

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF CONNELL, WASHINGTON
CONNELL, FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON
May 1, 2024

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, Preston Hart, and John White.

EXCUSED:

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

STAFF PRESENT:

Fire Chief Ken Woffenden, City Administrator Cathleen Koch, City Clerk Marissa Ortiz, Police Chief Chris Lee, and City Attorney Heidi Ellerd.

PRESENTATIONS

Michelle Holt, Executive Director of Benton Franklin Council of Governments (BFCOG) joined the meeting and shared a PowerPoint presentation on the current services provided by BFCOG. Her report included a summary report on 2024 events in technical assistance, transportation, and economic development.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

- a) Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting April 17, 2024
- b) Accounts Payable 5/1/24 for \$73,204.62
- c) Payroll Register 4/17/24 - 4/17/24 for \$23,913.58
- d) Payroll Register 4/19/24 - 4/19/24 for \$50,256.85

Councilmember White seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Councilmember Barrera moved to approve the agenda as amended: (*Tabled Memo #8 – Surplus 1950 Fire Truck – Resolution No. 2024-04*). Councilmember Hart seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

FIRE MOBILIZATION INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT

The State of Washington created a Fire Service Mobilization Plan that allowed them to provide personnel, equipment, and other resources when a wetland fire or other emergency exceeded the firefighting capacity of nearby local jurisdictions. The City of Connell participated in such firefighting services and provided mutual assistance when needed. The agreement helped others

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around Connell and if Connell was ever in need of assistance, the same agreement would be implemented with other jurisdictions to assist Connell. The interagency agreement required Connell Fire Department to follow the State’s mobilization plan when assisting with fires and would allow the City to be reimbursed for allowable costs incurred while the City’s assets were mobilized, according to state law. The City was required to fill out claim forms to receive reimbursement and be registered as a Statewide Payee. The agreement began in 2024 and would expire on January 1, 2029, unless terminated sooner.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Harper moved to approve the Fire Mobilization agreement between the State of Washington, Washington State Patrol and the Connell Fire Department and authorize the Mayor to sign and execute the documents necessary. Councilmember Hart seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

SURPLUS 1950 FIRE TRUCK – RESOLUTION NO. 2024-04
Tabled

COUNCILMEMBERS REMARKS

Councilmember Barrera – Thanked Ms. Holt for attending the Council meeting and for providing her presentation.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Mayor, Lee Barrow:


- Informed the Council on the current swimming pool condition in the City of Othello and the proposed use of the City’s pool for their swim team.
- Stated on behalf of the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) a Connell High School senior was selected for a \$3,000 AWC scholarship. Mayor Barrow planned to attend the AWC annual conference in Vancouver to commemorate his success.

Police Chief, Chris Lee:

- Reported that a donation of primer and paint was donated to the Connell Police Department for graffiti removal in town from the Lowe’s store in Moses Lake, WA.
- Announced the birth of Officer Sean Finkbeiner’s first child, a daughter.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business before the City Council of Connell Mayor Barrow adjourned the meeting at 6:49 pm.

ATTEST: 
Marissa Ortiz, City Clerk


Lee Barrow, Mayor