

MEETING OF THE CITY OF CONNELL, WASHINGTON  
CONNELL, FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON  
September 18, 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: Mayor Pro Tem Monty Huber, Ray Minor, Rhonda Quinton and Joe Escalera.

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

STAFF: City Administrator Maria Peña, City Clerk/Treasurer Rose Courneya, Chief of Police Chris Turner and Attorney Heidi Ellerd.

VISITORS: Franklin County Graphic; Katherine Bingham Trowbridge.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Bruce Blackwell presented correspondence, a notice of a pending short plat approval from the Franklin Co. Planning and Building Department.

CONSENT CALENDAR

**Motion:** Councilmember Quinton moved to approve the consent calendar with a correction, the removal of the last line of September 11<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes.

- a) Minutes of the Reconvened Council Meeting September 11, 2017
- b) Accounts payable 9/18/17 for \$142,226.31

Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Motion:** Councilmember Minor moved to approve the agenda as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Huber seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

WATER AND SEWER RATES INCREASE FOR 2018

City Clerk Treasurer Rose Courneya reported that in keeping with the recommendation made by Financial Consulting Solutions Group (FCS) in the Water/Sewer Rate Update in 2014, the Council needed to look at rate increases for the water and sewer rates. Consistent with 5 year projections made by FCS for additional water and sewer rate increases, rate increases of 3% for sewer and 3% for water were recommended for 2018 per the FCS Study. City Clerk Treasurer

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Courneya provided the council with a sample fee schedule showing the new rates reflecting the 3% rate increase along with the current rates. To update these rates, staff would need direction from council to proceed and prepare a resolution to amend the Master Fee Schedule with council's desired rates. The effective date would be for November 21<sup>st</sup> to December 20<sup>th</sup> billing with payments to begin on the January 1, 2018 billing cycle. Council held discussion and their consensus was to bring back a resolution for adoption to increase water and sewer rates by 3% each for 2018.

**BENEFIT COST ANALYSIS**

City Administrator Maria Peña presented Council with the Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA), completed by Jeannie Beckett. The analysis was completed based on the new guidelines established. This analysis was a requirement for both the INFRA and TIGER grant applications and with the new guidelines in place, was now an element of the application that had more significance. The City received funding for this analysis from Franklin County's Economic Development Financial Assistance fund. The money in this fund comes from a portion of the state sales and use tax. The funds are required to be used to finance 'public facilities' serving 'economic development purposes' in eligible rural counties. The City of Connell's Rail Interchange Project was eligible and received \$10,000 to be used towards the benefit cost analysis. City Administrator Peña asked Council to review the analysis and let her know if any corrections needed to be made.

**TEAMSTERS UNION CONTRACT - MOU**

City Administrator Maria Peña stated that recently Council approved the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Teamsters Union. Clarifying language had been added to Appendix "A" to clarify specialty pay:

Each certified instructor position will receive 1% additional pay regardless of the number of certificates held for that specialty. I.e. certifications in Pistol, Rifle, & Shotgun will be considered as one specialty pay.

The Teamsters Union requested that the City remove the additional language, as stated above, and that the City approve a memorandum of understanding instead. Kevin Wesley reviewed the MOU and approved the wording.

Councilmember Quinton abstained from the discussion and from voting.

**Motion:** Councilmember Minor moved to approve the new Appendix "A" along with the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Connell and Teamsters Local Union No. 839. Mayor Pro Tem Huber seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE / DEPARTMENT REPORTS

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR- Maria Peña**

1. City Clerk Treasurer's monthly financial reports were handed out.

**POLICE CHIEF- Chris Turner**

1. Fall Festival weekend turned out well.

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2. Driving simulator training for City Staff was coming to the Connell Community Center.

CITY COUNCIL CLOSING REMARKS

Councilmember Quinton-Announced she may not attend the next regular council meeting.

Councilmember Minor-Appreciated how well the city staff handles city issues.

Mayor Pro Tem Huber-Thanked the Police Department on their involvement with community events.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business before the City Council of Connell Mayor Blackwell adjourned the meeting at 6:42 pm.

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

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Bruce Blackwell, Mayor