

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

October 3, 2016

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, Mayor Pro Tem Huber, and Councilmember's: Ray Minor, Katherine Silva, Rhonda Quinton and Joe Escalera.

**STAFF:** Clerk/Treasurer Rose Courneya, Public Works Director Larry Turner, City Administrator Maria Peña, Police Chief Chris Turner, Fire Chief Chris Schulte, and Attorney Dan Hultgrenn.

**VISITORS:** Heritage Museum: Darrell R. Ferguson, Jim Hervey, Shelly Hervey and Maricelline Hueter, Franklin County Graphic; Kathy Bingham, Citizen; Manny Choi.

CONSENT CALENDAR

**Motion:** Councilmember Silva moved to approve the Consent Calendar as listed:

- a) Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting September 19, 2016
- b) Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting September 28, 2016
- c) Check Register September 19, 2016 for \$83,317.51
- d) Accounts Payable October 3, 2016 for \$28,728.94
- e) Payroll Check Register 9/15/16-9/20/16 for \$54,548.31

Councilmember Quinton seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Motion:** Councilmember Quinton moved to approve the agenda. Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

**PUBLIC HEARING ON REVENUE SOURCES AND PROPERTY TAXES**

Mayor Blackwell recessed the regular meeting at 6:01 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 2017 fiscal year budget.

**STAFF REPORT:** City Clerk/Treasurer Rose Courneya provided council for their review and comparison with projections for revenues for the 2017 proposed preliminary budget. She explained that the public hearing was part of the annual budget process. City Administrator Maria Peña also gave council an explanation of Ordinance No. 968-2016. This Ordinance would set the dollar amount of the increase over the actual levy amount from the previous year at \$4,497.013 which is a new percentage increase of 1%. This did not include additional revenue resulting from new construction or property improvements.

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PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

COUNCILMEMBERS COMMENT PORTION OF THE HEARING: None

Mayor Blackwell closed the hearing and opened regular meeting at 6:18 pm.

ORDINANCE NO. 968-2016 AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAXES

City Administrator Maria Peña notified council that attached for their review was Ordinance No. 968-2016 adopting the AD Valorem Property Taxes. She then gave a summarized explanation of the ordinance and provided that the City of Connell's actual levy amount from the previous year was \$449,703.00. An increase of the regular property tax levy was projected for \$4,497.03 which was a percentage increase of 1% from the previous year. This increase was exclusive of additional revenue resulting from new construction, improvements to property, newly constructed wind turbines, any increase in the value of state assessed property, any annexations that have occurred and refunds made.

**Motion:** Councilmember Silva moved to adopt Ordinance No. 968-2016 setting the 2017 Ad Valorem General Property Taxes. Councilmember Minor seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-10-MASTER FEE SCHEDULE AMENDMENT TO WATER AND SEWER RATES

City Administrator Peña reminded council that at the last meeting it was discussed and it was requested that a 3% increase be assessed to both water and sewer rates as provided by the Financial Consulting Solutions Group in the water and sewer rate study that was done back in 2014. A spreadsheet provided for council showed the 2016 rates and a 3% increase and the proposed 2017 rates. City Administrator Peña also stated, what was presented at the last council meeting for Department of Corrections was incorrect so it now reflected the actual corrected rates to bill the Department of Corrections. Residents will be impacted a \$1.34 on their base rate on sewer with a 3% increase and \$.57 on water with a 3% increase. The actual Resolution was attached amending the Master Fee Schedule amending Schedule H and Schedule I for the water and sewer rates.

**Motion:** Councilmember Minor moved to adopt Resolution No. 2016-10 amending the Master Fee Schedule for the water and sewer rates. Mayor Pro Tem Huber seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-11 SALARY SCHEDULE

City Clerk/Treasurer Rose Courneya stated that she'd been working on the 2017 budget and part of it included salaries for city employees. The Non-Union Employee Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) was discussed by the Finance Committee at the August 15, 2016 meeting. The Finance Committee consensus was to give a 1% (COLA) increase to Non-Union Employees. Currently the Union salaries are in negotiations and have not been finalized. Therefore salaries set forth in the attached resolution reflected a 0% (COLA) upon the current 2016 Union salary matrix.

