

MEETING OF THE CITY OF CONNELL, WASHINGTON
CONNELL, FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON
August 15, 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, Shelly Harper, and Katrina Kunkel.

EXCUSED:

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

STAFF PRESENT:

City Administrator Cathleen Koch, City Clerk Marissa Ortiz, Treasurer Teresa Steele, Police Chief Chris Lee, and City Attorney Heidi Ellerd.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

- a) Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting August 1, 2022
- b) Accounts Payable 8/15/22 for \$107,429.41
- c) Check Register 8/1/22 for \$265.32
- d) Payroll Register 8/05/22 – 8/05/22 for \$110,535.56

Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF FIRE EXHAUST REMOVAL SYSTEM

Fire Chief Ken Woffenden provided a report regarding the purchase and installation of the Fire Exhaust removal system. He explained that when fire trucks were started up, the exhaust tended to hang in the fire bays and seep into the office and training rooms. An air vacuum exhaust removal system (air scrubber) could be used to clear carcinogens from the building and known to help with cancer prevention. Three quotes were obtained and of the three the one from Airvac (Air Vacuum Corporation) was selected based on the initial costs, lower cost replacement filters and the system's ability to automatically start and stop the units when needed to clear exhaust from the building when the Firefighters exited. Staff recommended Council's approval of the purchase and installation of the air scrubbers and authorize work on the doors as needed, with a maximum authority of \$42,000 for the total project.

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Motion: Councilmember Kunkel moved to approve the purchase of the air scrubber system from Airvac for \$21,100.73 and authorize installation of the system and work on the fire bay doors, with a total project cost of no more than \$42,000. Councilmember Harper seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

BASIN DISPOSAL INC. FUEL SURCHARGE

On July 18, 2022, Rebecca Francik from Basin Disposal, Inc. (BDI) attended the City Council Meeting and discussed recycling and their desire to add a fuel surcharge to all bills to cover the increased cost for fuel. The discussion focused on recycling and no action was taken. On July 19, 2022, Mayor Barrow received a written notice asking the City to consider allowing a fuel surcharge. In discussing the proposed modification with Francisco Alcala of BDI, they were willing to lower the surcharge that was proposed at 9.77% to 4.43%, which was more in line with what the City of Pasco would be paying. The request was to add the surcharge to the September and October bills. They also indicated that if fuel prices remained high, they would submit another request during the month of September for the November and December garbage bills. Staff recommend the approval of the fuel surcharge at the 4.43% rate for the months of September and October. Any future increase would be discussed separately.

Motion: Councilmember Escalera moved to approve a fuel surcharge of 4.43% be added to garbage bills for the months of September and October 2022. Councilmember Kunkel seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2022-10 SPONSORING THE PORT OF PASCO IN THEIR APPLICATION TO THE ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON CITIES FOR HEALTH INSURANCE

The Port of Pasco Executive Director Randy Hayden submitted a request to the City of Connell for sponsorship with the Association of Washington Cities (AWC). In order for Port employees to participate in the Employee Benefits Trust for health insurance, they needed a Washington State city, who was an AWC member as its sponsor.

Motion: Councilmember Kunkel moved to adopt Resolution No. 2022-10 sponsoring the Port of Pasco in their application to AWC for health insurance with the Employee Benefits Trust. Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

CONNELL FALL FESTIVAL STREET CLOSURES

During the last Council meeting, Chamber of Commerce Assistant Lauren Smith spoke to Council regarding the Annual Fall Festival events planned downtown. She sent a proposal to the City for street closures and events. This was an informational item for Council. No action was necessary given that the City had a permit for street closures and would be filled out and processed.

CITY COUNCIL CLOSING REMARKS

Joe Escalera – asked to extend a thank you on behalf of the City for the mural that Pat Boyer painted.


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Katrina Kunkel – mentioned she spoke with the Convoy of Historic Military Vehicles while they stopped for an AM break stop in Connell on August 15, 2022. They expressed an appreciation to City Administrator Cathleen Koch and Police Chief Chris Lee.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business before the City Council of Connell Mayor Barrow adjourned the meeting at 6:28 pm.

ATTEST: 
Marissa Ortiz, City Clerk


Lee Barrow, Mayor