Advisory Committee. Councilmember White seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

Sean Davis, Director of Franklin County Emergency Management, joined in the meeting and gave a summary on the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. The (CEMP) was the framework for mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery activities in the event of a disaster or major emergency to the governments of Franklin County. By coordinating all phases of emergency management, the CEMP would help minimize the impacts of disasters and other emergencies within our jurisdictions.

Michelle Holt, Executive Director of Benton Franklin Council of Governments (BFCOG) also joined in the meeting and shared a PowerPoint presentation on the current services provided by BFCOG.

CONSENT CALENDAR

**Motion:** Councilmember Harper moved to approve the consent calendar as presented:

- a) Minutes of the Regular Meeting February 22, 2022
  - b) Accounts Payable 3/7/22 for \$54,157.95
  - c) Check Register 3/01/22 for \$261.64
  - d) Payroll Register 1/20/22 – 1/20/22 for \$84,409.54
  - e) Payroll Register 3/04/22 – 3/04/22 for \$104,984.27
- Councilmember Barrera 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

FIRE CHIEF EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT

The renewal of the Fire Chief contract was presented to Councilmembers, it was similar to the previous version with the following modifications:

- It provided for an annual salary of \$86,361.60, which corresponded to Range 22, Step 5 of the City’s adopted 2022 salary matrix. He was currently at Range 22, Step 4. The change in steps followed the City’s process for salary increases for all employees.
- It was a 3-year term, beginning February 1, 2022, and would terminate on January 31, 2025.
- Annual leave was adjusted to allow to accrue annual leave (vacation) at the next level. His accrual would move from 12 days each year to 15 days. All other provisions were in accordance with the personnel policy manual.
- Section 9, Uniform Allowance, was removed. The Chief had standard clothing and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that was necessary and required. Such needs would be covered under Section 3B, Expenses, rather than limiting the amount of money that could be spent.

**Motion:** Pro Tem Escalera moved to approve the Employment Agreement with Fire Chief Ken Woffenden commencing February 1, 2022 and ending on January 31, 2025. Councilmember Harper seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ENERGY SAVINGS PERFORMANCE CONTRACT AND TRANSALTA GRANT AGREEMENT

During the January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022, meeting Council approved the City to accept a Department of Commerce Solar Grant for \$188,633. The city was then awarded an additional TransAlta Solar Grant for \$165,000. Provided to Councilmembers were the project costs breakdown, a City of Connell solar contract with Apollo Solutions Group and the TransAlta Funding grant agreement. The contract was contingent on the receipt of the TransAlta Funding agreement.

**Motion:** Councilmember Barrera moved to approve the Mayor to sign the City of Connell solar contract with Apollo Solutions Group contingent on the receipt of the TransAlta grant funds and to sign the TransAlta Funding agreement. Councilmember White seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.


CITIZEN COMMENT/NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Robert Wegner – voiced the issue of vehicles driving around town and his neighborhood with loud audio systems causing public disturbance, a violation of the city’s noise regulations.

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MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business before the City Council of Connell Mayor Barrow adjourned the meeting at 7:13 pm.

ATTEST:   
Marissa Ortiz, City Clerk

  
Lee Barrow, Mayor