

MEETING OF THE CITY OF CONNELL, WASHINGTON
CONNELL, FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON
September 17, 2018

The regular semi-monthly meeting of the Connell City Council was called to order by Mayor Barrow at 6:03 pm in the City Hall and was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor Lee Barrow and Councilmember's: John White, Kathie Silva, Patricia Barrera and Joe Escalera.

EXCUSED: Councilmember Escalera moved to excuse Mayor Pro Tem Ray Minor.
Councilmember Barrera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

STAFF: City Administrator Maria Peña, Deputy City Clerk Marissa Ortiz, Police Chief Chris Turner, Public Works Hallie Tuck and City Attorney Dan Hultgrenn.

CORRESPONDENCE

Washington State Liquor and Cannabis sent the City a liquor renewal for Connell Gas & Food Mart.

Mayor Lee Barrow read two Proclamations aloud:

A. Proclaimed September 2018 to be "Childhood Cancer Awareness Month" in the City of Connell and encourage all residents to support those in our community whose children are battling cancer.

B. Proclaimed September 18, 2018 to be "First Responder Appreciation Day" as show of support for individuals, both career and volunteer, law enforcement, fire emergency medical, and other organizations in the public safety sector, as first responders to protect and aid the public in the event of an emergency.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion: Councilmember White moved to approve the consent calendar as presented:

- a) Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting September 04, 2018
- b) Accounts payable 9/17/18 for \$106,617.81
- c) Check Register 9/01/18 for \$218.68
- d) Payroll Register 8/31/18 – 9/05/18 for \$97,863.18

Councilmember Silva seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Councilmember Barrera moved to approve the agenda as presented. Councilmember Silva seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

CANCELED - CONTINUATION PUBLIC HEARING – VACATE FUTURE SOUTH
ALMIRA AVENUE PER SHORT PLAT 90-04

After further review it was determined that the future South Almira Avenue indicated on Short Plat 90-04 was actually an easement and not a dedicated street. Therefore the correct action to take place was to eliminate the easement by quit claim deed which would be brought back to Council at the next meeting.

Motion: Councilmember Barrera moved to cancel the Public Hearing on September 17th, 2018 to vacate Future S. Almira Ave per Short Plat 90-04. Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

FCS PROPOSAL FOR UTILITY RATES UPDATE

City Administrator Maria Peña provided Council with a proposal for utility rates update preparation for water and sewer utilities. The last time the City had an analysis of rates was in January of 2014, even though those projections were to the year 2020 rates the City had taken some cost saving measures and would like to reassess the utility rates. The proposal provided from Financial Consulting Solutions Group (FCS) was for the initial gathering of data, assessing the City's revenues, and attending a council meeting to provide information, but it did not provide for the finished project. City Administrator Peña stated \$14,000 was included in the 2018 budget for the study which would cover the cost of this proposal. Roughly an additional \$16,000 would need to be included for the completion of the analysis in the 2019 budget.

In addition City staff had previously met with North Franklin School District in regards to their sewer fees since they had cut back drastically on their water usage with the new Elementary School. FCS would look at their information and determine if a different structure should be considered for schools sewer rates. As per the City's contract with Lambweston in regards to their water rates, FCS would also do an assessment on water rates for Lambweston.

Motion: Councilmember Silva moved to approve the proposal from Financial Consulting Solutions Group (FCS) for the utility rates update. Councilmember Barrera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

UPDATE TO PERSONNEL POLICIES

For Council's review was a proposed update to the City's Personnel Policy. Changes made included corrections that were noted at the last update.

- Page 19 – section 4.1 Employee Training Policy, addition of language to Final Regulations:
(The City shall not reimburse hotel/motel expenses for locations that are one hour or less from the work site).
- Page 37 – section 8.1 Definition and Purpose, addition of language:
(gender expression, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status).

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City Administrator Maria Peña asked Council to consider changes to section 4.11- *Annual Leave pg.24*, non-union employee annual leave accrual. Non-union employees were allowed to carry over a set number of hours based on years of service. Once an employee reached their set amount they could no longer accrue annual leave and would lose it. Each employee would then be tracked accordingly. City Administrator Peña proposed that all non-union employees be allowed to carry over no more than 240 hours (currently the maximum allowed) from one calendar year to the next. This would allow employees to accrue more than the 240 hours but they would have until the end of the year to reduce their leave without losing it. The difference with union employees was they were allowed 160 hours to be carried over from one calendar year to the next. Another change that was included in this section was the addition of language that would allow the City Council to buy the annual leave from the employee as opposed to requesting an exception or losing the leave. Council did not agree with the buy out process and felt that it would be more appropriate to discuss leave time with each department's direct supervisor or Mayor versus the Council.

CONNELL COMMUNITY CLUB REQUEST OF FLAG AT COMMUNITY CENTER

City Administrator Maria Peña stated she was asked by a representative of the Connell Community Club if Council had discussed the request made at a previous council meeting in regards to the permanent placement of a US flag at the Connell Community Center. An alternative was discussed to place a flag pole lit up on the building itself, giving the flag better exposure. Mayor Barrow stated since all the public buildings in the city have a US flag outside except for the Community Center, staff could add a flag pole on the building. The spokesman of the Connell Community Club, John Linder was present and stated a 5 x 8 flag could also be placed permanently inside on the wall up high out of reach. Due to the building being rented out, customers may not want a flag to be part of the décor and that could become an issue.

Consensus of the Council was to place the 5 x 8 flag on the wall but not permanently.

UPDATE ON PUD WI-FI PROJECT

The City received the Wi-Fi map provided from Ben Hooper, Broadband Services Manager at Franklin PUD. City Administrator Maria Peña said he reported that things were going well with the Wi-Fi project. Phase 1 had been completed. Phase 2 was progressing and devices were being installed and hoped they would be running by the end of September. Some residents were still unable to connect due to not being in direct line of sight.

CITY COUNCIL CLOSING REMARKS

Councilmember White – Had heard complaints about dogs running loose in the Striker area.

Councilmember Barrera – Inquired about trains and their schedule of when they passed through town.

Councilmember Escalera – Asked about possibly adding a shade cover over the EVITA charging station site.

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MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business before the City Council of Connell Mayor Barrow adjourned the meeting at 7:10 pm.

ATTEST: _____
Marissa Ortiz, Deputy City Clerk

Lee Barrow, Mayor