



McCleary Regular City Council Meeting

Wednesday, December 17, 2025 – 6:30 PM

Community Center & Zoom Meeting

Minutes

Join Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 787 855 3789

(253) 215-8782

Call to Order/Flag Salute/Roll Call

Councilmember Jacob Simmons

Councilmember Brycen Huff, Mayor Pro Tem

Councilmember Brent Schiller

Councilmember Andrea Dahl

Councilmember Keith Klimek

Agenda Modifications/Acceptance

Motion made by Councilmember Dahl to accept the Agenda, which was seconded by Councilmember Klimek

Motion is approved

Moment of Silence

1. Victims of terrorist attack in Australia

Moment of Silence

2. Planning Commission Position Opening (s)

Councilmember Huff, Mayor Pro Tem, announced that there are open seats on the Planning Commission. If anyone is interested, they are to submit a letter of interest to City Clerk Treasurer Vinyard at City Hall. This letter can be dropped off at City Hall. Additional information is available on the City Hall website.

Special Presentations

3. Oath of Office for Mayor and Councilmembers

City Clerk-Treasurer Vinyard administered the Oath of Office to Councilmembers Schiller, Dahl, and Klimek, following their election.

Clerk-Treasurer Vinyard then administered the Oath of Office to Councilmember Huff, Mayor Pro Tem, for the office of Mayor, following his election.

4. Annexation of Fire Department: Presented by Andrew Pittman, Adam Fulbright, and Eric Cohen.

Representing Grays Harbor Fire District 12, Eric Cohen provided an overview of the McCleary Fire Department's past operations and discussed how community growth could benefit from Fire District 12 assuming responsibility for the department. He noted considerations related to community needs and nationally standardized training. Cohen also stated that changes are necessary regardless of the ultimate solution, due to shifts in staffing levels and community growth.

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McCleary Fire Department Chief Andrew Pittman discussed the options under consideration and stated that annexation through Fire District 12 would be the preferred option for the City of McCleary. Representing Fire District 12, Adam Fulbright presented a PowerPoint comparing the City of McCleary Fire Department and Fire District 12. He then outlined what the proposed annexation would entail for the City of McCleary, including staffing, taxes, budget, services, and long-term sustainability.

Councilmember Huff, Mayor Pro Tem, concluded the presentation by noting that the merging of fire departments is one of the options available for consideration by the City of McCleary.

Councilmember Simmons asked Mr. Fulbright when the next levy vote would occur. Mr. Fulbright responded that a special election is scheduled for April 2026.

Councilmember Simmons then asked what the impact would be to the City of McCleary if the levy did not pass. Chief Pittman and Mr. Fulbright outlined the potential challenges the City could face.

Councilmember Simmons asked whether the intent was to combine entities, including the use of both paid and volunteer positions. Mr. Fulbright explained why a combined structure would need to be a viable option for both the City of McCleary and Fire District 12.

Councilmember Klimek expressed concerns regarding current EMS response times within the City of McCleary and asked how response times might change if annexation were to occur. Mr. Fulbright explained how response times could differ under annexation.

Chief Pittman provided an overview of the current challenges related to EMS contracts and outlined potential next steps.

Councilmember Klimek confirmed Chief Pittman's position regarding the current status of the McCleary Fire Department.

Public Comment - Agenda Items Only

5. Public comment is limited to a maximum of three minutes per person. Please refrain from interrupting the speaker. Your comments should be respectful and courteous. Please note that this is for comment only, and the council or staff cannot engage in conversations with the public.

Resident Jeff began by congratulating the Council. He then raised concerns regarding the check registers, specifically noting that Light and Power's share of payments appears larger than other departments. He also expressed concerns about road conditions and encouraged the Council to review expenditures more closely.

Consent Agenda

6. Claims Agenda

The following items are distributed to Councilmembers in advance for study and review, and the recommended action will be accepted in a single motion. Any item may be removed for further discussion if requested by a Councilmember.

- i. Approval of checks/vouchers/disbursements numbers 55269 to 55315 including EFT's dated 12/01/25-12/11/25 in the amount of \$195,611.50

Claims Agenda

The following items are distributed to Councilmembers in advance for study and review, and the

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recommended action will be accepted in a single motion. Any item may be removed for further discussion if requested by a Councilmember.

i. Approval of checks/vouchers/disbursements numbers 55269 to 55315 including EFTs dated 12/01/25-12/11/25 in the amount of \$195,611.50

Motion made by Councilmember Schiller to approve the Consent Agenda, which was seconded by Councilmember Simmons.

