

MEETING OF THE CITY OF CONNELL, WASHINGTON
CONNELL, FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON
November 15, 2023

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

Mayor Lee Barrow and Councilmember's: Joe Escalera, Pat Barrera, Shelly Harper, Katrina Kunkel, and John White.

STAFF PRESENT:

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

- a) Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting November 1, 2023
- b) Accounts Payable 11/15/23 for \$99,295.08
- c) Check Register 11/1/23 for \$403.41
- d) Payroll Register 11/03/23-11/03/23 for \$95,889.45

Councilmember Escalera seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

PUBLIC HEARING – 2024 FINAL BUDGET PRESENTATION

Mayor Barrow recessed the regular meeting at 6:02 pm and opened a Public Hearing to allow for comments and discussion of the 2024 Fiscal Year Final Budget.

STAFF REPORT:

With the assistance of a PowerPoint presentation, City Treasurer Teresa Steele provided an overview of the proposed 2024 Budget.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Pam Welch – expressed concern regarding city vehicles and employees driving them out of town residence.

COUNCILMEMBERS COMMENT PORTION OF THE HEARING:

Councilmembers engaged in a brief question and answer session with Treasurer Steele. The discussion focused on budget line items such as police vehicle purchases, a commercial lawn mower, park playground equipment, and salaries.

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Mayor Barrow closed the hearing and opened the regular meeting at 6:50 pm.

ORDINANCE NO. 1036-2023 AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAXES

At the October 18 council meeting, Treasurer Teresa Steele presented the proposed AD Valorem Property Tax ordinance establishing the property tax levy. However, due to not having overall numbers provided by the Franklin County Assessor Office, the Council requested this item to be returned for discussion. After receiving current totals Treasurer Steele clarified that the allowable 1% increase would amount to \$5,717. The City’s assessed valuation was currently estimated to be \$314,408,162 and the levy rate was estimated at \$2.10 per 1,000 assessed value and included the 1% increase. The ordinance and property tax levy certification were due to the Franklin County Assessor by November 30, 2023. The Council held a discussion before a motion was made.

Motion: Councilmember Kunkel moved to adopt Ordinance No. 1036-2023 authorizing the 1% property tax increase. Pro Tem Barrera seconded the motion. Motion carried. (3-2 vote)

ORDINANCE NO. 1037-2023 ADOPTING THE 2024 BUDGET

The 2024 Budget with Ordinance No.1037-2023 was given to the City Council's consideration and adoption in the total amount of \$19,754,525.00. As of November 15, 2023, the City Council held the required number of public hearings, and the state law required the legislative body to adopt the budget no later than December 31.

The summary for the 2024 budget totals were as follows:

Fund#	Revenues	Expenditures
001 General Fund	\$5,310,850	\$5,310,850
002 General Reserve Fund	\$3,031,700	\$3,031,700
101 Street Fund	\$742,900	\$742,900
104 Hotel/Motel Tax Fund	\$103,800	\$103,800
111 General Support Fund	\$1,517,330	\$1,517,330
300 Capital Facilities Fund	\$714,300	\$714,300
401 Water Utility Fund	\$4,924,000	\$4,924,000
402 Sewer Utility Fund	\$2,870,500	\$2,870,500
403 Solid Waste Fund	\$112,320	\$112,320
404 Water Emergency Fund	\$200,000	\$200,000
406 Sewer Emergency Fund	\$200,000	\$200,000
414 DWSRF Loan (CTED)	\$0	\$0
633 State Remittance Fund	\$26,825	\$26,825
Total	\$19,754,525	\$19,754,525

Motion: Councilmember Kunkel moved to delay adoption of the budget and bring it back to the next meeting for discussion and adoption before December 31, 2023. Councilmember White seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

City Administrator, Cathleen Koch - Stated that the increase in fees for late payments on utility bills had caused a decrease in the number of customers who made late payments from last year. This topic would be discussed at a forthcoming Council meeting.

COMMENTS/NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Pam Welch – Spoke on several written reports of concern she submitted.

Jim Colclasure - Expressed his appreciation for a fulfilled public records request and spoke on a city employee issue.

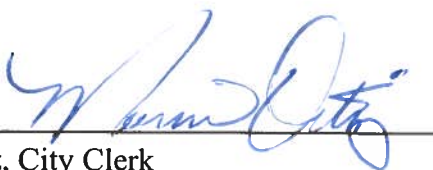
COUNCILMEMBERS REMARKS

Councilmember Escalera – Read a letter he wrote regarding the Public Works Department.

Councilmember Harper – Brought up two topics: graffiti in town and a citizen’s concern.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business before the City Council of Connell Mayor Barrow adjourned the meeting at 7:37 pm.

ATTEST: 
Marissa Ortiz, City Clerk


Lee Barrow, Mayor