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

July 18, 2016

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 Huber, and Councilmember's: Rhonda Quinton and Joe Escalera.

EXCUSED: Councilmember Quinton moved to excuse Councilmember's Minor and Silva. Councilmember Escalera seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

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

VISITORS: Kathy Bingham, Franklin County Graphic; Wendy & Michael Dowell, Pool Committee; Bryan Taylor, CED; Citizen: John White.

CORRESPONDENCE/PRESENTATIONS/APPOINTMENTS

Franklin County Planning and Building department informed the city of a notice of Public Hearing for a preliminary Plat Subdivision.
Fire Chief Schulte thanked the Connell Police department for assistance on fires that were responded to by Franklin County Fire District #1 and the City of Connell fire department.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Huber moved to approve the Consent Calendar as listed:

a) Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting July 5, 2016
b) Check Register July 6, 2016 for $267.00
c) Check Register July 6, 2016 for $13,664.36
d) Check Register July 7, 2016 for $752.54
e) Accounts Payable July 18, 2016 for $187,067.19
f) Payroll Check Register 6/30-7/5/2016 for $84,221.47

Councilmember Quinton seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS FOR COUNCILMEMBERS

Mike Dowell from the Pool Committee was working on finding funds for the City Pool. He discussed different ways and methods of procuring funding for the pool. Some of the options he found were through utility taxes, grants, and local options.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Councilmember Escalera moved to approve the agenda with change of moving #10 before #8. Councilmember Quinton seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

LED STREET LIGHTING PROJECT
Bryan Taylor from Consolidated Electrical Distributor provided a downtown street lighting energy upgrade presentation to Council. The presentation reviewed current lighting in the City of Connell and new lighting that would improve lighting levels, increase energy saving and have lower maintenance. Cost estimates for the upgrade were given to councilmember's. Public Works Director Larry Turner would like to apply for a Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) grant to update city street lighting. Council's consensus was to move forward with the application to TIB for LED street lighting.

TOWN HALL MEETINGS-CANCELLED
Mayor Blackwell had promised if he was elected Mayor, he would hold Town Hall meetings each month. Now after several years of holding these meetings, the Mayor has decided to cancel the Town Hall Meetings due to lack of interest. These meetings were designed to create a forum to work on problems that involve citizens participation, which never came to fruit. Therefore, lack of citizen participation makes the Town Hall Meeting moot and useless. Council held discussion and would like Mayor Blackwell to continue holding the Town Hall meetings each month.

2016 BUDGET MID-YEAR REPORT
City Clerk/Treasurer Maria Peña reviewed the 2016 Budget revenues and expenditures through June 2016. Overall the City's budget was at 48% of revenues and 45.2% expenditures. The City was right on track with the 2016 budget adopted at the mid-year point.

FISCAL YEAR 2017 BUDGET TIMELINE
City Clerk/Treasurer Maria Peña provided councilmember's and department heads with the 2017 Budget timeline of required budget dates.

CONSIDERATION OF SETTLEMENT
Settlement Agreement & Release concerning Pat & Shawna Munyan

MEETING RECESSED

Mayor Blackwell recessed the regular meeting at 7:25 pm to go into Executive session for 10 minutes to discuss to consider minimum price at which real estate would be offered for sale, and to discuss with legal counsel representing the City litigation or potential litigation to which the City, or a city council member or employee is or may be, a party.

MEETING RECONVENED

Mayor Blackwell called the regular meeting back to order at 7:38 pm and the following was heard.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Huber moved to authorize Mayor Blackwell to sign the Settlement Agreement and Release between the City of Connell and the Munyan's with the settlement amount of $12,500 to which the City of Connell would pay half and the City of Connell's Insurance would pay half. Councilmember Quinton seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Huber moved to extend the closing date of the purchase and sale agreement between SECTAD Investments and the City of Connell, with a requirement of 10% non refundable earnest money to be received within 3 business days. Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE / DEPARTMENT REPORTS

CITY ADMINISTRATOR – Jed Crowther

1) Pool Schedule
2) Appreciated Public Works for getting Pool ready to go
3) Arranged Scheduling of Life Guards
4) Daily Schedule Mon-Sat 3-7pm Only
5) First Day Friday 7/22/16, Last day Sat 8/27/16
6) Aug 1st-4th closed shortage of guards
7) Scheduled posted to press/website/city hall

POLICE DEPARTMENT – Police Chief Chris Turner

1) Cars getting egged
2) Highway 395 accidents have picked up

PUBLIC WORKS- Larry Turner

1) Pool ready to go
2) General Summary Work, Working on the Coulee

FIRE CHIEF- Chris Schulte

1) Wild land Fires in County and City along the highway
2) During a Community Center Rental a Fog Machine caused Fire Alarm to go off
3) First time ever The Fire Suppression from City of Connell, Franklin Co. #1, #4, rendered Mutual Aide to the Tri Cities by Horse Heaven

CITIZEN COMMENT/NON-AGENDA ITEMS

-Want Utility Tax on Ballot Review
-Want Pool Next Year

CITY COUNCIL CLOSING REMARKS

1) Discussion held on tax-Park Districts
2) Dan spoke on Ordinances, Utility tax, all utilities treated the same.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business before the City Council of Connell Mayor Blackwell adjourned the meeting at 8:07 pm.

ATTEST: _____
Marissa Canales, Accounting Clerk

_____
Bruce Blackwell, Mayor