

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

March 20, 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, Councilmember's: Mayor Pro Tem Huber, Ray Minor, Katherine Silva, and Joe Escalera.

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

**STAFF:** City Administrator Maria Peña, Accounting Clerk Marissa Canales, Chief of Police Chris Turner, Public Works Director Larry Turner, and City Attorney Dan Hultgrenn.

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

APPOINTMENT

Mayor Blackwell appointed Jewel York to the Tree Advisory Board Committee.

**Motion:** Councilmember Silva moved to approve the appointment of Jewel York to the Tree Advisory Board Committee. Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

- a) Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting March 6, 2017
- b) Accounts Payable March 20, 2017 for \$108,119.53
- c) Payroll Register 3/15/17-3/20/17 for \$56,149.99

Mayor Pro Tem Huber seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION

Chief of Police Chris Turner delivered a Connell University presentation with a power point presentation to educate those in attendance about the Connell Police Department. He stated his goal was to hopefully have Council gain new knowledge of the Department.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Motion:** Councilmember Silva moved to approve the agenda with the correction of item #9 replaced Court Clerk with Police Clerk. Mayor Pro Tem Huber seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

ORDINANCE NO. 976-2017 PROVIDING FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS FRANCHISE  
Attached for Council was Ordinance No. 976-2017 it would provide for establishing a process and provisions for telecommunication franchise. The City did not currently have this in place and had received a request for a franchise agreement. Staff was working on establishing fees to go along with the franchise agreement. Those would be brought forth as an amendment to the Master Fee Schedule at a future date.

**Motion:** Councilmember Silva moved to approve Ordinance No. 976-2017 establishing a process and provisions for telecommunication services. Councilmember Minor seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-02 ADDITION OF POLICE CLERK POSITION DISCUSSION  
City Administrator Maria Peña presented Resolution No. 2017-02 and informed Council that due to the change in staff the Police Department lacked a clerk. This position would work 30 hours a week for the Police Department and would be a non-benefit position. The total additional cost would be approximately \$10,000. This position would be added as a part-time Police Clerk to the 2017 Salary Resolution.

**Motion:** Mayor Pro Tem moved to approve Resolution No. 2017-02 adding a part-time police clerk. Councilmember Minor seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

POOL UPDATE

Public Works Director Larry Turner stated public works had begun getting the pool and parks ready for the season. Upon inspection of the mechanical room at the pool, the sand filter tank did not make it through the cold weather and needed to be replaced. The order was placed and the purchase price was approximately \$15,000. Mr. Turner asked Council for suggestions on whether to have the blue slide ready to use but that was dependent on life guard availability for the season.

Consensus of the Council was to move forward to run the blue slide during the pool season.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATION: LETTER OF SUPPORT

Linda Esparza and Todd Blackman from Franklin PUD met with the Mayor and City staff in regards to a grant for an electric vehicle charging station. City Administrator Maria Peña stated possible charging locations were discussed and a site was selected between Community First Bank and the old Lourdes Clinic. She provided the letter of support and a map that provided more details regarding the grant and the City's involvement.

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**Motion:** Councilmember Silva moved to authorize the City Administrator to sign the letter of support for an electric vehicle charging station. Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

LEASING OF CITY PROPERTY

City Administrator Maria Peña received a request from Brad Quinton in regard to the City leasing out the south portion of parcel 106030037 north of highway 260 for pasturing cows for a couple of months. Mr. Quinton inquired about leasing the property at \$.90 cents per day per pair; he would provide the water and the fencing.

**Motion:** Councilmember Silva moved to sign the rental agreement between the City of Connell and Brad Quinton. Councilmember Minor seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

AMENDING LETTER OF INTENT FOR FRANKLIN CO. HOSPITAL DISTRICT

City Administrator Maria Peña had previously provided Council with a letter of intent along with a map that showed the area of City owned property that Franklin County Hospital District desired to purchase. Council moved to authorize the Letter of Intent in December 2016. The legal description was then sent to Franklin County and they realized the boundary lines were not correct. City Administrator Peña provided Council with an amended Letter of Intent that addressed the adjusted property size of the portion of City property that the District desired to purchase based upon a recent survey, and accordingly stated the adjusted sale price for the property.

**Motion:** Mayor Pro Tem Huber moved to authorize the City Administrator to sign the new letter of Intent for Franklin County Public Hospital No.1 as presented. Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE / DEPARTMENT REPORTS

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR- Larry Turner

1) Reported the City had been having water line issues near the Tostadas Amigos Factory Building.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business before the City Council of Connell Mayor Blackwell adjourned the meeting at 7:03 pm

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

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Bruce Blackwell, Mayor