

MEETING OF THE CITY OF CONNELL, WASHINGTON
CONNELL, FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON
June 20, 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: Joe Escalera, Pat Barrera, Shelly Harper, and John White.

EXCUSED:

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

STAFF PRESENT:

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

MEETING RECESSED

Mayor Barrow recessed the regular meeting at 6:01pm to go into Executive Session:

Per RCW 42.30.110(g) - To evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee. However, subject to RCW 42.30.140(4), discussion by a governing body of salaries, wages, and other conditions of employment to be generally applied within the agency shall occur in a meeting open to the public, and when a governing body elects to take final action hiring, setting the salary of an individual employee or class of employees, or discharging or disciplining an employee, that action shall be taken in a meeting open to the public.

(20 minutes)

6:09 pm Hallie Tuck was invited to join the executive meeting.

6:11 pm Hallie Tuck exited the executive meeting.

MEETING RECONVENED

Mayor Barrow called the regular meeting back to order at 6:21 pm.
No action taken.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion: Pro Tem Barrera moved to approve the consent calendar as presented:

- a) Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting June 6, 2022
- b) Accounts Payable 6/6/22 for \$63,838.48
- c) Payroll Register 6/03/22 – 6/03/22 for \$101,887.83

Councilmember Harper seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Councilmember Harper moved to approve the agenda as amended: *(added items – Use of City vehicles and Land Use Matters Service Contract)*. Councilmember White seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

PUBLIC HEARING – VACATION RIGHT-OF-WAY AND QUIT CLAIM DEED FOR FUTURE SOUTH ALMIRA AVENUE

Mayor Barrow recessed the regular meeting at 6:23 pm and opened a Public Hearing to allow Council to hear comments from the public in regard to the determination for the vacation of right of way identified as future South Almira Avenue.

STAFF REPORT:

Building Services Clerk, Sterling Joyner reported that upon review with legal counsel, it was determined that future S. Almira Avenue as identified on Short Plat No. 90-04 was an easement and not a street dedication. The correct process to eliminate the easement was by quit claim deed.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

1. Area vacated was currently not being used as a street.
2. There was no need for access from future South Almira from the East as the Community Center had access from two other access points.
3. The future owner of the parcel would have entry access from East Elm Street.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None heard

COUNCILMEMBERS COMMENT PORTION OF THE HEARING:

None heard

Mayor Barrow closed the hearing and opened the regular meeting at 6:28 pm.

Motion: Councilmember Harper moved to approve the Quit Claim Deed for the portion of future South Almira Avenue within Lot 3 on Short Plat 90-04 based on the findings of fact. Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

CLOSED RECORD HEARING OF PROPOSED PRELIMINARY PLAT OF PRATT'S ADDITION TO CONNELL

Mayor Barrow recessed the regular meeting at 6:30 pm and opened the Closed Record Hearing regarding: A proposed preliminary plat of Pratt's Addition to Connell. The subdivision was of one parcel approximately 2.05 acres, into 9 single-family residential lots in the Residential Low-Density zone in one phase.

DECLARATIONS:

None heard

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OBJECTIONS:
None heard

STAFF REPORT:
Staff reviewed the application, conducted SEPA environmental review, and scheduled a public hearing for the planning commission. Recommendation was conditional approval of the preliminary plat supported by suggested findings of fact.

COUNCILMEMBERS COMMENT PORTION OF THE HEARING:
None heard

PUBLIC COMMENT:
None Heard

Mayor Barrow closed the hearing and opened the regular meeting at 6:38 pm.

Motion: Pro Tem Barrera moved to adopt the findings and conclusions contained in the report and approve the preliminary plat of Pratt’s Addition to Connell with the listed conditions as prepared by staff. Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING – SIX YEAR TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2023-2028
Mayor Barrow recessed the regular meeting at 6:40 pm and opened a Public Hearing to allow Council to hear comments from the public in regard of considering the adoption of the Six-Year Transportation Improvement Plan 2023-2028.

