

MEETING OF THE CITY OF CONNELL, WASHINGTON  
CONNELL, FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON  
September 19, 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, Katrina Kunkel, and John White.

EXCUSED:

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

STAFF PRESENT:

Fire Chief Ken Woffenden, City Clerk Marissa Ortiz, Treasurer Teresa Steele, City Administrator Cathleen Koch 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 September 6, 2022
- b) Accounts Payable 9/19/22 for \$219,263.87
- c) Payroll Register 9/02/22 – 9/02/22 for \$112,841.57

Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Motion:** Councilmember Harper moved to approve the agenda as amended: (*Revised Memo#10 Moratorium on Solar and Wind Project – adoption of Ordinance in position of a Resolution*). Councilmember Kunkel seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

ACCEPTANCE OF AFG GRANT FUNDS FOR SCBA EQUIPMENT

City of Connell Fire Department was in partnership with Franklin County Fire District 1 and obtained the services of Firehouse Grants to write and submit the FEMA – Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG). The first application period in 2021, resulted in no award. After revising the application in 2022 and resubmitted the second time, ended in being awarded a total of \$167,965.71 for the purchase of updated SCBA equipment for the departments. CFD was eligible to receive \$61,580 for the purchase of 8 complete units plus 12 facepieces. FD1 did not have any SCBA equipment prior to the grant and was eligible to receive \$114,784 for the purchase of 16 complete units. As a condition of the grant, it was required to contribute a 5% matching funds which totaled approximately \$3,000 of the City's portion. In addition, CFD and FD1 would each pay half of a contingency fee of \$1,000 for successful AFG award to the grant writer (Firehouse Grants).

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**Motion:** Councilmember Harper moved to authorize the Mayor to sign the AFG Grant Agreement. Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**AFG GRANT AWARD MANAGEMENT SERVICES**

The City of Connell Fire Department in partnership with Franklin County Fire District 1 (CFD/FD1) obtained the services of Firehouse Grants to write and submit the FEMA – Assistance to Firefighter Grant (AFG). The first application period resulted in no award, after revising and resubmitting the second time the City was awarded \$167,965.71 for the purchase of updated SCBA equipment for the departments. Fire Chief Woffenden stated FEMA grants were overloaded with paperwork and rules. To make sure all information and reports were submitted on time, with the correct information Firehouse grants offered to help manage the grant process for the next two years for the sum of \$2,000.00. The FD1 would be billed for half of the cost \$1,000.00 of the process leaving CFD with only \$1,000.00 invested in the process.

**Motion:** Councilmember Kunkel moved to acquire the services of Firehouse Grants to manage the Assistance to Firefighters Grant through the 2-year period including the Closeout Report for a total sum of \$2,000.00. Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**BASIN DISPOSAL INC. FUEL SURCHARGE**

At the August 15 Council meeting BDI proposed a 4.43% fuel surcharge that was approved by council. They indicated that if fuel prices remained high, they would submit another request during the month of September for the November and December garbage billing. Provided was the new proposed fuel surcharge for the billing invoices for November and December. If fuel prices remained high, in November they would submit a new fuel surcharge for consideration.

***Tabled – Staff to provide totals and rate information at the next Council meeting on October 17, 2022.***

**ORDINANCE NO. 1025 – 2022 MORATORIUM ON SOLAR AND WIND ENERGY PROJECTS**

City Administrator Cathleen Koch reported the City was recently approached with general questions about local codes and regulations pertaining to sitting large-scale solar power projects within City limits. The Connell Municipal Code did not set out any clear regulations for large-scale energy, production projects. While solar and wind power were recognized forms of clean energy, these types of projects had raised concerns on aesthetics, impact on property values and the usual issues common to commercial/industrial scale projects such as: setbacks, site maintenance and decommissioning at the end of the project's useful life. Staff recommended that City Council adopt an immediate moratorium for a period of up to six months on the acceptance of permit applications for commercial/industrial solar and wind energy projects. After adoption a public hearing on proposed moratorium was required within sixty days.

**Motion:** Councilmember Kunkel moved to adopt Ordinance No. 1025 – 2022 placing a moratorium on accepting permit applications for commercial/industrial solar and wind energy projects. Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

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DEPARTMENT REPORTS

City Administrator, Cathleen Koch –  
Reminded Councilmembers of following the quasi-judicial process for the upcoming closed hearing scheduled for the Oasis Village II preliminary plat.

Fire Chief, Ken Woffenden –  
Reported the Air pump compressor at the Fire Hall had failed and needed repairs and/or replaced. He stated this equipment was an important item and recommended it be fixed.

**Motion:** Councilmember Kunkel moved to allow the Fire Chief to repair and use reserve funds to cover the cost. Councilmember Harper seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business before the City Council of Connell Mayor Barrow adjourned the meeting at 6:41 pm.

ATTEST:   
Marissa Ortiz, City Clerk

  
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Lee Barrow, Mayor