

MEETING OF THE CITY OF CONNELL, WASHINGTON
CONNELL, FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON
March 5, 2018

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

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor Lee Barrow and Councilmembers: Mayor Pro Tem Ray Minor, John White, Patricia Barrera and Joe Escalera.

EXCUSED: Councilmember Escalera moved to excuse Councilmember Kathie Silva. Councilmember Barrera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

STAFF: City Administrator Maria Peña, Public Works Director Larry Turner, Police Chief Chris Turner, Accounting Clerk Marissa Ortiz, Fire Chief Chris Schulte and City Attorney Dan Hultgrenn.

APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Lee Barrow appointed Kevin Thorson to the Civil Service Commission and Carol Linder and Cindy Welch to the Tree Advisory Board.

Motion: Councilmember Escalera moved to appoint Kevin Thorson to the Civil Service Commission and Carol Linder and Cindy Welch to the Tree Advisory Board. Mayor Pro Tem Minor seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Minor moved to approve the consent calendar as presented:

- a) Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting February 20, 2018
- b) Accounts payable March 5, 2018 for \$37,288.59
- c) Payroll Register 2/15/18-2/20/18 for \$62,468.96

Councilmember White seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Councilmember Barrera moved to approve the agenda as presented. Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

OFF ROAD VEHICLES – PUBLIC COMMENT

The public was invited to comment in regards to the allowance of off road vehicles on city streets. City Administrator Maria Peña included sections of Title 46 which provided for the allowance of off road vehicles and golf carts and provided ordinances adopted by other cities.

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PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Bob Vanderbilt- Stated he had been a Connell resident for 57 years and physically had MS. He drove around on a golf cart to get by and felt that as a small town we should do what we could for the community.

Alfred Broberg- Said he too had lived in Connell for over 50 years. He felt that for older folks it was a convenient vehicle to use around the small community.

Hubert Rigor- A Pastor of the Methodist Church was in agreement with Mr. Vanderbilt and Mr. Broberg. He would like to see guidelines put in place to keep the community safe.

Burl Booker- Stated he was in favor of allowing as well. During the Fall Festival these vehicles were handy.

Consensus of the Council was to continue to move forward and create a draft ordinance to bring back at a later date.

COUNCILMEMBERS COMMENT:

Mayor Lee Barrow- Stressed that there would definitely be laws in place to make them safe if the City allowed off road vehicles.

Councilmember Barrera- Appreciated the research provided for review based on what other communities were currently doing.

Mayor Pro Tem Minor- Was in favor of allowing but how would the driver be insured?
Mr. Vanderbilt- From Ed Poe Insurance Agency replied a golf cart could be insured by ones homeowners' policy. A four-wheeler would need to be covered under a separate specific policy.

Councilmember White- Was not against authorizing but the City would need to make adjustments such as pathways and signs, not just an ordinance put in place.

Councilmember Escalera- Would like to see it be implemented.

ORDINANCE NO. 988-2018 COMPLETE STREET PROGRAM

Public Works Director Larry Turner stated the Complete Streets Award was a new funding opportunity for local governments. He continued on to say the legislature provided funding in 2015 and the first awards were given in January of 2017. Awards ranged between \$125,000 and \$500,000. It's offered one time a year and was 100% funded. Approval of this Ordinance was the first step of the process. It would allow the City into the program through the Transportation Improvement Board. The next awards were tentatively scheduled for an open call in 2018 and awards in 2019.

