

MEETING OF THE CITY OF CONNELL, WASHINGTON
CONNELL, FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON
August 7, 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, Mayor Pro Tem Huber and Councilmembers: Ray Minor, Kathie Silva and Joe Escalera.

ABSENT: Councilmember Rhonda Quinton.

STAFF: City Administrator Maria Peña, City Clerk/Treasurer Rose Courneya, Police Chief Chris Turner and City Attorney Dan Hultgrenn.

VISITORS: Franklin County Graphic; Pam Moon, Connell Heritage Museum; Shelly Hervey and Wyatt Harrington. Citizen; Pat Barrera.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Bruce Blackwell announced board member Jeannifer Kaiser had resigned from the Park & Recreation Board.

Lori Stiner was appointed to the pro committee for advocating approval for proposition #1 sales and use tax for transportation improvements.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion: Councilmember Silva moved to approve the consent calendar as presented. Councilmember Minor seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

- a) Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting July 17, 2017
- b) Accounts payable 8/7/17 for \$44,422.05
- c) Check Register 8/1/17 for \$209.88
- d) Payroll Register 7/18/17 for \$14,339.38
- e) Payroll Register 7/31/17-8/05/17 for \$97,979.01

Councilmember Minor seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Councilmember Minor moved to approve the agenda with the removal of item #8- Public Hearing PocketiNet Franchise Application. Mayor Pro Tem Huber seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

PUBLIC HEARING – Alley Vacate at Heritage Park

Mayor Blackwell recessed the regular council meeting at 6:03 pm and opened a public hearing for the purpose of considering vacating a portion of the alley west of North Second Ave, between W. Borah Street and W. Adams Street.

STAFF REPORT: City Administrator Maria Peña asked Council to review the attached map in reference to the portion of the alley located between the Connell Heritage Park and the Connell Heritage Museum. She continued to clarify that in November 2016 Council approved the sale of the Heritage Museum to the Connell Heritage Museum Corporation. Since then they had fenced all around the museum near the caboose. The caboose was owned by the City but was being used by the Museum for a display. The old school house was owned and maintained by the museum and was located on the alley between the caboose and the actual museum. The area requested to be vacated was currently not being used as an alley, and had not been maintained as an alley. The construction of the sidewalk on Adams Street prevented entrance onto the alley from Adams Street. After City Administrator Peña briefly read the Connell Comprehensive Plan-Goals #3 & #5 her conclusion based on the findings of fact, was to approve the alley vacation.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

COUNCILMEMBERS COMMENT PORTION OF THE HEARING:

Councilmember Silva questioned if there had been any negativity on the proposed alley vacate.

City Administrator Peña replied she had not received any comments; verbal or written.

Councilmember Escalera inquired about the caboose and if the City owned it, would the Museum maintain it accordingly.

City Administrator Peña stated once the alley was vacated then the City could proceed with the process of selling the land where the caboose sat on.

Councilmember Minor and Mayor Pro Tem Huber both were in favor of the proposed alley vacate.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 981-2017 ALLEY VACATE AT HERITAGE PARK

Attached for Council's review and approval was Ordinance No. 981-2017 it would provide for the vacation of a portion of the alley between the Connell Heritage Museum and the Connell Heritage Park located on West Adams Street. With this alley vacation the City would be able to move forward with the surplus of the property and a Purchase and Sale Agreement with the Museum.

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Motion: Councilmember Silva moved to adopt Ordinance No. 981-2017 vacating a portion of the alley between Connell Heritage Museum and Connell Heritage Park. Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT FRANKLIN COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT
City Administrator Maria Peña informed the Council that the Franklin County Hospital District was now ready to move forward with the execution of the Purchase and Sale Agreement. They had been working on acquiring the land adjacent to the Fire Hall for the relocation and expansion of the District's Emergency Medical Transport Services. The Purchase and Sale Agreement attached set the purchase price at \$2,401.00 payable at closing, no later than September 1st.

Motion: Councilmember Minor moved to approve the Purchase and Sale Agreement between the Franklin County Public Hospital District and the City of Connell in the amount of \$2,401.00. Mayor Pro Tem Huber seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

WASHINGTON COLLECTORS TRI-CITIES INC CONTRACT
City Clerk Treasurer Rose Courneya stated several months ago she had reviewed the city collection accounts. Upon review of the current collection agency Armada, she discovered several accounts had no activity and the City had not received any funds on accounts in collection for some time. After speaking to other local government cities and counties it was decided Washington Collectors Tri-Cities, Inc. would be the most suitable for the City of Connell. With the help of City Attorney Dan Hultgrenn a service agreement was created and attached for Council to review.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Huber moved to approve the contract with Washington Collectors Tri-Cities, Inc. Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

2018 BUDGET DISCUSSION/TIMELINE

Attached for Council was a timeline for the City of Connell 2018 budget preparation and adoption. City Clerk Treasurer Rose Courneya stated that the 2018 budget had been created in the cities software and each department head was able to start working on their 2018 proposed budget. She asked Council for direction on ideas for a budget discussion or a workshop. A 2018 workshop budget review was agreed to and scheduled on August 28th at 6pm.

COMMITTEE / DEPARTMENT REPORTS

CITY ADMINISTRATOR- Maria Peña

1. Pointed out that due to the state not passing the capital budget the Department of Health did not have the authority to precede with loan documents for constructions loans, which meant the City's well#6 construction project was put on hold.

CITY CLERK TREASURER- Rose Courneya

1. Announced there would not be a Finance Meeting on August 21st, but finance reports would be handed out.

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MEETING RECESSED

Mayor Blackwell recessed the regular council meeting at 6:20 pm to go into executive session for 10 minutes to consider the minimum price at which real estate would be offered for sale and to discuss with legal counsel potential litigation.

Mayor Blackwell called the regular council meeting back to order at 6:30 pm.

COMMITTEE / DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Mayor Pro Tem Huber asked if the LED Street light installation was completed.

Councilmember Escalera commented how he felt disappointed that the flag was not lowered at half-staff in honor of former Mayor Gary Walton's passing.

There being no further business before the City Council of Connell Mayor Blackwell adjourned the meeting at 6:34 pm.

ATTEST: _____
Marissa Ortiz, Accounting Clerk

Bruce Blackwell, Mayor