

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

June 2, 2014

The regular semi-monthly meeting, of the City Council of the City of Connell was called to order by the Mayor 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, Rhonda Quinton, Kathie Silva, and Ray Minor.

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

VISITORS: Kathy Bingham, Franklin County Graphic; Citizens: Sharon Sellereite, Mark Koepl, Antonio Gil, Manuel Serrano, Robert Wegner, Noel Perez, Robert McCurry, Jim Crawford, Kristie Korrell, and Kim Krum.

CORRESPONDENCE

Anderson Perry awarded a \$750.00 scholarship to Alanzo Ruiz.

Mayor Blackwell received a letter complimenting Fire Chief Chris Schulte for his good work.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

- a) Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting May 19, 2014
- b) Minutes of the Special Council Meeting May 22, 2014
- c) Check Register 5/29/2014 for \$750,000
- d) Accounts Payable Register 6/02/2014 for \$40,567.38

Mayor Pro Tem Huber seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

PRESENTATION –COUNTRY ESTATES SEWER CONCERNS, BY ROBERT WEGNER

Robert Wegner gave a slide presentation on the sewer system issues in the Country Estates subdivision. The presentation covered: the sewer grant proposal, types of sewer system currently being used, types of pumps/grinders/floats, and cost of repairing current sewer systems, advantages of upgrading the system, disadvantages to existing system, and some owner concerns. Ten citizens attended meeting with sewer concerns.

Citizens Jim Crawford, Noel Perez, Mark Koepl and Sharon Sellereite spoke on sewer problems and the following was heard:

- 1) Repairs are very expensive to current home owners

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- 2) Hard to find someone to work on current sewer systems
- 3) Alarms don't always work so sewer leaks into ground

City Administrator Jed Crowther did some research to find grants that could help update the Country Estates subdivision sewer system. There was a CDBG block grant available.

Mr. Crowther reviewed several steps that needed to take place before the project would qualify for funding. The application deadline was July 19, 2014 so this project would not meet this year's construction grant request. The grant request could be ready to go through the CDBG block grant process next year.

Public Works Director Larry Turner explained other grant funds were available.

PUBLIC HEARING-SIX YEAR TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2015-2020

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Blackwell recessed the regular meeting at 6:41 pm and opened a Public Hearing for the purpose of discussing the Six Year Transportation Improvement Plan for 2015-2020.

STAFF REPORT:

Public Works Director Larry Turner provided a report on street improvements and reviewed the Six Year Transportation Plan.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None Heard

COUNCILMEMBERS COMMENT PORTION OF THE HEARING: None Heard

Mayor Blackwell closed the hearing and opened the regular meeting at 6:58 pm.

CDBG FUNDING-UPCOMING OPPORTUNITY & PROCESS

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) general purpose applications were due by June 19, 2014 for this year's funding process. At a previous council meeting, City Administrator Jed Crowther gave an overview of the program and explained the focus. The three project ideas for CDGB funding are: 1) Columbia Avenue Resurfacing, 2) Country Estates Sewer System Improvements, and 3) Library Expansion. The CDBG program was competitive, usually about 100 applications and \$9.5 million statewide. Projects are ranked on: Need, Capacity, Readiness, and Results. CDBG required a Public Hearing and a Resolution by City Council to apply.

PERSONNEL POLICY-RESPECTING HOLIDAYS OF FAITH AND CONSCIENCE

Legislation was passed during the 2014 session which entitled local government employees to two unpaid holidays per calendar year "for reasons of faith or conscience or for an organized activity conducted under auspices of a religious denomination, church, or religious organization." City Attorney Dan Hultgrenn stated this was a mandatory policy update. He recommended Councilmembers approve Resolution No. 2014-07.

Motion: Councilmember Minor moved to adopt Resolution No. 2014-07. Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

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DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS-5-YEAR EXTENSION OF CONNELL FIRE
DEPARTMENT RESPONSE

The City of Connell previously signed a contract with the Department of Corrections (DOC) to help cover the cost of the Fire Chief position as per mandate of RCW 35.21.79. City staff and the DOC worked on an Amendment to the Current DOC Contract No. K 8563 that would expire on June 30, 2014.

Motion: Councilmember Quinton moved to approve Mayor Blackwell to sign Amendment No. 1 to Contract No. K8563 between the City of Connell and the Department of Corrections. Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

2014 COPS HIRING PROGRAM

The Department of Justice opened a grant to hire a school resource police officer. The grant covered the salary up to three years and \$125,000 dollars. In the 4th-year the salary would have to be covered by the city entirely. The North Franklin School Board will determine at its next board meeting if they are interested in partnering with the City to fund a school resource officer.

SWIM TEAM ASSISTANT COACH

In anticipation of a large number of participants for the Swim Team this year, the parents of the swim team have offered to donate funds to pay for an assistant to the coach. The City did not budget for an extra swim team coach. The extra expense could possibly put the City over budget. Council would need to authorize the extra expenditure.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Huber moved to authorize the expenditure for an assistant swim team coach. Councilmember Quinton seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE / DEPARTMENT REPORTS.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR –Jed Crowther

- 1) A Clerk/Treasurer staff member will be moved to the Police Department

CLERK/TREASURER DEPARTMENT – Maria Peña

- 1) The Annual Report was finished and submitted to the State of Washington

FIRE DEPARTMENT – Fire Chief Chris Schulte

- 1) The City received the CHS grant check
- 2) Live Fire training performed
- 3) Fire drill would be conducted at the Columbia Basin Livestock grounds
- 4) Wood debris program completed

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR LARRY TURNER

- 1) Updated Councilmember's on parks
- 2) Swimming pool ready
- 3) Walking path will be getting new dog poop stations installed

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MEETING RECESSED

At 7:31 pm Mayor Blackwell announced an Executive Session for 45 minutes to plan or adopt the strategy or position to be taken by the City during the course of any collective bargaining, professional negotiations, or grievance or mediation proceedings, or reviewing the proposal made in the negotiations or proceedings while in progress.

Councilmember Quinton excused herself from discussion and did not attend the Executive session.

MEETING RECONVENED

Mayor Blackwell reconvened the Regular Meeting at 8:16 pm.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business before the City Council of Connell, Mayor Blackwell adjourned the meeting at 8:16 pm.

ATTEST: _____
Rose Courneya, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer

Bruce Blackwell, Mayor