Motion: Councilmember White moved to approve Complete Street Program Ordinance No. 988-2018. Councilmember Barrera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

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LAND ADJACENT TO TENNIS COURTS

City Administrator Maria Peña stated the City recently received an inquiry as to whether the money received for the sale of the lots adjacent to the tennis court would go back to City youth recreational. The City had received similar inquires since former City Administrator Jed Crowther first initiated the process of changing the land use from Public Facility to Residential. It was the belief that the Dick Johnson family donated that land to the City. The mention of the Johnson's family donation in the minutes was not found in an archive search. City Administrator Peña did speak to Orman Johnson who would also do some research. A title report showed the City purchased the land from Northern Pacific Railway Company (NPRC) in 1954. In a contract made between NPRC and the Town of Connell for the purchase of the land it was mentioned "The purchaser may take possession of said property upon the execution of this contract and proceed with the drilling of a well to obtain water for the municipal water supply for the Town of Connell, State of Washington." The deed provided that all mineral rights were reserved by the grantor (NPRC) as long as such entry and work would not injure the construction, maintenance, use or operation of a well for municipal water supply. By this information it was believed that the original intent of the purchase of this land was for water purposes. If the revenue received from the sale of these lots was to go anywhere it would be to the water department. Former Administrator Crowther pursued changing the land use to Residential and completed the process in November of 2015.

COUNCIL CHAMBER EQUIPMENT

For years now, City Administrator Maria Peña said staff looked at reconfiguring the Council Chambers to make it more efficient. The City had been limited in possible configurations because of the dais. The City of West Richland had recently moved into a new facility and had no use for their old council chamber equipment and declared them surplus. They were willing to provide the equipment to the city at no cost. If the City staff decided not to utilize the equipment in the Council Chambers they could be stored and used at the Community Center for different events. Staff requested authorization to look into the cost of reconfiguring the Council Chambers utilizing the donated equipment with a cost estimate to be brought back to Council during the 2019 budget discussions.

Consensus of the Council was to utilize the donated equipment.

MEETING RECESSED

Mayor Barrow recessed the regular council meeting at 6:40 pm to go into executive session for 15 minutes to discuss the purchase of real estate and to consider the minimum price at which real estate will be offered for sale.

City Attorney Dan Hultgrenn extended the Executive session 5 minutes on behalf of the mayor.

MEETING RECONVENED

Mayor Barrow called the regular council meeting back to order at 7:00 pm.

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LAND PURCHASE – OLD RAILROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY

Jim Klindworth provided the City with a sales offer for the sale of Parcel No. 109831361 and Parcel No. 109831362. The offer was for \$20,000 for both parcels. If accepted the City would pay all closing costs including title insurance and would provide the sellers with an IRS approved appraisal. They would also like to take part in the selection of the appraiser.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Minor moved to authorize staff to proceed with the purchase of the described ground for the purchase price of \$20,000 with the conditions specified. Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

CONNELL WELCOME CENTER – LETTER OF SUPPORT

City Administrator Maria Peña stated since the outcome of the previous agenda item was approved; she recommended that Council move to approve a letter of support. The letter would be sent to the Port of Pasco in support of the Connell Welcome Center Project.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Minor moved to approve a letter of support be sent to the Port of Pasco in support of the Connell Welcome Center Project. Councilmember Barrera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

URBAN GROWTH AREA EXPANSION

City Administrator Maria Peña said the City was approached by property owners in regards to expanding the City's Urban Growth Area to the east of HWY 395, attached was a map for Council to review. The expansion would allow for future annexation and development. An application for Comprehensive Plan Amendment for change to the urban growth area boundaries would need to be submitted to Franklin County. There was an \$800 amendment fee and \$80 certificate of ownership and variance report fee.

Motion: Councilmember Escalera moved to authorize staff to pursue the change in the urban growth boundary area and to complete the application with Franklin County. Councilmember Barrera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENT/NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Hubert Rigor appreciated the City Council and City Administrator Peña for actively participating in the breakfast meeting during the Inter Church Council.

Burl Booker addressed agenda item- Land adjacent to tennis courts property. Would still like to see the revenue of the sale go to the park system.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business before the City Council of Connell Mayor Barrow adjourned the meeting at 7:20 pm.

ATTEST: _____
Marissa Ortiz, Accounting Clerk

Lee Barrow, Mayor