

MEETING OF THE CITY OF CONNELL, WASHINGTON
CONNELL, FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON
October 2, 2017

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

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor Bruce Blackwell and Councilmembers: Ray Minor, Kathy Silva, Rhonda Quinton and Joe Escalera.

EXCUSED: Councilmember Minor moved to excuse Mayor Pro Tem Monty Huber. Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

STAFF: City Administrator Maria Peña, City Clerk/Treasurer Rose Courneya, Accounting Clerk Marissa Ortiz, Public Works Director Larry Turner, Chief of Police Chris Turner and City Attorney Dan Hultgrenn.

VISITORS: Franklin County Graphic; Katherine Bingham Trowbridge and Citizen; Pat Barrera.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Bruce Blackwell presented correspondence, a notice of a Public Hearing for a zoning designation change application from the Franklin Co. Planning and Building Department.

APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Blackwell temporarily appointed Councilmember Minor to the finance committee due to Mayor Pro Tem Huber's absence.

Council consensus was to temporarily appoint Councilmember Minor to the finance committee.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion: Councilmember Minor moved to approve the consent calendar as listed:
a) Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting September 18, 2017
b) Accounts payable October 2, 2017 for \$40,449.13
Councilmember Silva seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Councilmember Silva moved to approve the agenda as presented. Councilmember Minor seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

PUBLIC HEARING-2018 REVENUE SOURCES AND AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAXES

Mayor Blackwell recessed the regular meeting at 6:02 pm and opened a Public Hearing to allow for comment from the public in regards to proposed revenue sources and AD Valorem Property Taxes for 2018 fiscal year budget.

STAFF REPORT: City Clerk/Treasurer Rose Courneya provided council for their review a 3 year comparison with projections for revenues for the 2018 proposed preliminary budget. She explained that the public hearing was part of the annual budget process. Ordinance No. 982-2017 was also enclosed for their review, it would set the dollar amount of the increase over the actual levy amount from the previous year at \$4,542.00 which was a percentage increase of 1%. This did not include additional revenue resulting from new construction or property improvements. City Clerk/Treasurer Courneya gave a summarized explanation of revenue sources for the 2018 Preliminary Budget.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

COUNCILMEMBERS COMMENT PORTION OF THE HEARING:

Councilmember Silva questioned the Street Fund, why it had increased.

Mayor Blackwell closed the hearing and opened the regular meeting at 6:16 pm.

ORDINANCE NO. 982-2017 AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAXES

City Clerk/Treasurer Rose Courneya notified Council that attached for their review was Ordinance No. 982-2017 adopting the AD Valorem Property Taxes. An increase in the regular property tax levy which was a percentage increase of 1% from the previous year.

Motion: Councilmember Minor moved to adopt Ordinance No. 982-2017 setting the AD Valorem Property Taxes for 2018. Councilmember Quinton seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-17-MASTER FEE SCHEDULE AMENDMENT TO WATER AND SEWER RATES

City Clerk/Treasurer Rose Courneya stated that recently Council held discussion at the September 18th Council meeting on water and sewer rates for 2018. Consensus of the Council and as recommended by the Financial Consulting Solutions Group (FCS) in the water and sewer rate study was to move forward with a 3% increase for water and for sewer. City staff prepared Resolution No. 2017-17 amending the master fee schedule setting the water and sewer rates for 2018 with a 3% increase.

Motion: Councilmember Minor moved to adopt Resolution No. 2017-17 amending the Master Fee Schedule for the water and sewer rates. Councilmember Silva seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

MEETING OF THE CITY OF CONNELL

Regular Meeting – October 2, 2017

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-19 2017 UPDATED SALARY RESOLUTION

Police Chief Chris Turner addressed Council with Resolution No. 2017-19 and the 2017 Salary schedule which was adopted last year. He stated that in the 2015 budget the police department structure went from one sergeant and five officers to two sergeants and four officers to give the department uniformity in supervision 7 days a week. The second sergeant position was in the 2016 budget but one of the sergeants' resigned in January 2016 and filling the position was held off so the monies could be used to fund the pool. Police Chief Turner then filled the vacant position in early 2017 and held a promotional exam for sergeant in September. The intention was to promote an officer to the second sergeant position beginning October 16, 2017. Since 2017 began without the second sergeant the 2017 salary matrix reflected just one sergeant and a new resolution would need to be adopted before the promotion could occur.

Motion: Councilmember Silva moved to approve Resolution No. 2017-19 updating the 2017 salary matrix with a second police sergeant position. Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-18 SALARY SCHEDULE FY 2018

In conjunction with the adoption of the 2018 budget, City Clerk/Treasurer Rose Courneya presented Resolution No. 2017-18. She stated it would set the salary schedule for City employees in the coming year. The non-union salary matrix reflected a 2% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) upon the current 2017 non-union salary matrix. The union employees reflected a 2% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) upon the current 2017 union salary matrix. Employee salaries are reflective of the increase by range and step and various other adjustments as presented by department heads or by contract and approved by council. City Clerk/Treasurer Courneya added that the matrix included the full time Police Clerk and the second Police Sergeant positions.

Councilmember Quinton abstained from the discussion and from voting.

Motion: Councilmember Escalera moved to approve Resolution No. 2017-18 authorizing the 2018 Salary Schedule. Councilmember Silva seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

RAIL INTERCHANGE GRANT WRITING PROPOSAL

City Administrator Maria Peña reminded Council that at the last Council meeting they approved Amendment No. 2 with Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT). It would allow the City to tap into WSDOT grant funds to pay for services for grant writing. She reported the deadline for submitting the TIGER Grant Application was right around the corner, October 16, 2017. Attached for Council was a revised grant writing proposal from Jeannie Beckett of the Becket Group. It would provide for the following Grant Applications: TIGER FY 17, INFRA and for on-going project support. City Administrator Peña reported that Ms. Beckett was able to help the Port of Moses Lake secure \$9.9 million from INFRA for the Port's \$30 million Northern Columbia Basin Rail Project.

Motion: Councilmember Silva moved to approve the Rail Interchange Grant Writing Proposal with the Beckett Group not to exceed \$17,500. Councilmember Quinton seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE / DEPARTMENT REPORTS

CITY ADMINISTRATOR- Maria Peña

1. Informed Council that staff monthly reports were handed out.

CITY COUNCIL CLOSING REMARKS

Councilmember Silva-Announced the Community Candidate Meet & Greet night would take place on Wednesday, October 4th, 2017 at the Connell Community Center.

Councilmember Minor-Appreciated how well the City budget discussion was this year.

Councilmember Quinton-Thanked City staff for all their work on the 2018 budget.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business before the City Council of Connell Mayor Blackwell adjourned the meeting at 6:35 pm.

ATTEST: _____
Marissa Ortiz, Accounting Clerk

Bruce Blackwell, Mayor