

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF CONNELL, WASHINGTON
CONNELL, FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON
April 17, 2024

The Regular meeting of the Connell City Council was called to order by Mayor Lee Barrow at 6:01 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:

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

Councilmember White joined the meeting at 6:06 pm.

STAFF PRESENT:

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Harper moved to approve the consent calendar as presented:

- a) Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting April 03, 2024
- b) Accounts Payable 4/17/24 for \$123,224.66
- c) Check Register 4/01/24 for \$319.52
- d) Payroll Register 4/05/24-4/05/24 for \$113,873.41

Councilmember seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Harper moved to approve the agenda as amended: (*Added Memo #9a – Street Closure Request*). Councilmember Hart seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

AGREEMENT WITH CONNELL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Following conversations with the Chamber of Commerce, it was determined that they would take ownership of the trailer and manage the costs. City Attorney Heidi Ellerd proposed an agreement for City Council's consideration. The agreement would declare the trailer surplus and the title would be transferred to the Chamber. For a minimum of 2 years, the Chamber would be required to ensure the trailer would continue to be used to promote economic development, trade, and tourism in the City. In addition, the float committee and volunteers could reach out to the Chamber to discuss details about the float expenses.

MEETING OF THE CITY OF CONNELL
Regular Council Meeting – April 17, 2024

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Harper moved to approve the agreement between the Connell Chamber of Commerce and the City of Connell to promote economic development and tourism, as well as surplus the float trailer and all accompaniments to the Chamber of Commerce. Councilmember Hart seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

BASIN DISPOSAL FUEL SURCHARGE

Basin Disposal, Inc. proposed a 1.46% fuel surcharge for the billing invoices for the months of May and June 2024 as fuel prices remained high. For the Council's consideration the new proposed fuel surcharge and rate sheet was provided. Staff recommended that the fuel surcharge be approved at the 1.46% rate and any future increases would be considered separately.

Motion: Councilmember Barrera moved to approve a fuel surcharge of 1.46% be added to garbage bills for the months of May and June 2024. Mayor Pro Tem Harper seconded the motion. Motion carried (3-1 vote).

STREET CLOSURE REQUEST FOR 10-YEAR CLASS REUNION

Parker Dolezal and Frankie Meraz reached out to city staff on behalf of Connell High School Class of 2014. They requested to close North Columbia Avenue from East Borah Street to East Adams Street on Saturday, June 8, 2024, from 4pm to 10pm. The area would hold various events, including vendors. The consumption of alcohol would not be consumed outside any establishments. They stated that businesses along those streets were all in agreement except for one who was not available to speak with.

The council was not opposed, and the consensus was to allow the street closure. City staff requested they work with the Police Chief to verify all details.

KAFFRIN'S COFFEE – PROPOSED STREET CLOSURE ON APRIL 27, 2024

Katrina Kunkel, the owner of Kaffrin's Coffee, joined the meeting and requested a street closure. The planned closure was Borah Street between Kaffrin's Coffee and C Street Vault buildings. Ms. Kunkel explained the closure space was for a vendor market event taking place on April 27, from 4pm to 8pm.

The council was not opposed, and the consensus was to allow the street closure.

COMMENTS/NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Charles Nicodemus - Expressed his concerns regarding several items in the city including sidewalks, lack of ADA accessibility on curbs, parks, and cars violating the speed limit.

Lauren Smith – Reported that Pioneer Park had a large amount of tackweed and needed to be remedied.

Pam Welch – Thanked the Mayor and City Administrator and encouraged others to speak to city staff in person when addressing concerns.

MEETING OF THE CITY OF CONNELL
Regular Council Meeting – April 17, 2024

COUNCILMEMBERS REMARKS

Councilmember Barrera – Thanked Mr. Nicodemus for his comments and stated it was best to come in and converse with concerns in person.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Mayor, Lee Barrow – Reported that he and city staff took a field trip to all city parks. They inspected the conditions and conducted an inventory of items in need of repair.

Public Works Director, Hallie Tuck – Reminded City Council of the all city clean-up scheduled for two Saturdays on April 20 & 27, from 8 am to 4 pm.

Fire Chief, Ken Woffenden – Addressed the comments posted on social media involving the City Parks. He recommended that the public refer issues to City Hall so that staff could be aware and deal with them effectively.

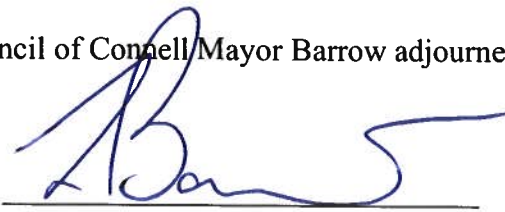
City Clerk, Marissa Ortiz – Announced on behalf of the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) recipient Jorge Gaytan Garcia, a senior from Connell High School was selected for a \$3,000 AWC Center for Quality Communities scholarship. The Center for Quality Communities (CQC) scholarship supported high school seniors who were active in leadership in their city government, community, or school and planned to pursue post-secondary education.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business before the City Council of Connell Mayor Barrow adjourned the meeting at 6:29 pm.

ATTEST:

Marissa Ortiz, City Clerk



Lee Barrow, Mayor