

MEETING OF THE CITY OF CONNELL, WASHINGTON
CONNELL, FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON
May 16, 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 and was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

ROLL CALL:

Mayor Lee Barrow and Councilmember's: Pro Tem Joe Escalera, Shelly Harper, and Katrina Kunkel.

EXCUSED:

Pro Tem Escalera moved to excuse Councilmember's Barrera and White. Councilmember Kunkel seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

STAFF PRESENT:

City Administrator Cathleen Koch, City Clerk Marissa Ortiz, Fire Chief Ken Woffenden, Public Works Director Hallie Tuck, and City Attorney Heidi Ellerd.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Lee Barrow read a Proclamation for National Police Week 2022 proclaiming the City of Connell would observe May 11-17, 2022, as National Police Week.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

- a) Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting May 2, 2022
- b) Check Register 5/2/22 for \$135,866.80
- c) Check Register 5/2/22 for \$48.62
- d) Check Register 5/2/22 for \$261.97
- e) Payroll Register 5/5/22 – 5/5/22 for \$100,730.39

Councilmember Kunkel seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Councilmember Harper moved to approve the agenda as presented. Councilmember Kunkel seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

PUBLIC HEARING – VACATE RIGHT-OF-WAY BENHAM/WELCH PROPERTY

Mayor Barrow recessed the regular meeting at 6:05 pm and opened a Public Hearing to allow Council to hear comments from the public in regard to the city's intent to vacate the 30' wide strip of right-of-way east of North Ephrata Avenue and East Edison Street to US 395. The

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unopened right-of-way was not needed nor practical, with this vacation the owners would be able to use their property more effectively.

Mayor Barrow closed the hearing and opened the regular meeting at 6:11 pm.

Motion: Councilmember Kunkel moved to adopt Ordinance No. 1023-2022 vacating the 30' wide strip of Right-of-way on parcels #106663089 and #106663090. Mayor Pro Tem Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

SOLOR ENERGY GRANT CONTRACT

Provided for Council's review was a capital agreement with the Department of Commerce for the city's Well 8 solar project. The contract amount was for \$188,633.00. The contract addressed the specific terms and conditions governing the grant.

Motion: Councilmember Harper moved to approve the Mayor to sign the Department of Commerce Solar Capital Agreement. Councilmember Kunkel seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

AGREEMENT TO PURCHASE AND SELL REAL ESTATE

City staff moved forward with the execution of the Purchase and Sell agreement for City property located between the Harvest Foods Grocery store and the Connell Community Center on East Elm Street. The purchase and sell agreement between the City of Connell and Montemayor Properties, LLC was presented, the purchase price was set at \$30,000 payable at closing.

Motion: Councilmember Harper moved to approve the Purchase and Sell Agreement between the City of Connell and Montemayor Properties, LLC for \$30,000. Councilmember Kunkel seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

MASTER FEE SCHEDULE AMENDMENT

City Administrator Cathleen Koch provided an amended Master Fee Schedule with updates to clarify language, add language or fees that were missing and amendments to the swimming pool fees. Some minor formatting changes were made to make it clear what fees applied. A summary of changes for each portion of the Fee Schedule was shown. The significant changes were made to the swimming pool fees. Molly Kunkel lined up a number of people and businesses willing to donate \$5,000 to the City to help cover pool fees. She requested that the City pair those funds with Columbia Basin Health Association's donation of \$5,000. The daily fees and passes could then be eliminated and allow everyone in Connell to enjoy the pool during open and lap swim without any cost.

Motion: Councilmember Kunkel moved to adopt Resolution No. 2022-08 amending the Master Fee Schedule. Pro Tem Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

AMENDMENT TO THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

Tabled

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DEPARTMENT REPORTS

City Clerk, Marissa Ortiz –

Reported effective June 1, 2022, meetings subject to the (OPMA) were no longer required to be held remotely. Remote access to public meetings would no longer be available once the proclamation expired. Meetings will resume in-person.

Fire Chief, Ken Woffenden –

Stated flushing and adjustments to fire hydrants was scheduled to take place throughout the city

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business before the City Council of Connell Mayor Barrow adjourned the meeting at 6:42 pm.

ATTEST: 
Marissa Ortiz, City Clerk


Lee Barrow, Mayor