

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

September 19, 2016

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 Councilmember's: Ray Minor, Katherine Silva, Rhonda Quinton and Joe Escalera.

STAFF: Fire Chief Chris Schulte, City Administrator Maria Peña, Clerk/Treasurer Rose Courneya, Accounting Clerk Marissa Canales and Attorney Heidi Ellerd.

VISITORS: Kathy Bingham; Franklin County Graphic, Citizens: Manny Choi and Sterling Joyner.

CORRESPONDENCE/PRESENTATIONS/APPOINTMENTS

Received a letter from Mary Erhart; Right Turn Driving School and was read by Mayor Blackwell. She thanked Police Officer Richard Kepple for the great presentation he did in her Driver's Ed Class.

Mayor Blackwell appointed Evangeline Ellwein to The Planning Commission.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion: Councilmember Minor moved to approve the Consent Calendar as listed:

- a) Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting August 15, 2016
- b) Check Register September 1, 2016 for \$230.57
- c) Check Register September 6, 2016 for \$77,083.34
- d) Accounts Payable September 19, 2016 for \$83,317.51
- e) Payroll Check Register 8/15-8/20/2016 for \$63,197.21
- f) Payroll Check Register 8/31/16 to 9/5/2016 for \$80,481.51

Mayor Pro Tem Huber seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Huber moved to approve the agenda. Councilmember Quinton seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

RESOLUTION NO.2016-09 AMENDING MASTER FEE SCHEDULE F

Staff received correspondence from the WA State Patrol that there would be a decrease of \$2.75 in the cost of fingerprint based background check for a concealed pistol license. Resolution No.2016-09 would amend Schedule F and would reflect the reduced cost from \$50.75 to \$48.00 effective October 1, 2016.

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Motion: Councilmember Quinton moved to adopt Resolution No. 2016-09 Amending Schedule F of the Master Fee Schedule as presented. Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

WATER AND SEWER RATE INCREASE FOR 2017

City Administrator Maria Peña reported that in keeping with the recommendation made by the Financial Consulting Solutions Group in the Water/Sewer Rate Update in 2014 the Council would need to look at rate increases for the water and sewer rates. FCS proposed a 3% rate increase for water and a 3% rate increase for sewer. City Administrator Peña 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 21st to December 20th billing with payments to begin on the January 2017 billing cycle. Consensus from council was to move forward and prepare a Resolution with a 3% rate increase per water and sewer.

WIRELESS INTERNET SYSTEM REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Mayor Blackwell was persistent in trying to provide reliable high-speed, wireless internet at a very reasonable cost to the residents of Connell. The wireless internet system project would be advertised for request for proposals and all proposals would be due by 9:00am September 29, 2016. The proposed site is the existing water tower directly north of the Connell Elementary School. The site, zoned Public Facility, allows use by utilities per CMC 17.17.020. The water tower would need a few upgrades for equipment. Once a provider was selected and had complied with CMC 17.28, as it applied to the siting of a wireless (with no freestanding support structure), an Antennae Site Lease Agreement would be established.

Motion: Councilmember Silva moved to authorize staff to advertise for a proposal for wireless internet system. Councilmember Minor seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE / DEPARTMENT REPORTS

CITY ADMINISTRATOR- Maria Peña

1. Has been very busy and thanked everyone who gave her a warm welcome.
2. Thanked Fire Chief Schulte and all the volunteer firefighters for their help, they've done a great job.
3. Submitted the Tree City USA application and thanked board member Ken Sellereite.
4. Would like each department to provide informational classes on their department. Classes could be called Connell University. They would be open to the public and be held every other month at the Town Hall meeting. Once a schedule was set up it would be posted on the city website.
5. In the process of providing a report of "what is happening in Connell" to the Franklin Co. Graphic.

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FIRE CHIEF- Chris Schulte

1. Fire District #1 issued a State mobilization request to manage the Kahlotus fires.
2. A Type 3 team was here and managed the State Mobilization; they used the Fire Hall building as their Instant Command Post. The Livestock/Agriculture building was also used.
3. A fire at milepost ten started two miles out of town to the east on HW 260, by a contractor working for the BPA. He continued a road brushing project during a red flag warning and a 20mph plus wind event.
4. A fire analysis for Coyote Ridge Corrections Center was done.
5. The Firemen breakfast during Fall Festival went well and collected more donations from public than usual.
6. Rick Kent was recognized for his 24 years of service on the Fire Department.

CITY CLERK/TREASURER- Rose Courneya

1. Introduced and welcomed new Accounting Clerk Genesis Bernal.
2. Reminded the council financial reports were handed out and attached to their agenda packet.
3. Informed everyone that auditors would be doing a three year audit and would be at City Hall for the next few weeks.

BUILDING AND PLANNING- Sterling Joyner

1. The city has had an increase in roofing applications. A total of twenty permits this year, eleven more than last year and nineteen more than the year before.
2. Appreciated residents coming to him with questions.

CITY COUNCIL CLOSING REMARKS

Councilmember Quinton- Thanked City Administrator Peña and City Clerk/Treasurer Courneya for preparation of the financial reports.

Councilmember Escalera- Thanked and welcomed new employee Genesis Bernal.

Councilmember Silva- Thanked City Administrator Peña and appreciated her budget 101 class presentation and to all staff for all their work.

Councilmember Minor- Appreciated City Administrator Peña's sincerity and all her hard work.

Mayor Pro Tem Huber- Welcomed Genesis Bernal aboard and thanked City Administrator Peña and City Clerk/Treasurer Courneya.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business before the City Council of Connell Mayor Blackwell adjourned the meeting at 6:56 pm.

ATTEST: _____
Marissa Canales, Accounting Clerk

Bruce Blackwell, Mayor