

MEETING OF THE CITY OF CONNELL, WASHINGTON
CONNELL, FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON
July 17, 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, Kathie Silva, Rhonda Quinton and Joe Escalera.

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

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

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion: Councilmember Silva moved to approve the consent calendar with change to the accounts payable total from \$214,738.04 to \$217,357.69. Councilmember Minor seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

- a) Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting July 3, 2017
- b) Accounts payable 7/17/17 for \$217,357.69
- c) Check Register 7/05/17 for \$1,350.00
- d) Check Register 7/10/17 for \$3,554.62
- e) Payroll Register 6/30/17-7/05/17 for \$93,460.55

Councilmember Minor seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Councilmember Minor moved to approve the agenda with the addition of item #14-2017 Mid-Year Report. Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSITION NO.1 SALES AND USE TAX FOR
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS

Mayor Blackwell recessed the regular council meeting at 6:03 pm and opened a Public Hearing to allow for comment on Proposition No. 1 Sales and Use Tax for Transportation Improvements.

MEETING OF THE CITY OF CONNELL

Regular Meeting – July 17, 2017

STAFF REPORT: City Administrator Maria Peña explained the public hearing would provide an opportunity for citizens of Connell to express their views in regards to placing a measure for the increase of .2% on the November ballot. City Administrator Peña also advised that the city was in need of citizens to be appointed to the pro or con committees. These committees include submitting statements in favor of and in opposition to the ballot measure for the local voters' pamphlet as well as submitting rebuttal statements.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

COUNCILMEMBERS COMMENT PORTION OF THE HEARING:

Councilmember Silva asked if there was no interest in anyone being appointed, would there be a committee.

City Administrator Peña replied the committee was not required.

Mayor Blackwell closed the hearing and opened the regular meeting at 6:08 pm.

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-13 PROPOSITION NO. 1 SALES AND USE TAX FOR TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS

Attached for Council's review and approval was Resolution No. 2017-13 it would provide the placement of Proposition No. 1, proposing a .2% increase to the sales and use tax for the City of Connell on the November general election ballot. City Administrator Maria Peña stated in the 2016 Fiscal Year budget it was decided that the General Fund would no longer support street operations. Money from the Natural Gas tax that was going to the Street Fund Reserve was reallocated to Street Operations to make up the loss of revenue from the General Fund.

Reallocating funds from the Natural Gas tax helped street operations but it has also hurt the Street Improvement Reserve. The purpose of forming the transportation district would be to help secure funding for future transportation projects. A .2% increase would equal an additional 20 cents for every \$100 spent. By increasing the sales and use tax from 8% to 8.2% the City could add an additional \$50,000 to the Street Improvement Reserve. This would still leave approximately a \$40,000 shortage, compared to 2015.

Motion: Councilmember Minor moved to adopt Resolution No. 2017-13 placing Proposition No. 1 on the November general election ballot. Councilmember Silva seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

STREET PROJECTS - UPDATE

Public Works Director Larry Turner briefed the Council on the upcoming street projects for 2017 and 2018. He stated pothole patching; Columbia Ave. stripping and LED Street light installation would all be completed by the end of August 2017. Crack Sealing would begin soon and be completed by the end of September 2017. Mr. Turner confirmed the City had the funding and was waiting on allocation from the state to begin chip sealing on Columbia Ave and road repair to Nordheim Road. These two projects would be completed in the spring of 2018. He presented a power point that displayed how the Transportation Improvement Board viewed the condition of streets and roads in the City of Connell.

MEETING OF THE CITY OF CONNELL
Regular Meeting – July 17, 2017

WATER RESERVOIR TANKS- UPDATE

Public Works Director Larry Turner provided Council with a video footage of the 3 million gallon reservoir inspection and cleaning.

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-14 – SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

City Administrator Maria Peña provided Council with Resolution No. 2017-14. It provided guidelines for the use of social media by representatives of the City to communicate with the public and for the public when posting on a social media site of the City. City Administrator Peña explained the attached policy covered anyone who posted on the City's social media site on behalf of the City; regular staff, part time staff, temporary staff, elected officials, volunteers, contractors, board or committee members. This policy would not cover personal use of social media sites.

Motion: Councilmember Silva moved to adopt Resolution No. 2017-14 adopting the Social Media Policy. Councilmember Minor seconded motion. Motion passed 3 to 1 vote.

MUNICIPAL RESEARCH AND SERVICES CENTER OF WA. (MRSC) -FISCAL GUIDE

Mayor Bruce Blackwell discussed the informational guide regarding financial management from Municipal Research and Services Center of Washington (MRSC). City Administrator Maria Peña added that MRSC recommended cities should have a minimum of 2 months of expenditures as a reserve where the City of Connell did 45 days.

2017 MID-YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT

City Clerk Treasurer Rose Courneya provided Council with an overview look of 2017 Mid-Year Report. Mrs. Courneya reviewed budget revenues and expenditures through June 2017. Overall the City's budget was at 39.5% of revenues and 57.2% of expenditures.

COMMITTEE / DEPARTMENT REPORTS

CITY CLERK TREASURER- Rose Courneya

1. Announced that City Hall would be closed on Friday July 21, 2017 from 10:30am to 2:30pm in honor of the recent passing of former Mayor Gary Walton.

FIRE CHIEF- Chris Schulte

1. Reported that a few fires were avoided because citizens called in before burning yard waste.

POLICE CHIEF- Chris Turner

2. Stated July 4th holiday went great; fireworks going off aside from the main display were minimal.

There being no further business before the City Council of Connell Mayor Blackwell adjourned the meeting at 7:37 pm.

ATTEST: _____
Marissa Ortiz, Accounting Clerk

Bruce Blackwell, Mayor

MEETING OF THE CITY OF CONNELL
Regular Meeting – July 17, 2017