

MEETING OF THE CITY OF CONNELL, WASHINGTON
CONNELL, FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON
April 17, 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

Pro Tem Pat Barrera and Councilmember's: Shelly Harper, and Joe Escalera.

EXCUSED:

Councilmember Escalera moved to excuse the absences of Councilmember's Kunkel and White. Pro Tem Barrera seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

TEMPORARY MAYOR PRO TEM APPOINTMENT:

Councilmember Barrera moved to temporarily appoint City Administrator Cathleen Koch to Mayor Pro Tem. Councilmember Harper seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

STAFF PRESENT:

City Administrator Cathleen Koch, Fire Chief Ken Woffenden, City Clerk Marissa Ortiz, Treasurer Teresa Steele, Police Chief Chris Lee, Public Works Director Hallie Tuck 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 March 20, 2023
- b) Accounts Payable 4/17/23 for \$71,182.91
- c) Check Register 3/22/23 for \$5,598.00
- d) Check Register 3/23/23 for \$35.00
- e) Check Register 4/03/23 for \$74,035.56
- f) Check Register 4/03/23 for \$368.32
- g) Payroll Register 3/22/23-3/22/23 for \$2,560.95
- h) Payroll Register 4/05/23-4/05/23 for \$48,073.15
- i) Payroll Register 4/06/23-4/06/23 for \$26,890.87

Councilmember Barrera seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

HEARING EXAMINER CONTRACT

In 2008, the City Council appointed a Hearing Examiner that retired and was replaced by another attorney at the same law firm. The contract expired, and a new appointment needed to be made in accordance with Connell Municipal Code 11.20 for matters that required a Hearing Examiner.

MEETING OF THE CITY OF CONNELL
Regular Meeting – April 17, 2023

The City desired a Hearing Examiner that was skilled and experienced in the area of land use law, real property law, enforcement of municipal regulations, city planning and development and similar permitting issues. They also needed to be familiar with the City's zoning and building codes and other related City codes, ordinances, resolutions, regulations and or policies. City staff consulted with AHBL in regard to qualified Hearing Examiners who worked in the Connell area. They witnessed the work of, and recommended Andy Kottkamp from Kottkamp, Yedinak & Esworthy. A draft contract, biography and list of qualifications were provided for Council consideration. The qualifications considered were as follows:

- A bachelor's degree in urban and regional planning, land use law, or closely related field; and/or
- Five years of experience in one of the above-listed professions; and/or
- Five years of experience in conducting and/or participating in public hearings; and/or
- A practicing professional planner, land use lawyer, or closely related profession; and/or
- Employees of nonconflicting agencies (both public and private), law firms, or other closely related professions were eligible.

The proposed contract would commence upon signature and the Hearing Examiner would be compensated at \$250 per hour. The contract could be terminated with or without cause by giving Mr. Kottkamp 30 calendar days prior written notice. The appropriate fees would be collected from the parties needing such services in accordance with the City's Master Fee Schedule. The City Council had the option to vote to appoint Mr. Kottkamp as the City's Hearing Examiner. As an alternative, Council could direct staff to seek out other qualified and experienced Hearing Examiners.

Council members held discussions whether or not a Hearing Examiner was necessary, it was suggested to delay the decision until a full Council was present.

Motion: Councilmember Barrera moved to table the item to a later Council Meeting scheduled for May 1, 2023. Councilmember Harper seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

MID-COLUMBIA LIBRARIES UPCOMING EVENTS

Sarah Schwan, Advocacy & Development Manager at Mid-Columbia Libraries gave a presentation on Library happenings, their book collection, and the services they've provided to the Connell branch since 1965. She announced a popular upcoming event taking place in Connell for the first time called Dia del nino y los libros. This celebration would be held at Pioneer Park on May 6, from 12pm – 2pm.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Public Works Director, Hallie Tuck –
Reported that Public Works crews were busy in preparing the City swimming pool for the upcoming open season.

MEETING OF THE CITY OF CONNELL
Regular Meeting – April 17, 2023

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business before the City Council of ~~City~~ Administrator Koeh adjourned the meeting at 6:42 pm.

ATTEST: Marissa Ortiz
Marissa Ortiz, City Clerk

Lee Barrow
Lee Barrow, Mayor