



McCleary Regular City Council Meeting

Wednesday, April 26, 2023 – 6:30 PM

McCleary Council Chambers & Zoom Virtual Meeting

Minutes

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/98861529830?pwd=Y25ZeEhDa3VOTk1wWHpodjhQdCtVdz09>

Meeting ID: **988 6152 9830**

Passcode: **276660**

(253) 215-8782

Call to Order/Flag Salute/Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 6:30pm

Mayor Pro Tem Huff announced that with the Police present, we are being audio and video recorded with the body cams.

PRESENT

Councilmember Jenna Amsbury

Councilmember Brycen Huff

Councilmember Andrea Dahl

Councilmember Joy Iversen

ABSENT

Councilmember Max Ross

Mayor Chris Miller

Motion made by Councilmember Iversen, Seconded by Councilmember Amsbury to excuse Councilmember Ross.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Amsbury, Councilmember Huff, Councilmember Dahl, Councilmember Iversen

Agenda Modifications/Acceptance

Councilmember Dahl asked if Public Comment can be extended from 3-minutes to 5-minutes for this meeting.

Motion made by Councilmember Dahl, Seconded by Councilmember Huff.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Iversen

Voting Nay: Councilmember Amsbury

Special Presentations

Public Comment - Agenda Items Only

No Public Comment

Consent Agenda

Motion made by Councilmember Dahl, Seconded by Councilmember Iversen.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Amsbury, Councilmember Huff, Councilmember Dahl, Councilmember Iversen

1. Accounts Payable April 1-15 Check Numbers 51952-52007 including EFT's totaling \$197,814.81
2. April 12, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes

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Updates

Councilmember Dahl asked who has access to our City of McCleary Facebook Page. Public Works Director Chad Bedlington stated he believes it's the Chief of Police, Tyson, Mayor Miller and himself. Dahl asked who made the post yesterday about unrelated official City business. She asked to keep the City's Facebook page related to official City of McCleary business only. Councilmember Amsbury suggested making a Policy on this. Mayor Pro Tem Huff agrees with this, he thinks the page needs to stay more professional.

Councilmember Dahl asked why our Mayor and Police Chief made a field trip to a business of a person that was in the audience last meeting.

Councilmember Dahl said our City Clerk-Treasurer gave her resignation last meeting and she was wondering when that date was. She would like the Zoom recording from last meeting to hear what was said during executive session. Dahl asked how the City was addressing the concerns of some employees with the Clerk-Treasurer having access to their payroll and personnel files.

New Business

3. Welcome to McCleary Bags - Discussion

Carri Comer from the McCleary Civic Renewal Council gave a presentation on what their group does for McCleary, and why it's beneficial for the distribution of Welcome to McCleary Bags to new residents in town, and in the surrounding area. Councilmembers Huff and Iversen think this is a positive thing for McCleary and are in support of it. Councilmembers thanked the McCleary Civic Renewal Group for all their work and everything they do for the City.

Motion made by Councilmember Amsbury, Seconded by Councilmember Dahl.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Amsbury, Councilmember Huff, Councilmember Dahl, Councilmember Iversen

4. Planning Commission Appointment

Tabled

5. Salary Commission Appointments

The 3 candidates running for Salary Commission, Ken Wold, Peggy Utesch and Joseph Prather, introduced themselves.

Motion made by Councilmember Iversen, Seconded by Councilmember Dahl to approve Ken Wold
Voting Yea: Councilmember Amsbury, Councilmember Huff, Councilmember Dahl, Councilmember Iversen

Motion made by Councilmember Amsbury, Seconded by Councilmember Iversen to approve Petty Utesch

Voting Yea: Councilmember Amsbury, Councilmember Huff, Councilmember Dahl, Councilmember Iversen

Motion made by Councilmember Dahl, Seconded by Councilmember Huff to approve Joseph Prather

Voting Yea: Councilmember Amsbury, Councilmember Huff, Councilmember Dahl, Councilmember Iversen

6. Summer Council Meeting Schedule Discussion

Councilmember Ross reached out to Mayor Pro Tem Huff and said he realizes we just went back to two meetings a month, but would like to go back to one meeting a month for the Summer Schedule like we've done in the past. Huff wants to keep two meetings a month and Councilmember Dahl agrees. A resident asked if the location of the meetings can be moved to the Community Center due to the

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number of people attending the meetings now. Councilmember Iversen asked for microphones for councilmembers and a better sound system if we move to the Community Center.

Old Business

7. Information Technologies Upgrade Project

Chad Bedlington stated they finished their assessment and found that our failure points in our security and hardware still have not been resolved. This is something that is urgent, it is not a budgeted item. We included the costs in the packet. Councilmember Huff asked if any of these upgrades are going to create issues with losing any Emails. Public Works Assistant Tyson Ryder said no, the only data that is at risk of being lost is the data that is being housed on site here, due to hardware failure.