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**Motion:** Councilmember Silva moved to approve Resolution 2016-11 authorizing the 2017 Salary Schedule. Councilmember Minor seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

### CONNELL HERITAGE MUSEUM AS SOLE OWNER OF PROPERTY

Tabled

**Motion:** Mayor Pro Tem Huber moved to defer action to a later date. Councilmember Minor seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously

### POLICE VEHICLE PURCHASE

Chief Turner presented a lease/purchase financing proposal from Ford Motor Credit. Earlier in the year the Police Department gave a '09 Ford Explorer to city staff leaving the Police Department one vehicle short. A previous Police Chief in 2009 did the same lease agreement where he purchased four vehicles. Chief Turner is looking to replace three of those vehicles including the '09 Ford Explorer. They would be financed over three years, basically buying one vehicle each year. It would not include equipping them. That would be funded with the Criminal Justice Sales Tax fund for 2017. Two of the vehicles being replaced would be surplus and the third vehicle would be used as a spare.

**Motion:** Councilmember Escalera moved to approve the Mayor signing the contract with Ford Credit for three (3) 2017 Ford Police Interceptor Utilities (vehicles). Councilmember Quinton seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

### PUBLIC SAFETY TESTING SUBSCRIBER RENEWAL AGREEMENT

Chief Turner reported that Public Safety Testing had been utilized since 2008 they establish and keep a running list of entry level police officers candidates for a hiring list. They would do all the written testing and physical fitness portion. Payments to Public Safety Testing would be quarterly and the city would receive an active list. Otherwise the city would have to hold the testing; overall it would minimize work. Chief Turner recommended renewing the subscription for the next three years.

**Motion:** Councilmember Silva moved to approve Public Safety Testing Subscriber Renewal Agreement. Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

### WIRELESS INTERNET SYSTEM RFP AWARD

Mayor Blackwell announced that a bid was held and opened on September 29, 2016 at 9:00am for wireless internet system to be placed on the City's .5 million gallon water tower directly north of the Elementary School. Telco Wiring and Repair were the only responders. Telco was willing to compensate the City of Connell \$100 per month or equivalent in wireless services to City facilities. Staff recommended council move to approve the Request for proposal from Telco Wiring & Repair. Mayor also stated he hoped this would now bring in more businesses to the City.

**Motion:** Councilmember Silva moved to approve the RFP from Telco Wiring & Repair for a wireless internet system. Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE / DEPARTMENT REPORTS

CITY ADMINISTRATOR- Maria Peña

1. Informed that a written report was again provided.
2. Thanked Clerk/Treasurer Courneya for taking the lead on the budget and the audit.
3. Submitted two Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan applications with the help of Anderson Perry.
4. Gathered all departments and created a schedule for Connell University-first class to be presented by Fire Chief Schulte.
5. Still waiting to hear back from the facilitator on a Council Retreat.

PUBLIC WORKS- Larry Turner

1. Been busy grading and cleaning alleys, prepared wells and sewer systems for winter.
2. Cracked sealed main street.
3. Have a planned chip seal project then a paint stripe project for Columbia Ave projected for late spring 2017.

POLICE CHIEF- Chris Turner

1. Attended a week long executive training leadership class in Spokane.
2. Have had issues with fireworks being discharged but caught a juvenile and was charged.
3. Currently, actively trying to fill last vacancy for the Police Department.

FIRE CHIEF- Chris Schulte

1. On Saturday September 24<sup>th</sup> a gas leak took place and it took approximately three hours for the gas company to report to alleviate the leaking gas.
2. Prepared a report dealing with the Wild Land Threat fires to the Coyote Ridge Corrections Center.

CITY CLERK/TREASURER- Rose Courneya

1. Mentioned she had been working with Auditors.
2. Thanked Accounting Clerk Marissa for helping out during transitions in the office.

CITY COUNCIL CLOSING REMARKS

Councilmember's Remarks

1. Thanked all City Staff
2. Would try their best to help the Connell Heritage Museum's request.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business before the City Council of Connell Mayor Blackwell adjourned the meeting at 7:17 pm.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Marissa Canales, Accounting Clerk

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Bruce Blackwell, Mayor

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