

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF CONNELL, WASHINGTON
CONNELL, FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON
May 15, 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: Shelly Harper, Preston Hart, and John White.

EXCUSED:

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

Councilmember Escalera joined the meeting via zoom at 6:08 pm.

STAFF PRESENT:

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

- a) Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting May 1, 2024
- b) Accounts Payable 5/15/24 for ~~\$425,768.46~~ **\$425,381.96**
- c) Check Register 5/1/24 for \$318.71
- d) Payroll Register 5/03/24 - 5/03/24 for \$107,023.98

Councilmember Hart seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Harper moved to approve the agenda as amended: (*Addition- Agenda item #11a – Washington State Patrol Service Agreement*). Councilmember Hart seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

PUBLIC HEARING – SIX YEAR TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2025-2030

Mayor Barrow recessed the regular meeting at 6:03 pm and opened a Public Hearing to allow City Council to hear comments from the public regarding the adoption of the Six-Year Transportation Improvement Plan 2025-2030.

STAFF REPORT:

Public Works Director Hallie Tuck provided Connell's STIP for 2025-2030 and informed the City Council that the program was the funding mechanism for costly capital improvements to Connell's multimodal transportation network. The Street Committee attended a separate meeting and reviewed the 2025 STIP and discussion was held on the changes. The differences were to

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eliminate the Rail Interchange project as it was being administered by the Port of Warden, the South Fifth Avenue reconstruction, and the West Clark Street chip seal project as they were both completed. Mr. Tuck stated the Connell Commercial Tract Improvement was added in hopes of potential funding. Staff recommended adopting Resolution No. 2024-04 updating the 2025-2030 Six-Year Transportation Improvement Plan.

PUBLIC COMMENT:
None heard.

COUNCILMEMBERS COMMENT PORTION OF THE HEARING:
Councilmember White stated that he was pleased to know the City of Warden would oversee the Rail Interchange project.

Mayor Barrow closed the hearing and opened the regular meeting of 6:06 pm.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Harper moved to approve Resolution No. 2024-04 for the 2025-2030 Six-Year Transportation Improvement Plan. Councilmember Hart seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) APPROVAL OF USE OF FUNDS

Chief of Police Chris Lee submitted the request to authorize the allocation of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to City Council for their consideration. Mr. Lee stated the City of Connell received a total of \$1,549,387.00 in ARPA funds, and the Council had approved the expenditure of \$1,196,525.72 for critical infrastructure projects such as water system improvements, a new sander and plow for city streets, walk-in cooler, commercial refrigerator and freezer for the food bank, renovations to the police department and city hall, airvac air scrubbers and door operator for the fire department, banner and historical pictures for the visitor center, city network hardware, and a new pool cover. The current remaining fund balance of \$352,861.28 had to be obligated by December 31, 2024, and failing to do so would result in the obligation to return those funds that were held within the general fund. Following thorough previous discussions with city staff regarding the needs within their divisions, as well as the requests for community improvements aimed at the overall community welfare an itemized list and cost breakdown of requested items was provided for Council's authorization to purchase and or obligate. Council members engaged in a discussion and answer session with city staff before a motion was made.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Harper moved to authorize city staff to move \$352,861.28 of ARPA funds, currently being held in the city general fund, to each respective division's line item to purchase the items specified in the attachment with cuts as discussed and include improvements on the ball fields. Councilmember Hart seconded the motion. Motion carried (3-1 vote).

