

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

November 2, 2015

The regular semi-monthly meeting, of the City Council of the City of Connell 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 Monty Huber, and Councilmember's: Joe Escalera, Kathie Silva, Rhonda Quinton and Ray Minor.

STAFF: City Attorney Dan Hultgrenn , City Administrator Jed Crowther, Police Chief Chris Turner, Public Works Director Larry Turner, Fire Chief Chris Schulte, Building Services Clerk Sterling Joyner, and Clerk/Treasurer Maria Peña.

VISITORS: Kathy Bingham, Franklin County Graphic: Ken Sellereite, Keenagers; Gail Eilmes and John Eilmes, Meals on Wheels/Keenagers; John Lindner, merchant; Citizens: Becky Escalera, Dave Gribble , Darrell Ferguson, Laurie Mandler, & Manny Choi.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion: Councilmember Minor moved to approve the Consent Calendar as presented.

- a) Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting October 19, 2015
- b) Minutes of the Special Council Meeting October 26, 2015
- c) Accounts Payable 11/2/2015 for \$107,441.37
- d) Payroll Check Register 10/15-10/20/2015 for \$68,355.45

Mayor Pro Tem Huber seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Councilmember Quinton moved to approve the Agenda as presented.
Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING-PRELIMINARY 2016 BUDGET

Mayor Blackwell recessed the regular meeting at 6:02 pm and opened a Public Hearing for the purpose of considering the Preliminary 2016 Budget.

STAFF REPORT: Clerk/Treasurer Maria Peña reviewed the 2016 Preliminary Budget totals for each fund without beginning and ending fund balances. The 2016 Budget presented was balanced. The city pool was removed from the General fund. The Park & Recreation Director was left in the 2016 budget.

City Administrator Jed Crowther reviewed the 2016 Budget Message. Resources were allocated by priorities. Pool/Parks & Recreation/ Community Center were not recovering cost to run these programs. Mr. Crowther provided numbers for the pool that were discussed at the Park & Recreation Board meeting. The City could not continued to loss \$80,000 each year to run the pool.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Darrell Ferguson

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- School District closed pool due to not all kids within the school district getting to use the pool located in Connell. That's why city built a city pool.
- Make sure pool is taken care of so in the future it's usable.

Kathy Bingham-stated not sure the school district had funds to support the pool

Gail Eilmes-the pool was an asset to the City of Connell

- Community Center was needed-Keenagers.
- Cut a public works position.
- Cut city staff if need too.
- Art at the post office should not have been removed the way it was.

Ken Sellereite

- Talked about the Community Center importance to the older citizens of Connell.
- Talked about the importance of trees on Columbia Ave.

Becky Escalera

- As a mother of a handicap child-very sad to see the pool close.

COUNCILMEMBERS COMMENT PORTION OF THE HEARING:

Councilmember Minor:

- 1) Didn't want to see the pool closed but sees the need to close it.
- 2) Talked about a wrong choice Prosser made to help with pool expenses.
- 3) Current staff is needed for continued growth.
- 4) Stated the budget deficiency was not new this year.
- 5) Get people around Connell area to get involved in the pool.

Councilmember Silva

- 1) Did not want the pool to close.
- 2) Not sure how the city would pay for it.
- 3) Maybe find funds out of saving somewhere?

Mayor Blackwell

- 1) Explained an additional levy would not cover costs of pool.
- 2) Addressed Mrs. Eilmes concern of what city staff did.

Councilmember Escalera

- 1) Talked about pool - hold off cutting it out of budget until next year – requested a decision not be made that night.
- 2) Allow citizens to come up with funds to run the pool.

Councilmember Huber

- 1) Would levy money have to be reallocated? (no)
- 2) Did the members of the Park & Recreation talk about things for the kids to do without the pool?

Councilmember Quinton

- 1) Very sad the pool was closing
- 2) Hoped Park Board would work on something to save the pool.
- 3) Look at fees for recreational activities.
- 4) Hoped Park & Recreation Director had a lot of activities for kids.

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Mayor Blackwell closed the hearing and opened regular meeting at 6:52 pm.

CLOSED RECORD HEARING-AMENDING THE ZONING MAP

Mayor Blackwell recessed the regular meeting at 6:52 pm and opened a Closed Record Hearing for the purpose of considering a Zoning Ordinance Amendment.

