



McCleary Regular City Council Meeting

Wednesday, June 26, 2024 – 6:30 PM

McCleary City Hall Council Chambers & Zoom Virtual Meeting

Minutes

Call to Order/Flag Salute/Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 6:32pm.

PRESENT

Councilmember Jacob Simmons

Councilmember Brycen Huff

Councilmember Max Ross

Councilmember Andrea Dahl

Councilmember Keith Klimek

ABSENT

Mayor Chris Miller

Agenda Modifications/Acceptance

Motion made by Councilmember Simmons, Seconded by Councilmember Dahl to remove the Camera Policy Resolution from the Agenda.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Simmons, Councilmember Huff, Councilmember Ross, Councilmember Dahl

Voting Nay: Councilmember Klimek

Public Hearings

Public Hearing on the 6-Year Transportation Improvement Plan opened at 6:34pm

No Public Comment

Councilmember Dahl asked if the City owned the trail behind Ash Street. Director of Public Works, Chad Bedlington stated he doesn't know who owns the trail, but doesn't believe it is the City.

Public Hearing closed at 6:35pm.

1. 6-Year Transportation Improvement Plan

Public Comment - Agenda Items Only

No Public Comment

Consent Agenda

Councilmember Dahl asked Clerk Treasurer, Jenna Amsbury, if she could explain again how the cost allocation works, specifically. Amsbury explained that there are numerous different cost allocations and asked if there was a specific one she had a question on. Dahl said the IT cost Allocation and the City Clean Up. Amsbury said the City Clean Up needs to all come out of 514 in current expense, so we just changed that one today. Amsbury explained how our cost allocation was figured out.

Councilmember Huff asked if the Mayor's travel line from Water was changed as they discussed at the last meeting. Amsbury said it was changed and went into the Mayor's travel line.

Motion made by Councilmember Ross, Seconded by Councilmember Klimek to approve the consent agenda.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Simmons, Councilmember Huff, Councilmember Ross, Councilmember Dahl, Councilmember Klimek

2. Accounts Payable June 1-15, 2024 Check Numbers 53409-53457 Including EFT's Totaling \$320,165.61
3. Minutes - June 12, 2024

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Updates

4. Staff Reports - Police Activity, Public Works, Finance, Public Works Director, Fire Dept.

Councilmember Dahl asked what the police training was, and asked if there was an update on the IT services. Bedlington said we are working with Right Systems to update the Police side. The City has run into a few barriers and are waiting for a response from Right Systems. Councilmember Dahl asked if the Council could get a report back from the Police Chief on what the training was about and what was learned.

Councilmember Huff asked Bedlington if these grants were all up to date. Bedlington had one update. The Department of Commerce that we are tentatively awarded 2.75 million for solar arrays for the property just North of Simpson's pond.

Paul Nott asked if this will affect our BPA Rate. Bedlington said yes, power generation would have an offset potential rate increases. BPA will give a presentation to the Council in November on the rate increases. Councilmember Huff asked if we could get them here sooner so we aren't at the 11th hour. Councilmember Dahl asked if we have a plan to get the sidewalks fixed, since we didn't get the WCIA grant. Bedlington explained that we don't have the funding for that right now but we are pursuing other grant options.

5. Council Committee Updates

Councilmember Huff said he cannot attend the next Chehalis Basin Meeting. Bedlington will attend.

6. Water Discussion

Chad Bedlington said the set point changes we made have been effective. The City met with the Department of Health, Gray and Osborne and TSI. They did a walk around the well site and had a few minor suggestions, but it was a good meeting. They have updated some checklists for weekend duty for records and callouts to operators. Bedlington would like to cross train Public Works employees for when water treatment plant operators are unavailable. Councilmember Ross stated to only have two water treatment operators, and only one being local, doesn't allow for contingency planning. Ross asked if we could get a mutual aid agreement with Elma. Bedlington said we could look into that. Ross asked what happens if nobody is available to respond. Bedlington said the system shuts down, but we would still have several hours before the lack of flow could be an issue. Councilmember Klimek stated him and people he have talked to are not happy with the water here. Councilmember Dahl asked, looking forward, do we have a long-term solution for this? Bedlington said, having more than two people available to respond adds value. Long term is making sure our record tracking is consistent. Carri Comer said it sound like protocols of training and record keeping are a big issue. Are you sure...Bedlington said he doesn't believe there are any safety concerns anymore. We are making changes so we don't run into these situations, like we had over the weekend, again.

Councilmember Huff said we were told before this was a fluke, then it happened again. We didn't get a staff report update from Kevin, he's not here to talk about it, as the water manager, I would like routine updates from him now on. How this was handled, the City put out a blatant lie to the public about something that effects public health, and then backtracks on it, it isn't good. It destroys any trust and transparency that public might have for the City. Huff would like to see more reports and clarification from Kevin.

Councilmember Simmons said we had 12 alarms and 6 that needed to be.... is that a lot for a water system in a 3-4 week period. Bedlington said yes, it's on the higher side. The setpoints are being monitored.

