

MEETING OF THE CITY OF CONNELL, WASHINGTON
CONNELL, FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON
November 6, 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, Rhonda Quinton and Joe Escalera.

EXCUSED: Councilmember Quinton moved to excuse Mayor Pro Tem Monty Huber and Councilmember Kathy Silva. Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

STAFF: City Administrator Maria Peña, Accounting Clerk Marissa Ortiz, Public Works Director Larry Turner, Chief Police Chris Turner, Fire Chief Chris Schulte and City Attorney Dan Hultgrenn.

VISITORS: Franklin PUD; Ben Hooper and Vic Scarano. Mid-Columbia Libraries; Kyle Cox. Port of Pasco; Randy Hayden. Franklin County Graphic; Katherine Trowbridge. Citizens; Pat Barrera, Helen Tobin, John Linder, John & Gail Eilmes, Carolyn & Florian Nordhus.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Bruce Blackwell presented correspondence:

A letter of resignation from Cassandra Hart who had officially resigned from the Planning Commission Board as of October 31, 2017.

The Franklin County Planning & Building Department sent notice of a Public Hearing for a proposed zoning designation change.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion: Councilmember Quinton moved to approve the consent calendar with corrections:

- a) Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting October 16, 2017:
(Misspelled-museum & total bidder results ranged from \$400,000 to \$182,000 was changed to \$437,616.00 to \$186,798.96).
- b) Accounts payable November 6, 2017 for \$163,462.52
- c) Check Register 11/1/17 for \$204.48
- d) Payroll Register 10/17/17 for \$16,838.44
- e) Payroll Register 10/31/17-11/5/17 for \$91,251.31

Councilmember Minor seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

Port of Pasco; Economic Needs-

Randy Hayden Executive Director for the Port of Pasco voiced that in the Ports strategic planning process, Port Commissioners were looking to make an investment in the City of Connell that would impact economic development. An informal survey to see what the community felt would be a benefit was passed around with the help of Michael Jay's Restaurant owner David Hart. The top three items included an expanded library, retail businesses and broadband services. The Port also received feedback from community meetings. Mr. Hayden said they had not yet heard feedback from the City Council. The Port Commissioners would then review the feedback and make a final decision on how the funds would be spent.

Ben Hopper with the Franklin PUD's broadband was also present and spoke briefly on the PUD broadband project phase I. He mentioned this phase covered the west side of town. Phase II would take place in 2018 on the east side of town.

Kyle Kox with the Mid-Columbia Library also spoke and explained their staff would like a larger building space but was aware there were costs for both the City of Connell and the Library district. The library district was conducting an assessment study on the current facility.

Fire Presentation-Fire Chief Chris Schulte-

Fire Chief Schulte presented and discussed where he spent the summer. He stated he was on assignment for 86 days in row and worked 78 days on a total of four wildland fires. The other 8 days were for a rest period. The highpoints he shared were the safety record, no loss of structures and his team. He voiced his appreciation.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

PUBLIC HEARING-2018 FINAL BUDGET

Mayor Blackwell recessed the regular meeting at 6:58 pm and opened a Public Hearing to allow for comment from the public in regards to 2018 final budget.

STAFF REPORT: City Administrator Maria Peña notified Council that attached for their review and discussion was the 2018 Fiscal Year Budget. The 2018 budget presented was a balanced budget but was still subject to change. The following changes were made from the preliminary 2018 Budget Hearing held on October 2, 2017. Budget changes could still be made up until the final 2018 budget was adopted by Council.

Street Fund: Increased revenues by \$12,500 due to State Natural Gas taxes came in higher than projected. Expenditures were decreased by \$14,000 by lowering professional services to \$1,000 (from \$5,000) and lowering machinery & equipment for capital

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expenditures to \$5,000 (from \$15,000). A net change of \$26,500 and no other changes were made.

