

MEETING OF THE CITY OF CONNELL, WASHINGTON  
CONNELL, FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON  
June 19, 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

Mayor Lee Barrow and Councilmember's: John White, Shelly Harper, Pat Barrera, and Joe Escalera.

**EXCUSED:**

Pro Tem Barrera moved to excuse the absence of Councilmember Katrina Kunkel. Councilmember Escalera seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Kunkel joined the meeting at 6:04 pm.

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Fire Chief Ken Woffenden, 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.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Barrow presented the scholarship on behalf of Anderson Perry & Associates, Inc. to Connell's graduating senior, Preston Schwendiman for \$1,000. Anderson Perry & Associates, Inc. aim for the scholarship was in helping support students interested in science, technology, engineering or math.

CONSENT CALENDAR

**Motion:** Councilmember Harper moved to approve the consent calendar as amended:

- a) Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting June 5, 2023
- b) Hotel / Motel Reimbursement for Connell Community Float \$4,601.50
- c) Accounts Payable 6/19/23 for \$167,545.14
- d) Check Register 6/01/23 for \$309.29
- e) Payroll Register 6/05/23-6/05/23 for \$102,881.54

Councilmember Kunkel seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Motion:** Councilmember Kunkel moved to approve the agenda as amended: (*rearranged the order of consent calendar item b and c, to be accepted before business item #7*). Councilmember Escalera seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**Motion:** Councilmember Harper moved to approve the consent calendar item b a reimbursement to the Connell Community Float in the amount of \$4,601.50. Councilmember Escalera seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

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**Motion:** Councilmember Harper moved to approve the consent calendar item c accounts payable in the amount of \$167,545.14. Pro Tem Barrera seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

REQUEST TO INCREASE LODGING TAX AWARDED FUNDS – CONNELL  
COMMUNITY FLOAT / MISS CONNELL SCHOLARSHIP

On March 15, 2023, the Hotel/Motel Tax Committee met to review all applications and made funding recommendations to the City Council. Their recommendation was to award each applicant 80% of the amount requested. After the Council’s approval, Connell Community Float recipients asked for an increase in their awarded funds. Later the Hotel/Motel Tax Committee met again and discussed this request. They voted to propose awarding the Connell Community Float an increase of \$1,000 to their initial awarded fund amount of \$4,000.

**Motion:** Councilmember Kunkel moved to approve the Hotel/Motel Committee’s recommendation and increase \$1,000 to the Connell Community Float organization’s original amount of \$4,000. Councilmember Escalera seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-06 MASTER FEE SCHEDULE AMENDMENT TO WATER  
RATES

Provided for Council consideration was Resolution 2023-06 amending water rates within the Master Fee Schedule. The proposed increase was based on a combination of factors that was presented by Treasurer Teresa Steele. The proposed increases from the presentation were 6% for Water and 0% for Sewer. The average estimated increase to a customer’s utility bill was \$1.76 per month.

**Motion:** Pro Tem Barrera moved to approve Resolution No. 2023-06. Councilmember White seconded the motion. Motion carried. (4-1 vote)

MASTER FEE SCHEDULE AMENDMENT TO WATER AND SEWER RATES WITH CPI-  
W FACTOR 2024

A discussion was held for amending the Water and Sewer rates within the Master Fee Schedule that factors rates based on the CPI-W for annual percentage rate changes. The discussion was to see if the Council would consider using the CPI-W year end number to make rates changes annually for both water and sewer. The water/sewer utility bill estimated average increase would be determined by December 31<sup>st</sup> of every year to which would begin on January 1, 2024, with the new rates.

The City Council’s consensus was to bring back additional information at a later date.

AMINAL CONTROL PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION

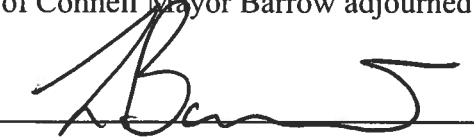
Police Chief Chris Lee presented on Animal Control within the city limits. His presentation entailed a report for all calls for animal service from 2018 to June 1, 2023, the city’s current kennel conditions, and municipal ordinance comparisons with surrounding cities. Discussions were held on who would control animals and code enforcement, and the budget. The City Council agreed to have staff bring back additional information at a future Council meeting.

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MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business before the City Council of Connell Mayor Barrow adjourned the meeting at 7:12 pm.

ATTEST:   
Marissa Ortiz, City Clerk

  
Lee Barrow, Mayor