ORDINANCE NO. 1041-2024 AMEND CHAPTER 10.20 – PARKING GUIDELINES

Parking guidelines were last updated in 2017 and since that time, the Coyote Flats development was approved at the East End of Franklin Street and adjacent Ford Avenue. When the subdivision plat was approved in 2019, it was approved with narrow streets that were usually reserved for local access traffic only. Normally, only 1 or 2 homes would be able to access such an area, not an entire subdivision. The streets were too narrow to allow on-street parking because

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large vehicles such as fire trucks, school buses, garbage trucks and snowplows must be able to drive through the area. In 2022 and 2023, new street standards (Public Works Standard Specifications) were adopted to eliminate the local access option. Two options were suggested for consideration. Option 1 would prohibit parking on all streets in Coyote Flats. Option 2 included the same language for Coyote Flats with added language to limit parking in the downtown area between Davis Street and Ash Street to 24 hours, resulting in a decrease in parking. The businesses and restaurants in the area could have parking available for customers instead of tying up spaces with vehicles that were there for longer periods of time. Following discussion among Councilmembers, it was agreed to update the time frame to 48 hours.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Harper moved to adopt Ordinance No. 1041-2024 amending Chapter 10.20 of the Connell Municipal Code to update parking guidelines by prohibiting on-street parking in the Coyote Flats subdivision and limiting parking on South Columbia Avenue in the Commercial Downtown zoning district to 48 hours. Councilmember Hart seconded the motion. Motion carried (3-1 vote).

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-05 - AMEND SCHEDULE D – PARKS & RECREATION

City Clerk Marissa Ortiz proposed an amendment to Schedule D of the Master Fee Schedule. The fee adjustment was intended to increase cost recovery and reduce the cost of the general fund for the provision of pool services. After discussing this proposal with the swim team coach and evaluating what was being charged in the City of Othello for their swim team participation (\$80) it was determined that the City's fee was too low. The swim team membership fee was proposed to increase from \$20.00 to \$75.00.

Motion: Councilmember Hart moved to adopt Resolution No. 2024-05 amending Schedule D of the Master Fee Schedule. Councilmember White seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-06 – SURPLUS 1950 FIRE TRUCK

Fire Chief Ken Woffenden reported that the North Franklin Heritage Museum had possession of the City's 1950 Fire Truck for quite a while, and it had not witnessed a parade in several years. Since the City was providing insurance and tracking the truck as an asset city staff recommended relocating the fire truck to the North Franklin Heritage Museum. It was the most suitable place for the truck and would continue to be a valuable item that could be enjoyed there. Resolution No. 2024-06 proclaimed the 1950 Fire Truck surplus by donating to the North Franklin Heritage Museum.

Mayor Pro Tem Harper abstained from the vote.

Motion: Councilmember Hart moved to adopt Resolution No. 2024-06 to surplus the City's 1950 Ford Fire Truck to the North Franklin Heritage Museum and authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement. Councilmember White seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

WASHINGTON STATE PATROL SERVICE AGREEMENT

Fire Chief Ken Woffenden provided a prepared agreement to permit the City of Connell Fire Department to initiate an agreement with Washington State Patrol (WSP) to conduct all Fire Safety Plan Reviews and Inspections as necessary. The purpose was to create a uniform basis for

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the City of Connell to develop with the safety of all residents as the primary focus of construction projects. The actions would involve attending meetings, planning reviews, site inspections, and acceptance testing of fire sprinklers systems. The City would reimburse WSP for the actual expenses and all other provisions of the agreement.

Motion: Councilmember Hart moved to approve the Washington State Patrol Service Agreement between the City of Connell and Washington State Patrol. Councilmember White seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Police Chief, Chris Lee:

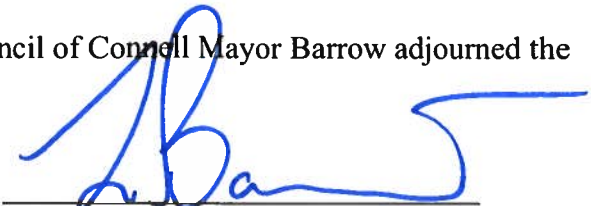
- Reported the Connell Police Department was investigating several recent juvenile criminal activities in the community. He urged residents to be watchful and monitor what is happening in their area.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business before the City Council of Connell Mayor Barrow adjourned the meeting at 7:45 pm.

ATTEST: _____

Marissa Ortiz, City Clerk



Lee Barrow, Mayor