Motion is approved.

7. Minutes from 10.08.2025 meeting
Minutes from 10.21.2025 meeting
Minutes from 10.22.2025 meeting
Minutes from 11.05.2025 meeting
Minutes from 11.19.2025 meeting

Discussion

8. 2026 Council Committee and Mayor Pro-Tem Assignments:

Chehalis Basin Partnership, Communication Committee, Finance & Grant Committee, Policy Committee, Public Safety Committee, Public Works Committee, Union Negotiations Committee.

2026 Council Committee and Mayor Pro-Tem Assignments:

Councilmember Huff, Mayor Pro Tem, asked if any Councilmember was interested in serving as the next Mayor Pro Tem. Councilmember Dahl expressed interest.

Councilmember Klimek moved to appoint Councilmember Dahl as Mayor Pro Tem, and Councilmember Simmons seconded the motion.

The motion carried, and Councilmember Dahl was appointed as the upcoming Mayor Pro Tem.

Chehalis Basin Partnership

Councilmember Huff, Mayor Pro Tem, asked if any Councilmembers were interested in serving on the Chehalis Basin Partnership Committee.

No interest was expressed, and the discussion was tabled.

Communication Committee

Councilmember Huff, Mayor Pro Tem, asked if any Councilmembers were interested in serving on the Communication Committee.

Councilmembers Dahl and Klimek expressed interest.

Finance & Grant Committee

Councilmember Huff, Mayor Pro Tem asked council if any were interested in serving on the Finance & Grant Committee.

Councilmembers Dahl and Simmons expressed interest.

Policy Committee

Councilmember Huff, Mayor Pro Tem asked council if any were interested in serving on the Policy Committee.

Councilmembers Dahl and Schiller expressed interest.

Public Safety Committee

Councilmember Huff, Mayor Pro Tem asked council if any were interested in serving on the Public Safety Committee.

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Councilmember Huff, Mayor Pro Tem explained him and Councilmember Dahl were interested in remaining on this committee.

Public Works Committee

Councilmember Huff, Mayor Pro Tem asked council if any were interested in serving on the Public Works Committee.

Councilmember Schiller expressed that he would like to remain on this committee. Councilmember Simmons added that he will join Councilmember Schiller in this committee.

Union Negotiations Committee

Councilmember Huff, Mayor Pro Tem asked council if any were interested in serving on the Union Negotiations Committee.

Councilmember Klimek announced he will remain on this committee. Councilmember Schiller expressed interest in joining for 1 (one) year.

Ordinances and Resolutions

9. 2025 Budget Amendment #2 Ordinance 897- Second Read, Action Required.

Councilmember Huff, Mayor Pro Tem, read Ordinance #897. Clerk-Treasurer Vinyard then conducted a roll-call vote.

Ordinance #897 was approved.

10. 2026 Budget Ordinance 898- Second Read, Action Required.

Councilmember Simmons expressed discomfort with the solution discussed regarding the upcoming budget.

Councilmember Huff, Mayor Pro Tem, read Ordinance #898.

Councilmember Dahl moved to adopt Ordinance #898, and Councilmember Schiller seconded the motion.

Clerk-Treasurer Vinyard conducted a roll-call vote.

Ordinance #898 was adopted.

Council Comments

Councilmember Huff, Mayor Pro Tem, thanked those who participated in the production of *Christmas in McCleary*.

Councilmember Klimek expressed his excitement in the new mayor, Mayor Elect Huff.

City Administrator Comments

City Administrator Jon Martin gave appreciation to those working in the intense weather conditions and reflected on how the City of McCleary is responding to the impact of the weather.

Public Comment - City Business Only

11. Public comment is limited to a maximum of three minutes per person. Please refrain from interrupting the speaker. Your comments should be respectful and courteous. Please note that this is for comment only, and the council or staff cannot engage in conversations with the public.

No Public Comments were given.

Closed Session

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Per RCW 42.30.140(4)(a) Collective bargaining sessions with employee organizations, including contract negotiations, grievance meetings, and discussions relating to the interpretation or application of a labor agreement; or (b) that portion of a meeting during which the governing body is planning or adopting the strategy or position to be taken by the governing body during the course of any collective bargaining, professional negotiations.

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Executive session called at 7:53

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:05.

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