

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

October 21, 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: City Attorney Heidi Ellerd, Public Works Director Larry Turner, Fire Chief Chris Schulte, Police Chief Interim Alan Chertok, and Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Rose Courneya.

VISITORS: Kathy Bingham, Franklin County Graphic; Citizens: Claudia Bingham and Barry Bingham.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Walton received a liquor license renewal notice from the Washington State Liquor Board for El Jazmin and a notice for a liquor permit for the Greater Connell Chamber of Commerce's Wine & Brew Fest.

Mayor Walton received a letter from the Tri Cities Visitor & Convention Bureau extending an invitation to the Bureau's Annual Meeting.

CONSENT CALENDAR

**Motion:** Mayor Pro Tem Quinton moved to approve the Consent Calendar as presented.

- a) Minutes of the Regular Council meeting October 7, 2013
- b) Check Register 10/8/2013 for \$14,311.96
- c) Accounts Payable October 21, 2013 for \$91,161.13
- d) Payroll Check Register 10/15-10/20/2013 for \$38,878.06

Councilmember Minor seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENT/NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Councilmember Barrow asked about the new building for housing the police cars.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Motion:** Mayor Pro Tem Quinton moved to approve the Agenda as presented. Councilmember Barrow seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING –MORATORIUM FOR RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA

Mayor Walton recessed the regular meeting at 6:10 pm and opened a Public Hearing for the purpose of discussing a Moratorium for Recreational Marijuana.

*STAFF REPORT:*

City Attorney Heidi Ellerd stated a resolution was being presented to council for approval on recreational marijuana. The City has a work plan on medical marijuana.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None Heard

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COUNCILMEMBERS COMMENT PORTION OF THE HEARING: No citizens had issues that were heard by Councilmembers.

Mayor Walton closed the hearing and opened regular meeting at 6:15 pm.

**Motion:** Councilmember Barrow moved to adopt Resolution No. 2013-10. Councilmember Huber seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING-REVENUE SOURCES AND PROPERTY TAXES

Mayor Walton recessed the regular meeting at 6:15 pm and opened a Public Hearing for the purpose of discussing Revenue Sources and Property Taxes for 2014.

*STAFF REPORT:*

Deputy Clerk /Treasurer Courneya reviewed the proposed increase of 1% for the 2014 property taxes. The city would receive an additional \$4,082.96 in revenue. Each year the city was allowed to increase property taxes by 1%.

Revenue Sources- The beginning fund balance for the 2014 Reserve Fund was reduced for unexpected expenditures to the fire hall and a fire truck. Another expenditure change in the 2014's preliminary budget was an additional expense of \$15,000 for new servers. The city was currently operating on borrowed servers.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None Heard

COUNCILMEMBERS COMMENT PORTION OF THE HEARING:

Councilmember Minor asked if the fire hall and fire truck damage would be reimbursed by the city's insurance.

Mayor Walton closed the hearing and opened regular meeting at 6:21 pm.

**Motion:** Councilmember Silva moved to adopt Ordinance No. 940-2013 setting the AD Valorem General Property Taxes. Mayor Pro Tem Quinton seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

LAMB WESTON WATER RATES-ADDENDUM TO WATER AGREEMENT

Mayor Walton was in contact with ConAgra Lamb Weston on their current water agreement with the city. The City hired the FCS group to conduct a water rate study. The water rate study was not yet complete. Therefore, Mayor Walton was asking council to approve an extension to the current water rate agreement with ConAgra Lamb Weston. Once the FCS group study was completed, the city would renegotiate a new three year contract with ConAgra Lamb Weston.

**Motion:** Mayor Pro Tem Quinton moved to approve the addendum to the Water Rate Agreement with ConAgra Lamb Weston that would expire on November 19, 2014. Councilmember Barrow seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

COMPUTER NETWORK MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT-DEFUZION

**Tabled**

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**FCEM PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT**

Franklin County Emergency Management (FCEM) and the City of Connell Police Department applied for a grant to: relocate the radio building, do a site preparation, and some electrical work update. The cost of the work would be \$24,214. FCEM was now presenting Councilmembers with an agreement to administer the reimbursement of the \$24,214. Discussion was also held on additional funds that would be available to the city for future projects.

**Motion:** Mayor Pro Tem Quinton moved to approve the Franklin County Professional Service Agreement in the amount of \$24,214 and the Mayor to sign the agreement after City Attorney Dan Hultgrenn reviewed the contract. Councilmember Barrow seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**RESERVE OFFICER APPOINTMENTS AND DISCUSSION**

Mayor Walton introduced Interim Police Chief Alan Chertok. Interim Police Chief Chertok talked about the police officers reserve program. He asked Councilmembers to temporally suspend Section 2.24.020 (3) of Chapter 2.24 of the Connell Municipal Code to allow reserve officers to reside outside the corporate limits of the city.

Discussion was a held on what the reserve officers could do and what the duties were of a reserve officer.

Interim Police Chief Chertok and Mayor Walton requested council to appoint Leticia Cervantes and Megan Aranda as reserve officers for the City of Connell. Leticia and Megan have been provided training and uniforms by the city.

**Motion:** Councilmember Barrow moved to temporally suspend Section 2.24.020 (3) of Chapter 2.24, until an ordinance was brought back to Councilmembers for approval. Mayor Pro Tem Quinton seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPOINTMENT**

**Motion:** Councilmember Barrow moved to appoint Leticia Cervantes and Megan Aranda to the City of Connell Reserve Officer program. Councilmember Silva seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**2014 BUDGET DISCUSSION-CODE ENFORCEMENT**

Mayor Walton discussed with Councilmembers an additional position within the city for a police officer/animal control person. The position would be paid for by the public safety criminal justice tax. The school district was looking for a part time person for a resource officer. The school would work with the city and pay a portion of the wages back to the city for used of the police officer/animal control person.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Fire Chief Schulte gave Councilmembers an update on the Fire Department.

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MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business before the City Council of Connell, Mayor Walton adjourned the meeting at 7:30 pm.

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

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Gary Walton, Mayor