Totals for each fund without beginning and end fund balances:

- General Fund revenues were \$2,247,940.00 and expenditures were \$2,247,940.00.
- General Reserve Fund revenues were \$158,950.00 and expenditures were \$219,000.00.
- Street Fund revenues were \$1,705,500.00 and expenditures were \$1,879,950.00.
- Hotel/Motel Tax Fund revenues were \$13,270.00 and expenditures were \$13,280.00.
- General Support Fund revenues were \$126,730.00 and no expenditures.
- Capital Facilities Fund revenues were \$44,400.00 and expenditures were \$17,500.00.
- Water Fund revenues were \$3,084,400.00 and expenditures were \$3,005,600.00.
- Sewer Fund revenues were \$816,300.00 and expenditures were \$802,900.00.
- Solid Waste Fund revenues were \$700.00 and expenditures were \$3,600.00.
- Water Emergency fund balance was \$200,000.00.
- Water Bond Reserve revenues were \$26,000.00 and expenditures were \$26,000.00.
- State Remittance Fund revenues were \$51,550.00 and expenditures were \$51,550.00.

Overall 2018 budget total revenues were \$8,275,740.00 and expenditures were \$8,267,320.00.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

COUNCILMEMBERS COMMENT PORTION OF THE HEARING:

Councilmembers: Gave gratitude to City staff.

Mayor Blackwell closed the hearing and opened the regular meeting at 7:11 pm.

PERSONNEL POLICY UPDATE

City Administrator Maria Peña stated she had met with the City's insurance risk carrier Clear Risk Solutions (CIAW). They wanted to see changes incorporated into the City's Personnel Policy. Those changes have been included as well as a few other changes. The policy showed the changes proposed and were attached for Council to review. City Administrator Peña reviewed the policy and highlighted the changes. She stated the policy would need to be approved before the 2018 New Year.

TASK ORDER-NORDHEIM ROAD PROJECT

Public Works Director Larry Turner stated that attached for Council was the Task Order from Anderson Perry to perform design engineering services for the Norheim Road project not to exceed \$25,000. He stated this particular project was not funded by the City; it was fully funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Motion: Councilmember Minor moved to approve the Task Order for the 2017 FEMA Street Repair Project not to exceed \$25,000. Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

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COLUMBIA AVE SURFACE RESTORATION CONSULTANT AGREEMENT

Public Works Director Larry Turner notified Council that attached for their review was the consultant agreement for the Columbia Avenue Surface Restoration project. This agreement in the amount of \$10,000 was for bituminous surface restoration on Columbia Avenue from State Route 260 to Highway 395.

Motion: Councilmember Quinton moved to approve the Professional Services Consultant Agreement for the Columbia Avenue bituminous surface restoration project not to exceed \$10,000. Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

LAMBWESTON WATER AGREEMENT EXTENSION

City Administrator Maria Peña explained that the attached amendment was an extension to the current LambWeston (ConAgra) water agreement. The agreement expired on November 20, 2017 and staff was working with LambWeston future water rates. She stated this amendment would give more time to meet and work out the rates.

Motion: Councilmember Minor moved to approve the LambWeston Water Agreement extension. Councilmember Quinton seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE / DEPARTMENT REPORTS

CITY ADMINISTRATOR-Maria Peña

1. Reported on the Connell Rail Project, she had submitted the TIGER & INFRA grant applications.
2. Received notice that the City was awarded Co-sponsorship of the Connell Rail Interchange Project from the Great Northern Corridor Coalition (GNCC). It was a great honor to receive Co-sponsorship with them.

CITIZEN COMMENT/NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Pat Barrera- commented on the Mid-Columbia Library discussion, said the expansion of the library was more than just about the books.

CITY COUNCIL CLOSING REMARKS

Councilmember Minor – Believed the library was important and a compromise had to be made.

Councilmember Quinton- Stated she was not against the library and would continue to help.

Councilmember Escalera- Agreed with Mrs. Barrera, but where would the money come from to expand.

APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Blackwell temporarily appointed Councilmember Minor to the finance committee.

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MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business before the City Council of Connell Mayor Blackwell adjourned the meeting at 7:53 pm.

ATTEST: _____
Marissa Ortiz, Accounting Clerk

Bruce Blackwell, Mayor