

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

January 6, 2014

City Attorney Dan Hultgrenn administered the Oath of Office to: Ray Minor Council Position #5, Kathy Silvia Council Position #6, Joe Escalera Council Position # 4, Rhonda Quinton Council Position #3, and Monty Huber Council Position #2.

Newly elected Mayor Bruce Blackwell was administered Oath of Office on December 23, 2013 by Attorney Dan Hultgrenn.

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 Monty Huber, and Councilmember's: Rhonda Quinton, Joe Escalera, Kathie Silva, and Ray Minor.

**STAFF:** Attorney Dan Hultgrenn, Fire Chief Chris Schulte, Police Chief Interim Alan Chertok, Building Services Clerk Sterling Joyner, Maintenance Worker III/Water System Operator Les Guilford, and City Clerk/Treasurer Maria Peña.

**VISITORS:** Kathy Bingham, Franklin County Graphic; Citizens: Becky Escalera, Angie Sessions, James Sessions, Kade McCombs, Marci Cox, Lee Barrow, Jody Barker, Burl Booker, Helen Tobin, John Lindner, Claudia Bingham, Pam Guilford, and Andy Sawyer.

**Motion:** Councilmember Quinton moved to appoint Councilmember Monty Huber as Mayor Pro Tem. Councilmember Minor seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

Interim Police Chief Chertok spoke about commendation for Brett Clinton, Officer Shane Thorson, and Franklin County Monty Huber for an incident at the Connell Pharmacy. Interim Police Chief Chertok also thanked Officer Shane Thorson for applying for a grant to provide greater oriented for child seat safety use.

Fire Chief Schulte added Mr. Brett Clinton was a great asset to the Connell volunteer fire department.

CONSENT CALENDAR

**Motion:** Councilmember Silva moved to approve the Consent Calendar as presented.

- a) Minutes of the Regular Council meeting December 2, 2013
- b) Check Register 12/3/2013 for \$206.82
- c) Check Register 12/16/2013 for \$102,336.77
- d) Accounts Payable 12/31/2013 for \$51,689.35
- e) Accounts Payable 1/6/2014 for \$15,211.89
- f) Payroll Register 11/30 to 12/05/2013 for \$81,880.67

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- g) Payroll Register 12/15 to 12/20/2013 for \$41,806.74
- h) Payroll Register 12/31/2013 for \$28,750.95
- i) Payroll Register 01/03/2014 for \$37,877.81

Councilmember Quinton seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Motion:** Councilmember Quinton moved to approve the Agenda with addition of:  
12A) Consideration of Agreement with former Police Chief  
Mayor Pro Tem Huber seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR POSITION DISCUSSION

John Darrington advised Councilmembers that all current candidates were still interested in the open city administrator position. Mayor Blackwell set the date of Friday January 24, 2014 for the Public Meet and Greet with the city administrator candidates. The Meet and Greet would start at 6:30 pm at the Connell Community Center. Interviews are scheduled to take place on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Mr. Darrington will provide a timeline proposal to Mayor Blackwell on the city administrator hiring process.

POLICE CHIEF POSITION DISCUSSION

Mayor Blackwell informed Councilmembers that an ad for the open Police Chief position was going to be printed in the local newspapers. Mayor Pro Tem Huber made a suggestion that the city post the Police Chief position on the Washington Criminal Justice and Training Commission website and the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs website.

**Motion:** Mayor Pro Tem Huber made motion to expand the advertising for the Police Chief position to include Washington Criminal Justice and Training Commission website, and the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs website.  
Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION ON TOWN HALL MEETING 2<sup>ND</sup> MONDAY OF EACH MONTH  
Mayor Blackwell intends to hold a Town Hall meeting each second Monday of the month to give the citizens of Connell an extra meeting to voice their opinions. Discussion was held. City Attorney Hultgrenn will prepare an ordinance for the next council meeting setting a Town Hall meeting for the second Monday of each month at 6:00 pm at the Connell Community Center.

MEETING RECESSED

At 6:51 pm Mayor Blackwell announced an Executive Session for 10 minutes to discuss with legal counsel representing the City litigation or potential litigation to which the City, or a city council member or employee is, or may be, a party.

MEETING RECONVENED

Mayor Blackwell reconvened the Regular Meeting at 7:01 pm and the following was heard:

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**Motion:** Councilmember Escalera moved to accept the severance and release agreement with former police chief Mike Kessler dated December 30, 2013. Councilmember Minor seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Fire Chief Schulte informed Councilmembers of a monthly emergency preparation awareness meeting at the Connell Community Center. Fire Chief Schulte was also preparing an emergency response program for Connell.

Interviews for the Police Officer/Animal Control position were taking place on January 9<sup>th</sup>.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business before the City Council of Connell, Mayor Blackwell adjourned the meeting at 7:19 pm.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Rose Courneya, Deputy City Clerk/Treasurer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bruce Blackwell, Mayor