

MEETING OF THE CITY OF CONNELL, WASHINGTON
CONNELL, FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON
March 6, 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:

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

CORRESPONDENCE

For correspondence Young Life representatives were in attendance and requested to take into consideration adding their annual Young Life Banquet event to the list of all fees waived when renting the Connell Community Center. They stated their banquet was a community-based event and had been a part of the Community for many years. Staff explained that currently as a non-profit organization they fell under a reduced rate schedule.

Motion: Councilmember Harper moved to approve adding the Young Life Banquet to all fees waived list on the Community Center application. Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

- a) Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting February 21, 2023
- b) Accounts Payable 3/6/23 for \$97,310.73
- c) Check Register 3/1/23 for \$373.03
- d) Payroll Register 2/17/23 – 2/17/23 for \$46,777.30
- e) Payroll Register 2/17/23 – 2/17/23 for \$24,673.58

Pro Tem Barrera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Councilmember Kunkel moved to approve the agenda as amended: (*UPDATED VERSION of Item#7- Public Hearing Comp Plan Amendments concerning Large Scale Energy Facilities to include suggested motions*). Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED COMP PLAN AMENDMENTS CONCERNING LARGE-SCALE ENERGY FACILITIES

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Mayor Barrow recessed the regular meeting at 6:07 pm and opened the Public Hearing for the purpose of considering Comprehensive Plan Amendments concerning Large – Scale Energy Facilities.

STAFF REPORT:

Nicole Stickney from ABHL was present and reported that on February 6, 2023, Council met during a regular Council meeting and considered a staff report and proposed an ordinance for changes to the Comprehensive Plan, as recommended by the Planning Commission. No action was taken, and the matter was tabled.

Staff prepared a revised ordinance and provided an alternative option to approve the set of Comprehensive Plan Amendments with the exception of the original suggested policies to support the development of solar farms in the City. An updated ordinance was provided with the option to approve policies to not allow solar farms in the city.

If Council passed the newly drafted ordinance, it would carry out a legislative action to update the Comprehensive Plan to include policies which would support further future actions to officially prohibit solar farms in the City’s zoning code.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

A letter from an interested developer, OneEnergy Development, LLC was received for public comment. It listed several benefits to the community expressing that if allowed the power produced by the project would be purchased by Franklin PUD and be used in the area.

A representative from Franklin PUD was in attendance and commented that Franklin Public Utility District along with the city would benefit from this future project.

COUNCILMEMBERS COMMENT PORTION OF THE HEARING:

Pro Tem Barrera said the letter given would have been helpful in deciding months ago.

Mayor Barrow closed the hearing and opened the regular meeting at 6:27 pm.

Motion: Pro Tem Barrera moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2028-2023 as was presented at the last meeting, amending the 2019 City of Connell Comprehensive Plan with 2022 Amendments allowing large-scale energy facilities. Councilmember Kunkel seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: Pro Tem Barrera moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2029-2023 revising the zoning map and re-classifying certain properties to implement the 2019 Comprehensive Plan with the 2022 Comprehensive Plan Amendments. Councilmember Harper seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

EXTENDING MORATORIUM ON COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL SOLAR-WIND ENERGY PROJECTS AND ADOPTING A WORKPLAN

At the September 19, 2022, City Council Meeting, Council approved Ordinance No. 1025-2022 which adopted findings and enacted a moratorium on Commercial/Industrial Solar and Wind Energy projects for an initial period of 6 months (except for the installation or repair of roof-top

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solar panels). The required hearing was advertised and held. Council found it necessary to extend the moratorium to continue the investigation, study, and consideration of changes to the Connell Municipal Code that would establish siting guidelines and development standards for Commercial/Industrial Solar and Wind Energy Projects. Prepared for City Council was Ordinance No. 1030-2023 that included the workplan, which directed staff to continue studying the issues concerning commercial/industrial solar or wind energy projects. The workplan also required staff to recommend a set of proposed amendments to the Connell Municipal Code regarding commercial-scale energy project siting. The moratorium would continue until Monday, September 18, 2023, which was an additional 6 months, unless City Council decided to repeal, extend, or modify the moratorium.

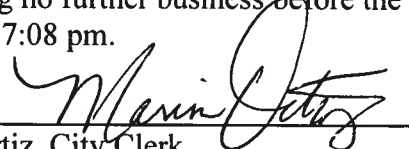
Motion: Councilmember Kunkel moved to adopt Ordinance No. 1030-2023 extending the moratorium on commercial/industrial solar and wind energy projects and adopting a workplan. Councilmember White seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

REVISED SOUTHSIDE WATERLINE PROJECT PHASE II – CHANGE ORDER #1
Provided for Council’s review was a revised Change Order #1 for the Southside Waterline project phase 2. The Change Order was revised due to a clerical error. The amount of the contract was decreased by the sum of \$20,926.88 plus sales tax. There was an additional increase amount in the contract price by the sum of \$4,865.74 in parts due to changes requested by the Washington State Department of Transportation for the boring under SR 260. The total reduction of the Change Order totaled \$16,061.14.

Motion: Councilmember White moved to approve the revised change order #1 with HD Fowler. Councilmember Kunkel seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business before the City Council of Connell Mayor Barrow adjourned the meeting at 7:08 pm.

ATTEST: 
Marissa Ortiz, City Clerk


Lee Barrow, Mayor