

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

October 7, 2013

The regular semi-monthly meeting, of the Connell City Council was called to order by Mayor Walton at 6:00 pm in the City Hall and was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor Gary Walton, Mayor Pro Tem Rhonda Quinton, and Councilmember's: Monty Huber, Lee Barrow, Kathie Silva, and Ray Minor.

STAFF: Attorney Dan Hultgrenn, Public Works Director Larry Turner, Fire Chief Chris Schulte, and City Clerk/Treasurer Maria Peña.

VISITORS: Kathy Bingham, Franklin County Graphic ; Roger Bordon, Eric Dominguez, Columbia Basin Health Association; Citizens: Claudia Bingham, Barry Bingham, Mark Scott, Kelle Scott, Mary Geissler, Bruce Blackwell, John Lindner, Charles Raabe, Orion Raabe, Mary Geissler, Maro Ortiz, and Joe Escalera.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion: Councilmember Silva moved to approve the Consent Calendar with corrections.

- a) Minutes of the Regular Council meeting September 16, 2013
(Correct spelling on John Darrington and add Roger Bailie to the list of visitors)
- b) Check Register 10/2/2013 for \$214.97
- c) Accounts Payable 10/7/2013 for \$223,409.93
- d) Payroll Check Register 9/15-9/20/2013 for \$44,392.46
- e) Payroll Check Register 9/30-10/05/2013 for \$76,559.47

Mayor Pro Tem Quinton seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENT/NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mark Scott 644 N. Columbia-Mr. Scott stated this was his third month coming to Council in regards to feral cats. Mr. Scott would like to see cats added to the Connell Municipal Code. Why do dog owners have to be responsible and not cat owners?

Councilmember Minor mentioned the current code was not being enforced so adding cats wouldn't change the situation.

City Attorney Dan Hultgrenn had provided resources to the city on different approaches the city could take on the feral cat issue.

Councilmember Barrow didn't think Mr. Scott's issue was with feral cats but if he thought someone was violating the ordinance he should take his concerns up with the police department.

Mayor Walton talked about enforcement issues and educating the citizens of Connell. He stated the police department was working on enforcing the current city codes.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Councilmember Minor moved to approve the Agenda with addition of:
10A. Extending ConAgra Contract.
Councilmember Barrow seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

COLUMBIA BASIN HEALTH-ERIC DOMINGEZ

Eric Domingez and Roger Bordon from Columbia Basin Health Association gave Councilmembers a presentation on the Affordable Care Act. In 2014 everyone will be required to have health insurance or will have to pay a fine. There were a few exceptions to this rule. Four levels of health care coverage's were available-Bronze 60% coverage, Silver 70% coverage, Gold 80% coverage, and Platinum 90% coverage. The Washington State Market Place was available for people to purchase health care coverage. People from ages 19 to 64 have until December 15, 2013 to enroll for health care coverage's through the Washington State Market Place for coverage in January 2014.

ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON CITIES INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT

Association of Washington Cities announced the projection of not rate increase for Medical, Dental, and Vision in 2014. Employers are required to approve a resolution and an Interlocal Agreement authorizing participation in the self-insured program. City Attorney Dan Hultgren had reviewed the resolution and Interlocal Agreement.

Motion: Councilmember Silva moved to adopt Resolution No. 2013-09 and authorize the Mayor to sign the Interlocal Agreement with the Association of Washington Cities Benefit Trust. Mayor Pro Tem Quinton seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

PRELIMINARY 2014 BUDGET DISCUSSION

City Clerk/Treasurer Maria Peña provided Councilmembers with current information on estimates of revenues from all sources as adopted in the budget for the current year and expenditure projections for the current year. Clerk/Treasurer Peña reviewed each funds expenditures and revenues for 2013. The preliminary 2014 budget projections for revenues and expenditures were also provided to Councilmembers for discussion.

EXTENDING CONAGRA CONTRACT

Mayor Walton explained ConAgra would like to extend the current water rate contract with the city for one year due to the FCS study on the water rates not being done. After the FCS Group completes the rate study, ConAgra would like to enter into a three year contract with the city. Therefore, ConAgra would not have to redo the contract each year.

Unfinished Business: Bring back contract to next meeting.

MEETING RECESSED

At 7:42 pm Mayor Walton announced an Executive Session for 20 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.

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MEETING RECONVENED

Mayor Walton reconvened the Regular Meeting at 8:02 pm.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Fire Chief Schulte informed Councilmembers of some damages that occurred to a Connell fire truck and the Connell fire station at the Fireman's Breakfast.

Mayor Walton advised the council that Mr. Darrington was advertising for the City Administrator Position.

Mayor Walton had five people inquire about the temporary Police Chief. The Mayor will not open the Police Chief position officially until a new city administrator was hired.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business before the City Council of Connell, Mayor Walton adjourned the meeting at 8:04 pm.

ATTEST: _____
Rose Courneya, Deputy City Clerk/Treasurer

Gary Walton, Mayor