STAFF REPORT: Building Services Clerk Sterling Joyner provided Councilmember with a staff report. Request to rezone city Lots 2 and 3 of Short Plat 2015-18 Parcel Number 106-680-104 and 106-680-105 from the current zoning of Public Facility to Residential-Low Density. Planning Commission held an Open Record Hearing on October 20, 2015. Planning Commission, by motion, recommends not changing the current zoning. City Attorney Dan Hultgrenn recommended adding further findings. City Administrator Crowther requested to continue hearing at the next Council meeting.

Unfinished Business: Closed Record Hearing Continued to the Next Council Meeting November 16, 2015.

2015 BUDGET AMENDMENT

Ordinance No. 957-2015 was presented to Councilmember's at the October 19 Council Meeting. It was now being brought back for Councilmember's to adopt the 2015 Fiscal Year Budget Amendment. Amendment was due to Homeland Security Grant for police radios.

Motion: Councilmember Silva moved to adopt Ordinance No. 957-2015 amending the 2015 Budget. Councilmember Quinton seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

2016 SALARY SCHEDULE

In conjunction with the adoption of the 2016 Budget, a salary resolution needed to be adopted. Resolution No. 2015-16 sets the salary schedule for City employees for 2016. Non-Union Employees would receive a 2% COLA and Union Employees would receive a 3% COLA per Union Contract.

Motion: Councilmember Minor moved to adopt Resolution No. 2015-16 authorizing the 2016 Salary Schedule. Mayor Pro Tem Huber seconded motion. Motion carried. Councilmember Quinton abstained from voting.

NATURAL GAS UTILTIY OCCUPATION TAX AMENDMENT

Per Council's direction, Clerk/Treasurer Maria Peña had prepared Ordinance No. 960-2015. This ordinance amended section 3.30.025 (a) of the Connell Municipal Code by reallocating the natural gas utility occupation tax. Currently the natural gas tax was being split three ways; 60% was being deposited into the street improvement reserve, 20% was directed to the parks & recreation improvement reserve, and 20% was being directed to the general fund.

By approving Ordinance No. 960-2015 the 60% that was being directed into the street reserve would be allocated instead to 45% being deposited into the street fund for operations and 15% being deposited into the street reserves. Ordinance No. 960-2015 was to be effective January 1, 2016 but it could be change to take effect 5 days after publication. Discussion was held.

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Motion: Councilmember Minor Move to approve Ordinance No. 960-2015 amending CMC 3.30.025(a) Fee Proceeds for the natural gas utility occupation tax. Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

2016 CES IRRIGATION AND CROP PLAN

Public Works Director Larry Turner asked to move to next meeting.

Unfinished Business: Tabled until next Council Meeting

COMMITTEE / DEPARTMENT REPORTS

CITY ADMINISTRATOR-Jed Crowther

- 1) Special Council Meeting- Legislators at city hall- November 4,2015.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR-Larry Turner

- 1) Winterizing the parks.
- 2) Sweeping Streets.

POLICE CHIEF-Chris Turner

- 1) Halloween night was quite.

FIRE CHIEF –Chris Schulte-

- 1) First responders rail car training.
- 2) Senator Maria Cantwell-talked about 2015 fire season.
- 3) Submitted application to IAC for another 3years term.
- 4) Connell recycling center was closing.
- 5) Fire drill at Lamb Weston & Americold.

MEETING RECESSED

At 7:35 pm Mayor Blackwell announced an Executive Session for 10 minutes to discuss with legal counsel representing the City litigation or potential litigation to which the City, or a city council member or employee was, or may be, a party and to consider the minimum price at which real estate will be offered for lease or sale.

MEETING RECONVENED

Mayor Blackwell reconvened the Regular Meeting at 7:45 pm and the following was heard:

City had listed the former Pharmacy building for sale at the appraised value of \$85,000 for the past two month and then reduced it to \$70,000 for a few months.

Motion: Councilmember Escalera moved to reduce sale price of the former Pharmacy building to \$60,000. Mayor Pro Tem Huber seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business before the City Council of Connell, Mayor Blackwell adjourned the meeting at 7:46 pm.

ATTEST: _____
Rose Courneya, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer

Bruce Blackwell, Mayor