

# CITY OF CONNELL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

April 16, 2025

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: Pat Barrera, Shelly Harper, and Preston Hart.

### EXCUSED ABSENCE:

Councilmember Hart moved to excuse Councilmembers White and Escalera. Councilmember Barrera seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Escalera joined the meeting at 6:06 pm.

### STAFF PRESENT:

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

## PRESENTATION

Port of Pasco staff, along with consultants from ECONorthwest, joined the meeting to provide an update on the CERB- funded project. Project Director Matt Craigie outlined the project team, phases of the scope of work, and the overall schedule. He emphasized the importance of gathering input and feedback from the local community as the project moves forward.

## CONSENT CALENDAR

**Motion:** Councilmember Barrera moved to approve the consent calendar as presented:

- a) Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting March 19, 2025
- b) Accounts Payable 4/16/25 for \$84,997.78
- c) Check Register 4/1/25 for \$1,100.00
- d) Check Register 4/2/25 for \$92,162.13
- e) Check Register 3/20/25 for \$70,450.71
- f) Check Register 3/26/25 for \$294.24
- g) Payroll Register 4/4/25 for \$79,457.29

Councilmember Harper seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Motion:** Councilmember Hart moved to approve the agenda as presented. Councilmember Escalera seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

**INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT: COYOTE RIDGE CORRECTIONAL CENTER & CONNELL POLICE DEPARTMENT**

The City Council reviewed the revised interagency agreement between the Connell Police Department (CPD) and the Washington State Department of Corrections (DOC), representing the Coyote Ridge Corrections Center (CRCC). This updated agreement was designed to formalize and improve coordination between the two agencies for emergency response and mutual support. It provided clear definitions of roles, responsibilities, and financial arrangements, while also enhancing both agencies' preparedness and response capabilities in emergency situations.

Key aspects of the agreement included:

- **Mutual Assistance:**  
CPD and DOC agree to provide support to each other during emergencies, guided by each agency's resources and policies.
- **Request Protocols:**  
CRCC can request CPD assistance for perimeter security, external searches, or other emergency operations. Similarly, CPD can request DOC support for civil disturbances, disasters, or other emergencies.
- **Command Structure:**  
Each agency maintained supervisory control over its own personnel, ensuring that command remains separate but coordinated.
- **Pre-Emergency Planning:**  
Both agencies meet annually to review and update roles, responsibilities, and emergency protocols to ensure preparedness and compliance.
- **Financial Terms:**  
DOC will reimburse CPD for costs incurred in providing personnel and resources, in accordance with RCW 72.72.050 and RCW 72.72.060. CPD will reimburse DOC for services based on the actual work performed.
- **Term:**  
The agreement is effective from January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2026, with the option for either party to terminate the agreement with a 30-day notice.
- **Legal and Administrative Provisions:**  
Each agency will be responsible for its own personnel and liabilities. No separate legal or administrative entity is created by the agreement, and no joint acquisition of real property will occur.

**Motion:** Councilmember Barrera moved to approve the revised Interagency Agreement between CPD and DOC to enhance coordinated emergency response efforts and ensure clarity in operational and financial responsibilities and authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement. Councilmember Escalera seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Public Works Director Hallie Tuck

- A reminder was given that the Annual City Clean-up would take place on April 19 & 26.

COMMENTS/NON-AGENDA ITEMS

The young women representing the 2025 Miss Connell Scholarship Program introduced themselves to the City Council, announced they had reserved 10 parade appearances, and expressed gratitude for the opportunities provided by the program.

Steve Tomren – Expressed appreciation to the Public Works staff for their work on the ballfields, which received positive comments.

Lauren Smith – Spoke on behalf of the Miss Connell Scholarship Program, advocating for increased support to sustain the float.

Kara Booker – Delivered a speech addressing the Miss Connell float and highlighting the lack of transparency shown to the public by the parties involved.

Katherine Trowbridge – Voiced concern about the future of the float and its outcome.

Burl Booker – Discussed the history of the float, emphasized that the agreement made should be upheld.

Pam Welch – Served on the Miss Connell Program and agrees that the issue should be resolved.

CITY COUNCIL CLOSING REMARKS

Joe Escalera – Shared his view that the situation with the float has been mishandled.

MEETING RECESSED

Mayor Barrow recessed the regular meeting at 6:52 p.m. for a five-minute break.

MEETING RECONVENED

Mayor Barrow reconvened the regular meeting at 6:57 p.m.

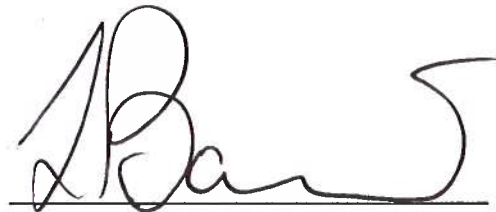
Pat Barrera – Addressed community concerns related to City Administrator Cathleen Koch's recent testimony on the property tax cap.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business before the City Council of Connell Mayor Barrow adjourned the meeting at 7:11 pm.

MEETING OF THE CITY OF CONNELL  
Regular Council Meeting – April 16, 2025

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Marissa Ortiz, City Clerk



Lee Barrow, Mayor