STAFF REPORT:
Public Works Director Hallie Tuck provided Connell’s STIP for 2023-2028. Discussion was held during the street committee on June 9, no changes were made from the previous plan. Tuck informed City Council the plan was the funding mechanism for expensive capital improvements to Connell’s multimodal transportation network. Staff recommended adopting Resolution No 2022-09 updating the Six-Year Transportation Improvement Plan.

PUBLIC COMMENT:
None heard

COUNCILMEMBERS COMMENT PORTION OF THE HEARING:
None heard

Mayor Barrow closed the hearing and opened the regular meeting of 6:45 pm.

Motion: Councilmember Harper moved to approve Resolution No. 2022-09 for the 2023-2028 State Transportation Improvement Plan. Pro Tem Barrera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 1024-2022 – ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS
On May 16, 2022, Council amended the Master Fee Schedule and removed daily pool fees from the schedule to allow members of the community to donate funds instead. City Administrator

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Cathleen Koch stated it was common for cities to have an ordinance in place setting parameters for staff to be able to accept a level of donations. The City did not have an ordinance in place to allow staff to accept donations of any kind and was required to be brought to Council for acceptance. Ordinance No. 1024-2022 was provided and was prepared based on staff's recommendations. It would allow the City Administrator to accept monetary and non-monetary donations under \$25,000. Anything above \$25,000 would be required to go to Council for consideration. Donations could only be accepted if the City could spend them for the purpose that was intended. If the City was not able to spend the funds for the intended purpose, the donation would need to be rejected.

Council's consensus was to delay adoption and have staff bring back a revised ordinance to include specific language stating that the City Administrator would inform the Council of any donation accepted without their approval.

JULY 4th FIREWORKS DISPLAY

In 2021, Council was presented with a request from the Chamber of Commerce to increase their funding for the 4th of July Fireworks Display to \$4,500. Prior to 2021, the City contributed \$2,500 annually since 2015. The Chamber of Commerce submitted an invoice to the City for a \$4,500 contribution in 2022. City Administrator Koch stated that the 2022 budget was created based on historical averages with a line item to pay for the fireworks display containing \$3,000. Council had the option to use reserves, their special Council project funds of \$10,000 or other sources to cover the cost if desired. It was suggested the City not contribute 50% or more of the cost of the fireworks show, placing liability on the City. The total cost for the 2022 display was \$10,000. If Council desired to increase the City's contribution, it was recommended to be no more than \$4,500.

Motion: Councilmember Harper moved to approve \$3,000 towards the 4th of July Fireworks Display. Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

USE OF CITY VEHICLES

City Council held a discussion regarding the use of city vehicles, Councilmember Harper stated her intention was not to remove the use. She wanted to see a modified policy for the use of city vehicles. City Attorney Heidi Ellerd suggested drafting a modified policy to include all departments and vehicles, then bring back for Council's review.

LAND USE MATTERS SERVICE CONTRACT

Staff provided City Council with a land use services contract for land use matters. The contract provided additional legal services and the Attorney agreed to represent the City under the terms and conditions. Council moved into executive session to discuss further.

MEETING RECESSED

Mayor Barrow recessed the regular meeting at 7:15 pm to go into Executive Session:

Per RCW 42.30.110(i) – To discuss with legal counsel representing the agency matters relating to agency enforcement actions, or to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency, the governing body, or a member acting in an official

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capacity is, or is likely to become, a party, when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency.

(10 minutes)


MEETING RECONVENED

Mayor Barrow called the regular meeting back to order at 7:26 pm.

Motion: Councilmember Harper moved to approve the Land Use Service Contract between the City of Connell and law firm of Saxton Riley & Riley, PLLC. Councilmember White seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business before the City Council of Connell Mayor Barrow adjourned the meeting at 7:39 pm.

ATTEST: 
Marissa Ortiz, City Clerk



Lee Barrow, Mayor

