

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

June 1, 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, Kathie Silva, Rhonda Quinton, and Ray Minor.

STAFF: City Attorney Dan Hultgren, City Administrator Jed Crowther, Public Works Director Larry Turner, Police Chief Chris Turner, Fire Chief Chris Schulte, and City Clerk/Treasurer Maria Peña.

VISITORS: Kathy Bingham, Franklin County Graphic and Justin Taylor, Connell Business owner.

CORRESPONDENCE/APPOINTMENTS

Park Board will have a vacancy. Citizens welcome to submit letters of interest.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

- a) Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting May 18, 2015
 - b) Utility Refund to Leroy Welch for \$497.69
 - c) Accounts Payable 6/1/2015 for \$74,791.33
 - d) Payroll Check Register 5/15-5/20/2015 for \$53,565.58
 - e) Campbell & Company - Heat Pump Replacement \$9,390 plus tax
- Mayor Pro Tem Huber seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Huber approved agenda as presented. Councilmember Minor seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING-SIX YEAR TRANSPORTAION IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2016-2021
Mayor Blackwell recessed the regular meeting at 6:04 pm and opened a Public Hearing for the purpose reviewing the Six Year Transportation Improvement Plan 2016-2021.

STAFF REPORT: Public Works Director Larry Turner provided a power point presentation to Councilmember's that reviewed the changes to the 2016-2021 STIP plan. The Street Committee had met and went over the State Transportation Improvement Plan. A resolution will be presented to the councilmember's at the Regular Council meeting on June 15, 2015, for adoption of the 2016-2021 STIP.

PUBLIC COMMENTS None

COUNCILMEMBERS COMMENT PORTION OF THE HEARING: Council consensus was to move forward with changes to the 2016-2021 STIP.

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Mayor Blackwell closed the hearing and opened regular meeting at 6:16 pm.

COUNCIL RULES FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

City Administrator Crowther received input from councilmember's at the last council meeting on public participation. The purpose was to structure and conduct meetings with consistent rules. Past practice, the City provided citizens time to comment. Councilmember's held discussion.

Motion: Councilmember Quinton moved to adopt Council Rules for the Public Participation June 1, 2015. Councilmember Minor seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously

PARK RE-NAMING POLICY

A park re-naming requesting was sent directly to Park Board members. The City values all contributions and the achievements of community members. City Administrator Crowther thought there was a better ways to recognize citizens. Mr. Crowther recommended not renaming the city parks.

Council held discussion and the following was heard:

- 1) Would be nice to recognize achievement
- 2) Don't change names of parks
- 3) Maybe place plaques for recognition

Council consensus was to not rename city parks.

SURPLUS PROPERTY DESIGNATION-FORMER PHARMACY BUILDING

City Administrator Crowther reviewed the steps the City would need to take to surplus a city building. In the City Administrators view of the former pharmacy building, as a general fund property, with limited return, the cities primary intent would be to sell the building. Information was provided to all parties interested in the former pharmacy building. Mr. Crowther stated the city could not gift properties. A local business was interested in expanding it's business in town. The first step to market the city building would be to adopt Resolution No. 2015-08 to surplus the former pharmacy building.

Councilmembers held discussion and the following was heard:

- 1) More information was needed
- 2) What was the library committee told?
- 3) Make sure the library had adequate time to find resources
- 4) Was it safe to have a library next to a garage?
- 5) Swap library buildings
- 6) Building should be sold
- 7) Make sure everyone had proper time to bid on property

Motion: Councilmember Huber moved to adopt Resolution No. 2015-08 Surplus Property Designation of the former pharmacy building. Councilmember Minor seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously

STREET VACATION PROCESS NEAR COMMUNITY CENTER

Since 2008, efforts were made to better utilize corner property near Community Center. Now, with purchase by the City – of the Community Center parking lot parcel – from Franklin County, the opportunity was available to best optimize use.

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An old, unopened street designation currently encumbers suitable development; to create a corner lot. Adjoining owners have discussed a concept plan, via street vacation procedure, to make the property more useable. This would eventually put the property on the tax rolls and improve appearance/use. Otherwise, it would remain as an unusable, weedy corner property.

Street vacation is governed by RCW 35.79. The first step is to initiate vacation procedure by resolution. Then, a hearing would be scheduled and research information provided, to fairly determine best use.

Motion: Councilmember Quinton moved to approve Resolution No. 2015-09, intent to Vacate Unopened Street, near Burke and Elm. Councilmember Minor seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously

E-CIVIS MASTER SUBSCRIPTION AND SERVICE AGREEMENT –GRANT TOOL

City Administrator Jed Crowther viewed a grants resource demo which would help especially to locate available grant opportunities. This added service by eCIVIS would save time in seeking the most current, relevant opportunities. For example, to search by keyword for “parks” or “rail” or “library” grants, updated continuously.

Mr. Crowther viewed this as a useful resource; an investment that could tap into more funding opportunities. The Cost was \$690 per year. Council held discussion.

Motion: Councilmember Silva moved to approve ECivis Master Subscription and Service Agreement and authorize Jed Crowther to sign on behalf of the City. Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously

COMMITTEE / DEPARTMENT REPORTS

CITY ADMINISTRATOR –Jed Crowther

A) Request for proposal for Rail Planning Study

POLICE CHIEF- Chris Turner

A) Homicide trial going to start-Defendant settled

B) Homicide 2013- fled to Mexico-has been apprehended

C) Attending Training

D) Dare Graduation

E) Lots of Graffiti

F) New Officer attended Academy

G) Drug task force recovered drugs at Connell Park Estates

H) FEMA Grant- \$845K –made through first round

FIRE CHIEF- Chris Schulte

A) Travelled to Elma for fireworks training

B) Hazmat collection booth

C) June 6th- Fire Truck going to Kahlotus Parade

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR-Larry Turner

A) Public works cleaning up Graffiti

B) Pool almost ready

C) Working on Code Enforcement-hand out list

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CLERK/TREASURER- Maria Peña

A) Annual Report for 2014 was submitted

MEETING RECESSED

At 7:26 pm Mayor Blackwell announced an Executive Session for 10 minutes to consider the minimum price to which real estate will be offered for lease or sale.

Mayor Blackwell came out at 7:36 pm extended Executive Session for 10 minutes.

MEETING RECONVENED

Mayor Blackwell reconvened the Regular Meeting at 7:46 pm and the following was heard:

Motion: Councilmember Silva moved to list property at appraisal price of \$85,000.
Councilmember Minor seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously

Property would be advertised for sale.

City would entertain offers.

Property would be listed until sold or further direction for council.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business before the City Council of Connell, Mayor Blackwell adjourned the meeting at 7:50 pm.

ATTEST: _____
Rose Courneya, Deputy City Clerk/Treasurer

Bruce Blackwell, Mayor