



McCleary Regular City Council Meeting

Wednesday, June 12, 2024 – 6:30 PM

McCleary Community Center & Zoom Virtual Meeting

Minutes

Call to Order/Flag Salute/Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 6:30pm by councilmember Klimek.

PRESENT

Councilmember Jacob Simmons
Councilmember Andrea Dahl (by Zoom)
Councilmember Keith Klimek

ABSENT

Councilmember Brycen Huff
Councilmember Max Ross
Mayor Chris Miller

Motion made by Councilmember Klimek, Seconded by Councilmember Simmons to excuse Councilmembers Huff and Ross.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Simmons, Councilmember Dahl, Councilmember Klimek

Agenda Modifications/Acceptance

Motion made by Councilmember Simmons, Seconded by Councilmember Klimek to remove items 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 from tonight's agenda.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Simmons, Councilmember Dahl, Councilmember Klimek

Public Hearings - Item moved to June 26th Meeting

1. 6-Year Transportation Improvement Plan

Public Comment - Agenda Items Only

No Public Comment

Consent Agenda

Motion made by Councilmember Simmons, Seconded by Councilmember Dahl to approve the Consent Agenda.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Simmons, Councilmember Dahl, Councilmember Klimek

2. Accounts Payable May 16-31, 2024 Check Numbers 53368-53399 Including EFT's Totaling \$46,236.89
3. Meeting Minutes - May 22, 2024

Updates

Items moved to June 26th Meeting

4. Staff Reports - Police Activity, Public Works, Finance, Public Works Director, Fire Dept.
5. Council Committee Updates

6. Water Discussion

New Business

None

Old Business

Items moved to June 26th Meeting

7. Washington Families Clean Energy Credits Grant Program with Dept of Commerce
8. Omnibus Mutual Aid Agreement with Local Agencies for Sharing Resources During an Emergency

Ordinances and Resolutions

Items moved to June 26th Meeting

9. 6-Year Transportation Improvement Plan
10. Camera Policy Resolution

Public Comment - City Business Only

Monica Reeves said this is embarrassing and thanked Councilmember Dahl for calling in on vacation. She wants to employ the Council to get moving on the policies. If we have good PIR and media policies in place, these things wouldn't happen. Ms. Reeves wants to know how the whole City gets shut down because someone feels afraid of the Mayor for erratic behavior and you have an internal investigation and it gets dropped; nothing, no findings, no reason to move forward. Reeves spoke in regards to holding the Mayor accountable for all of his decisions and behavior. Reeves offered to help the Policy Committee write policies if they would like.

Melissa McCann spoke on behalf of the Bear Festival Kid Zone Committee. She stated they want to include a BB Gun shooting range put on by the Cub Scouts. It's a safe, fully-enclosed inflatable that plastic BB's cannot penetrate. There would be a controlled access and the parents would have to sign waivers. When they spoke to the City in regards to this, they referenced Municipal Code 9.34.010 and 9.34.030. McCann is hoping the City will pass a Resolution for a one-time exception to allow this event for their Festival.

Lisa Saila wants to know why the Mayor isn't here again, and how we can hold him accountable for this behavior. Saila said she put in a PIR for the incident that happened two Fridays ago. She asked for this 2-weeks ago and she was told she would get it tomorrow, which is after the meeting. She posted on social media yesterday that it looks like she isn't going to get her PIR, and after that, she got her request. This is a consistent pattern of withholding information from the public. Saila said it was concerning that at the beginning of the police report it said that another agency would perform the investigation, and it ended up being investigated by the City Administration.

Saila asked City Attorney Chris Coker who he represents. Coker said he represents the people of the City of McCleary. Saila said that we are the people of McCleary and asked Coker when he's going to start representing us because he's allowing the Mayor to harass people, it's a hostile work environment, everything.

Mr. Coker provided information that the investigation was forwarded to the Sheriff's Office and Prosecuting Attorney. Both came back with no findings of criminal action. He explained the mayor is the administrative head of the city and the council is the governing body that sets policies and approves contracts for the city. He stated his role it to keep the city out of litigation, of which there are none currently. A question was asked about

what can be done about the Mayor not being in attendance at meeting. Mr. Coker stated there is no rule in place for the Mayor to attend meetings. Council has requirements for attending.

Carri Comer asked about changing the form of government. Mr. Coker stated he has not been asked to do so by the majority of the council. He stated he does not run the city. He stated there are elected people in place. Ms. Saila asked if he could assist with a recall of the Mayor. He stated no, he cannot assist with a recall, but there are other attorneys that are available to do so.

Saila said the original complaint started with Councilmember Ross calling the Police Department. She wants to know who's afraid of the Mayor, is he the Boogeyman? I'm tired of having this conversation every two weeks. If he is, he's got to go.

Executive Session

None

Council Comments

Councilmember Dahl spoke in regards to Mr. Coker's comment about the Council running the City. She thinks it's frustrating that there are things done behind the Council's back or without their acknowledgement. Things aren't always brought to their attention. Investigations, overtime pay, contracts not being followed for pay, for example. She took the Email that was sent by the Mayor as a threat and extortion.

Councilmember Klimek said the reason he wanted this position was to get the City to be more transparent. I serve the citizens. The Council is open to the citizens if they want to reach out and talk with them. Klimek mentioned the Food Bank meets twice a month at the Park Kitchen. He thanked Bill Wilson for pressure washing the Park Kitchen area.

Councilmember Simmons asked Chris Coker what he can do to get the camera data that he requested, that takes 1 hour to get. Coker said he gave his opinion the City on this, and he's not sure why the information hasn't been provided.

Councilmember Dahl said it is insane that we are not getting this information. The reason why we are requesting this is because of his activity and he is withholding the information from us. Is there a way for Verkada to pull this information? Coker will get back to the Council on getting this information.

Cindy Nott asked how a citizen got a records request, it was posted on social media, names un-redacted, for an ongoing investigation, and we cannot get this information?

Paul Nott said we've had arbitrations that were handled in two different ways. That is where the frustration is.

Councilmember Simmons said as we get through the Camera Policy, Chief, will you be taking over, correct? Chief Patrick said he would be taking over. Simmons said Social Media policy will be next on the list after the Camera Policy. Simmons thanked Jenna Amsbury for getting the policy committee the information they requested. He thanked Chris Coker for his time tonight.

Missy Olson asked how to find out if there's committee openings? Council said they are posted on the City's website.

Mayor Comments

None

Adjourn

Motion made by Councilmember Simmons, Seconded by Councilmember Klimek to adjourn the meeting at 7:16pm.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Simmons, Councilmember Dahl, Councilmember Klimek