

MEETING OF THE CITY OF CONNELL, WASHINGTON  
CONNELL, FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON  
January 22, 2019

The regular semi-monthly meeting of the Connell City Council was called to order by Mayor Barrow at 6:00 pm in the City Hall and was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

**PRESENT:** Mayor Lee Barrow and Councilmember's: John White, Mayor Pro Tem Ray Minor and Pat Barrera.

**EXCUSED:** Councilmember Barrera moved to excuse Councilmember Kathie Silva. Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**STAFF:** City Administrator Maria Peña, Deputy City Clerk Marissa Ortiz, Assistant Public Works Director Hallie Tuck, Police Chief Chris Turner, Fire Chief Chris Schulte, Newly hired Fire Chief Ken Woofenden, Public Works Larry Turner and City Attorney Dan Hultgrenn.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Barrow read a letter of resignation from Fire Chief Chris Schulte. His letter stated it had been an honor and pleasure to serve the City of Connell for the past 8 years. He specified that his last day would be March 31<sup>st</sup>. Newly hired Fire Chief Ken Wooffenden was in attendance and would officially begin employment February 1<sup>st</sup>.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

- a) Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting December 17, 2018
- b) Accounts payable 12/29/18 for \$86,562.17
- c) Accounts payable 1/22/19 for \$76,468.91
- d) Check Register 12/19/18 for \$24,626.21
- e) Check Register 12/30/18 for \$58,148.99
- f) Check Register 01/02/19 for \$209.16
- g) Check Register 01/07/19 for \$250,997.72
- h) Payroll Register 12/15/18 – 12/20/18 for \$62,578.67
- i) Payroll Register 12/31/18 - 01/04/19 for \$39,173.28
- j) Payroll Register 01/01/19 – 01/31/19 for \$57,436.65
- k) Payroll Register 01/15/19 – 01/19/19 for \$65,398.57

Councilmember White seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Motion:** Mayor Pro Tem Minor moved to approve the agenda as presented. Councilmember Barrera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT – FRANKLIN COUNTY BUILDING INSPECTIONS

Provided for Council’s review and approval was an Interlocal Agreement between Franklin County and The City of Connell. It would allow for building services to be provided by Franklin County to the City. Franklin County had been providing inspections and plan reviews since 2006. The agreement would remain the same except for the term of the agreement which was reduced from three years to one. City Administrator Peña explained that the City remitted 65% of the collected building permit fees, 60% of the collected plan review fees for the Commercial and/or Industrial construction projects and 80% for all other non-commercial/non-industrial construction building permit fees were submitted to the county. The City did not have the staff to do inspections or reviews and if the City did not contract with the County the City would have to contract with someone else.

**Motion:** Councilmember Escalera moved to approve and allow the Mayor to sign the Interlocal Agreement for Building Inspection Services with Franklin County. Councilmember Barrera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

CBHA REAL ESTATE EXCHANGE AGREEMENT

City Administrator Maria Peña received a request from Columbia Basin Health Association (CBHA) to exchange their parcel at the corner of South Columbia and First Street for the City’s parcel adjacent to their clinic. Appraisals were done on both pieces of land with the City’s parcel appraising at \$45,000 higher than CBHA’s parcel. CBHA made an offer to exchange the parcels along with a payment of \$45,000. Provided for Council’s review and discussion was the real estate exchange agreement that provided for the transfer of Parcel No. 109861483 from CBHA to the City, the transfer of Parcel No. 109880121 from the City to CBHA, and a payment of \$45,000 from CBHA to the City.

**Motion:** Councilmember Barrera moved to approve the Real Estate Exchange Agreement with CBHA and to authorize the Mayor to execute all necessary documents. Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

COMPUTER SYSTEM UPDATE

Assistant Public Works Director Hallie Tuck stated the City had been having issues with the computer system due to the age of the software. Devfuzion, the City’s network support service recommended upgrading the email program to Office 365. The new system would be on the cloud and have better cyber security and keep all City staff’s software updated. The startup cost was \$2,502.67 and the total yearly cost would be \$3,756.00 across departments.

**Motion:** Mayor Pro Tem Minor moved to approve the software update. Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ESQUATZEL INSPECTION REPORT

City Administrator Maria Peña provided that the City annually received an Inspection Report on the Ezquatzel Coulee by the US Army Corps of Engineers. An annual inspection was done to determine whether the Coulee system provided dependable and reliable flood risk reduction. The findings of the inspection were used to determine eligibility status of the Coulee for the Corps

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Rehabilitation Program. If the Coulee failed to meet the Corps minimum eligibility criteria standards the Coulee would become ineligible for rehabilitation assistance if the Coulee became damaged as a result of an unusual flooding event. The Coulee's overall system rating had typically been Minimally Acceptable. The City had received the latest report and the Coulee's overall system rating had been found Unacceptable. Due to the railroad maintenance bridge being included in the findings of the report Mayor Barrow along with City staff held a phone conference with members from BNSF railway along with state representative Mary Dye to discuss the report. City Administrator Peña stated going forward communication was the key to this issue.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

City Administrator – Maria Peña

1. Gave the Council different options and ideas for the upcoming Council Retreat.
2. Received a call from Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) asking to take the lead on the rail interchange.

CITIZEN COMMENT/NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Burl Booker –

1. Inquired on the proper procedure the City of Connell follows to surplus land.

CITY COUNCIL CLOSING REMARKS

Councilmember John White –

Suggested reshuffling agenda items executive session and citizen comment on the order of business list on the agenda page.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business before the City Council of Connell Mayor Barrow adjourned the meeting at 7:06 pm.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Marissa Ortiz, Deputy City Clerk

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Lee Barrow, Mayor