Councilmember Amsbury had questions about back ups and cloud storage. Councilmember Amsbury is in favor of the IT upgrades. Mayor Pro Tem Huff asked if the company along with Aktivov could give a presentation or be here to answer Council Questions at our next meeting so we can get a better understanding of this.

Ordinances and Resolutions

8. Utility Discount for Non-Profits Ordinance

Tabled

Public Comment - City Business Only

Angela Rittinger spoke about the accusations and lies from the last meeting. She spoke in regards to harassment, misuse of City equipment and unethical behavior. She told the Council that they may want to consider an Ordinance to protect City residents from harassment from City employees.

Gary Atkins stated he wasn't here to stick up for the employees or the Mayor, he's here to stick up for the town and hold Councilmembers accountable. He doesn't like Councilmember Dahl's grandstanding and said she didn't do that when Mayor Orffer was here. He spoke in regards to the IT purchase and brought up the signs, camera purchase and the bears that were purchased. Councilmember Huff spoke in regards to what he had access to at the Police Department when he was a volunteer. Gary wants the drama to stop. No employee should reach out to the public or department members to resolve this.

Monica Reeves spoke in regards to the hiring of 7 Public Works employees when only 2 were advertised. She wanted to make sure checks and balances were being followed and hiring is being done ethically. She spoke in regards to finding out who is doing the HR duties. She spoke about an employee making negative comments about community members and people complaining while not turning off the recording, and posting HR stuff on Facebook.

Missi Olson spoke about the negative direction McCleary is going, and that it starts with leadership. She encouraged the Mayor to get to know the community and the employees.

Carri Comer spoke about the Leadership issues and asked the Council to put a stop to it.

Jacob Simmons spoke in regards to the Blake Decision and asked what the City is going to do about this. He mentioned the City passing an Ordinance on this.

Suzannah Winstedt talked about people volunteering to get to know people. It will help with the social issues. She mentioned there are openings for the Civic Renewal Council.

April Wright asked about the policies for Public Records Requests and found that the Clerk-Treasurer is responsible for Public Records Requests. She asked if we were utilizing our City Attorney to review what is being sent out. This could come back and cost the City a lot of money. She spoke in regards to the morale here, and employees that will not speak up in regards to safety concerns afraid of scare tactics. Councilmember Iversen mentioned that the City has ran public records by the City Attorney. She also mentioned that Cory Marsh is not related to Todd Baun, as stated earlier.

Rob Lisle is City of McCleary journeyman lineman, volunteer firefighter, youth football president and would not be any of those things if it wasn't for Paul Nott. He spoke about how Paul taught him morale and how a man should act and spoke in regards to his character. Rob spoke about all the things Paul does to help this

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community and wants the slander of Paul to stop. Rob stated Paul is a great man, and wherever Paul goes, Rob will go.

Brycen Huff shared comments from Councilmember Ross in regards to the Clerk-Treasurer position and wants it opened up to the public and wants to have one of the Finance Committee members to be on the interview panel. Councilmember Amsbury suggests a policy on hiring. Councilmember Iversen suggested to the Mayor that two Councilmembers be present on the interview process. Councilmember Amsbury agrees that Council should be included.

Dustin Richey spoke about 3rd Party Investigations for staff. He would like if anytime a union employee is going to be demoted or fired, it has to be pushed out for a 3rd party investigation that has no affiliation with the Mayor. The County and State both do that. Dustin thinks what is happening here is disgusting. Councilmember Amsbury suggested that was something that could go into a Risk Management Policy.

Mike Gettle said the Public Records need to be checked because there are some records requests that he has not received and has not received extension letters on. He doesn't want to sue the City, but he wants his information. The Public Records needs to be checked to make sure there aren't more of these out there, he doesn't want it to cost the City any money.

Councilmember Amsbury shared with the Clerk-Treasurer position, your finance people aren't normally your HR people. Whoever we hire may not be able to do all of the duties. Councilmember Iversen thinks we need a separate HR person. Amsbury also said policy is where our power is and we have a lot of policies that updating. Councilmember Huff thanked everyone for attending tonight. He stated anyone can walk into City Hall and see the morale is low. People are coming in, doing their jobs and going home, and that's sad. That's not how McCleary used to be. He thanked people for coming to the meeting to ask questions rather than getting gossip from Facebook. Councilmember Dahl seconded what Brycen said.

Executive Session

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm

Motion made by Councilmember Iversen, Seconded by Councilmember Dahl.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Amsbury, Councilmember Huff, Councilmember Dahl, Councilmember Iversen

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