

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

April 20, 2015

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: Joe Escalera, Rhonda Quinton, Kathie Silva, and Ray Minor.

STAFF: City Attorney Heidi Ellerd, City Administrator Jed Crowther, Public Works Director Larry Turner, Police Chief Chris Turner, Building Service Clerk Sterling Joyner, and City Clerk/Treasurer Maria Peña.

VISITORS: Kathy Bingham, Franklin County Graphic; Andy Anderson, Housing Authority, Troy Woody, Inovus; Sandra Cerna, and Chris Cerna.

CORRESPONDENCE/APPOINTMENTS

City Administrator Crowther introduced Sandra Cerna as the Interim Parks & Recreation Director.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

- a) Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting April 6, 2015
- b) Minutes of the Town Hall Meeting April 13, 2015
- c) Payroll Check Register 4/13/2015 for \$11,402.53
- d) Accounts Payable April 20, 2015 for \$158,167.53
- e) Payroll Check Register 4/15-4/20/2015 for \$55,611.00

Mayor Pro Tem Huber seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Councilmember Quinton approved agenda as presented. Councilmember Silva seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

HOUSING AUTHORITY PRESENTATION-ANDY ANDERSON

Andy Anderson provided a power point presentation to Councilmembers. Mr. Anderson gave some history on the Housing Authority of the City of Pasco and Franklin County. He also spoke on housing projects in our area and offered a proposal for agriculture housing in Connell. The Housing Authority was requesting support from the City Council to move forward in bringing low income housing to Connell. The housing project would take several years to complete.

COMMUNITY SOLAR PROJECT

Troy Woody provided Councilmembers a power point presentation. Washington State had put together an incentive for solar energy. Solar projects were usually expensive projects. Troy Woody from Inovus stated there were several benefits for solar panels in Connell. Some of the benefits would be: no cost to the city, no cost to citizens, tax credits, and once project costs are paid off, 100% of profits would go to the city. Troy Woody had

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been working with Public Works Director Turner to put solar panels on the city street lights. Mr. Woody agreed to do an analysis every 5 years. The cost to install solar panels was about \$1,200 for each pole. Councilmember held discussion.

Motion: Councilmember Quinton move to approve a letter be prepared to Inovus for City Administrator Crowther to sign indicating that the council is interested in further exploring the installation of solar panels on the light poles as long as further investigation indicates that the City is a good candidate and pending approval of the form of the contract by legal counsel. Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

BASIN DISPOSAL –SANITATION RATES

Basin Disposal, the City's solid waste collection vendor, presented a notice to the City of an increase in rates to the City for sanitation collections of 0.54% in accordance with the City's service agreement. Upon adoption of the resolution, the updated Schedule G would go into effect June 21, 2015.

Motion: Councilmember Minor moved to adopt Resolution No. 2015-05 amending the Connell Master Fee Schedule. Mayor Pro Tem Huber and Councilmember Quinton seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING-AMERICOLD & CITY OF CONNELL

The City of Connell Fire Chief, Chris Schulte met with Americold personal William Russell and Meredith Denny on 04/13/2015. Both parties discussed the attached MOU and Emergency Response Plan in regards to the City of Connell's Fire Department role if responding to an anhydrous ammonia incident at the Americold Connell Facility. Fire Chief Schulte was asking Councilmembers to approve Memorandum of Understanding with Americold.

Motion: Councilmember Quinton moved to approve the Mayor to sign Memorandum of Understand between the City of Connell and Americold. Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously

FEMA GRANT-POLICE DEPARTMENT

With the consolidation of Benton and Franklin E911 Communication Centers into one separate entity called MATRICS on the horizon Connell Police Department has the opportunity to apply for a joint FEMA grant along with Franklin County Sheriff's Office and the Port of Pasco Police for new mobile and portable radios that will work either on the current VHF platform or the proposed 800 MHz system that all law enforcement will eventually go to under MATRICS. The City of Connell's cost would be 25% of 130,000.

Motion: Councilmember Silva moved to approve Police Chief Chris Turner to apply for a FEMA grant for new mobile and portable radios. Mayor Pro Tem Huber seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

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MID-COLUMBIA LIBRARY-PIONEER PARK POOL PASSES

Each year the City of Connell had supported the Mid-Columbia Library summer reading program by offering free passes to the Pioneer Park Pool. Helen Tobin was requesting the City's support with the reading program by providing pool passes. Co

Motion: Councilmember Silva moved to approve swimming pool passes for the Mid-Columbia Library reading program, with staff counting how many passes are actually used. Councilmember Quinton seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE / DEPARTMENT REPORTS

City Clerk/Treasurer -Maria Peña

- A) Provided monthly financial reports to Councilmembers

CITY ADMINISTRATOR –Jed Crowther

- A) CDBG-Anderson Perry reviewing best target for application
- B) Float trailer would be arriving shortly
- C) Advertised for Pool Manager
- D) Advertised for lifeguards
- E) Park Board-will be talking about pool fees and scheduling
- F) Closed out Pharmacy Lease-Property was available –ordered appraisal

POLICE CHIEF- Chris Turner

- A) Leticia Cervantes last day was April 15, 2015
- B) Interviewing for new officer
- C) Officer Gutierrez was assaulted by a juvenile

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR-Larry Turner

- A) Showed pictures of the Pavilion Construction
- B) Quiet Zone working on
- C) Striker Park update

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business before the City Council of Connell, Mayor Blackwell adjourned the meeting at 7:39 pm.

ATTEST: _____
Rose Courneya, Deputy City Clerk/Treasurer

Bruce Blackwell, Mayor