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

March 3, 2014

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: Attorney Dan Hultgrenn, Fire Chief Chris Schulte, Police Chief Interim Alan Chertok, Public Works Director Larry Turner, Building Services Clerk Sterling Joyner, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Rose Courneya.

VISITORS: Kathy Bingham, Franklin County Graphic; Citizens: Jed Crowther, John Lindner, Terry Utecht, and Burl Booker. Carrie Adams, Connell pet rescue.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lep-re-kon Harvest Foods would be retailing Washington Wines.
Franklin County Planning and Building Department sent the city two notices of pending short plats in the county.
Association of Washington Cities was recruiting a board member for District #2 if anyone was interested.
Community Action Committee presented the City of Connell a Spirit of a Leader certificate.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

a) Minutes of the Regular Council meeting February 18,2014
b) Physical UFED Device Software License
c) Accounts Payable 3/3/2014 for $115,120.55
d) Payroll Check Register 2/15-2/20/2014 for $43,040.85

Councilmember Minor seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENT/NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Chief Interim Alan Chertok introduced the new Police Officer/Animal Control hire Leticia Cervantes.
Donna Martin had published an accommodation for Police Officer Richard Kepple.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Councilmember Quinton moved to approve the Agenda as presented.
Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

HOTEL MOTEL ALLOCATIONS

The Hotel Motel Committee met on February 27, 2014 and reviewed the applications for the Hotel/Motel Funds. The 2014 Hotel Motel allocations were budgeted for $12,000 in expenditures. The following was the recommendations for the Hotel/Motel Committee.

1) Chamber of Commerce $1,260
2) Downtown Development $1,460

3) Columbia Basin Junior Livestock $1,860
4) Miss Connell Scholarship Associating $4,460
5) Fall Festival $2,960

Motion: Councilmember Silva moved to approve Hotel/Motel Allocations at listed: Chamber of Commerce $1,260; Downtown Development $1,460; Columbia Basin Junior Livestock $1,860; Miss Connell Scholarship Associating $4,460; Fall Festival $2,960 Mayor Pro Tem Huber seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ANDERSON PERRY –ENGINEERING CONTRACT-PARK ESTATES WATER MAIN
City Attorney Dan Hultgrenn asked council to table contract until next meeting.

Motion: Councilmember Minor moved to defer contract until next council meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Huber seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business: Table

DEVFUZION COMPUTER MAINTENANCE CONTRACT
The city was presented a computer maintenance contract from Devfuzion in November of 2013. Staff was concerned with the price of the contract. Now several months later, staff has reevaluated the computer service, and feel's it's in the cities best interest to sign a maintenance agreement with Devfuzion. Councilmembers held discussion.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Huber moved to approve a Computer Maintenance Contract with Devfuzion. Councilmember Minor seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Blackwell provided an estimate from Devfuzion to Councilmembers for broadcasting the council meetings. Tabled until the next council meeting on March17, 2014.

Motion: Councilmember Minor moved to defer webcasting until the next council meeting. Councilmember Silva seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Blackwell called a 5 minutes recess at 6:38 pm.
Mayor Blackwell reconvened the Regular Meeting at 6:43 pm.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT
Mayor Blackwell would like to change the city administrator residency requirement ordinance. Councilmember Escalera voiced his concerns on the way the city administrator position hiring process went. Mayor Pro Tem Huber stated he didn't want to keep changing this ordinance and was ok with setting a radius. Councilmember Quinton liked the idea of the city administrator living within the community but that the community didn't necessarily mean city limits. Councilmember Silva was concerned that 20 miles was not enough.

Motion: Councilmember Escalera moved to approve Ordinance No. 946-2014 amending the residency requirement for the city administrator. Councilmember Minor seconded. Councilmember Quinton voted yes. Mayor Pro Tem Huber and Councilmember Silva voted no. Motion passed with a 3 to 2 vote.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR CONTRACT
Mayor Blackwell and city attorney Dan Hultgrenn had been working together to prepare a contract for the city administrator position.

Motion: Councilmember Quinton moved to approve Mayor Blackwell to offer the City Administrator position to Jeb Crowther. Mayor Pro Tem Huber seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: Councilmember Silva moved to approve the City Administrator Contract between the City of Connell and Jed Crowther. Councilmember Quinton seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

CHIEF OF POLICE CONTRACT
Motion: Councilmember Minor moved to defer contract until the next council meeting. Councilmember Silva seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously

WILDFIRE PROTECTION PROJECT GRANT
Fire Chief Chris Schulte had been trying to acquire grant funds from the Franklin County Emergency Management. The Emergency Management Office had received $25,000 in federal grant dollars for fire prevention and hazard mitigation. Funds would need to be used to offset a fuel treatment project in Connell. Large wood debris that were chip able would be the target of these funds.
Public Works Director Turner advised Councilmembers how the current chipping program worked in Connell. Mr. Turner also explained why the spring cleanup was not done anymore.

SAND TABLE EXERCISE
Fire Chief Schulte displayed a sand table module that was used to train fire fighters. These sand tables helped fire fighters work on decision making skills, communication, and developing their pattern recognition skills.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS
New City Administrator Jed Crowther thanked councilmember for placing trust in him for the city administrator responsibilities.
Fire Chief Schulte was attending a meeting in the Tri Cities that would provide backup fire protection resources.
Councilmember Escalera was concerned with the construction at the old quick mart building. Did the construction areas have to be fenced? Public works was working with the new owners of the quick mart building.

MEETING OF THE CITY OF CONNELL
Regular Meeting-March 3, 2014

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business before the City Council of Connell, Mayor Blackwell adjourned the meeting at 7:32 pm.

ATTEST: _____
Rose Courneya, Deputy City Clerk/Treasurer

_____
Bruce Blackwell, Mayor