7. FCS Utility Rate Update

Chad Bedlington said we had revisions to the model, specifically water and sewer. He presented some 2024 beginning balances from some of our utilities. We postponed some 2023 projects so he wanted FCS to account for that. On the Light and Power side, we are still waiting on the Capital Improvement

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Plan from BKI, they are getting close. We should have final recommendations in time for budget discussions.

Councilmember Dahl asked about a tiered water system. Bedlington said it is still being worked on.

8. Camera Logs

Jenna Amsbury said the last she has been told, was the Mayor contacted Verkada because there was some time frames missing, so he was waiting for a call back. Dahl said we are going on two months for something that shouldn't take this long. The Mayor's top priority is keeping the Council informed, and this is where we're at on being informed. Councilmember Ross said the Council should not have to go through the PIR process to request data, it should be provided to us. Two months ago I was opposed to turning the cameras off for public safety reasons. Everyone said we're get the logs in two weeks, a policy passed, and here we are two months later. Thankfully nothing bad has happened. I would like the cameras turned back on, I would like a policy passed, but we are being held hostage here.

Councilmember Simmons asked if we are at risk for any camera log PIR's that could put us in litigation?

Amsbury explained that she is happy to talk about litigation in executive session. But all of her actions she has taken are to keep the City out of that risk. Amsbury said, as the Public Records Officer, she has asked for the information, and that's all she can do is ask for the information if she doesn't have it.

Councilmember Huff said under previous administration, a camera request was requested, and it was fairly easily given to them. The Council is asking for the same information to make a business decision and we're getting stonewalled by the Mayor, and that's where the frustration is. Huff said we didn't have a policy in place, we are trying to pass one, why is he dragging his feet? It doesn't make sense to adopt a policy when the information isn't being provided. I don't understand why he's wanting to play hardball and hide this information from the Council regardless of what it may or may not show.

City Attorney said he doesn't have answers on this.

New Business

Old Business

9. Washington Families Clean Energy Credits Grant Program Contract with Dept of Commerce

Motion made by Councilmember Klimek, Seconded by Councilmember Ross to approve the Washington Families Clean Energy Credits Grant Program Contract with Department of Commerce.
Voting Yea: Councilmember Simmons, Councilmember Huff, Councilmember Ross, Councilmember Dahl, Councilmember Klimek

10. Omnibus Mutual Aid Agreement with Local Agencies for Sharing Resources During an Emergency

Chad Bedlington said during times of emergency, there is a need to share resources. This agreement is between 5 counties, multiply agencies, giving the opportunity for cross utilization of other agencies materials. There would be a cost recovery put into place.

Motion made by Councilmember Ross, Seconded by Councilmember Dahl to approve the Omnibus Mutual Aid Agreement with Local Agencies for Sharing Resources During an Emergency.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Simmons, Councilmember Huff, Councilmember Ross, Councilmember Dahl, Councilmember Klimek

Ordinances and Resolutions

11. 6-Year Transportation Improvement Plan Resolution

Bedlington said this is something the City is required to have. We have 14 projects on the planning list.
Motion made by Councilmember Ross, Seconded by Councilmember Klimek to approve the 6-Year Transportation Improvement Plan.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Simmons, Councilmember Huff, Councilmember Ross, Councilmember

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Dahl, Councilmember Klimek

12. Camera Policy Resolution

Item removed from Agenda.

Public Comment - City Business Only

Cindy Nott spoke about the alley by her house and the treatment plant smell. She said she was told there were more supplies coming. Two days this week, she cannot open her windows because the smell is so bad. Cindy asked if there are alarms that go off for this, what is the process for this to be managed properly, because it seems intentional. Bedlington said it's not intentional. Cindy stated she's lived here for 34 years and it's never been this bad, it's horrible and embarrassing. Bedlington said he would talk with Kevin and Joe and see if there is anything going on and he will follow up with her.

Dustin Richey stated he wants to do something positive for this town. He has a request to spend \$2500-\$3000 to beautify Simpson. He wants to start at the Credit Union and end at the cemetery. Richey said he feels this is a reasonable request, but wants to do something good here. He'd like this done in the Fall. Carri Comer said she'd rather see the roads fixed first. Richey stated that his behavior at the last couple Council Meetings hasn't been so hot. He got a phone call saying that people didn't like his behavior. Richey said that he wanted to apologize to nobody at all, I mean everything I say in here and I don't care what you think.

Carri Comer thanked the City for taking the water quality so seriously. She said she's proud of the Council for embracing their citizenship in McCleary. As Citizens, you are representing the rest of us and I'm proud to have you up there. Carrie said water had been an issue here for a long time for a variety of reasons, this only hurts the trust here and the confidence that people feel safe. And add the cameras stuff on top of that. Thank you for not letting this go. It really takes a lot to stay the course with people who intentionally try to distract and blow you over and work against you, are corrupt and enjoy extortion the qualities like our Mayor has, and you guys have to stand against that. I appreciate you all.

Executive Session

13. RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)(ii) - Litigation

Executive session started at 7:37, not to exceed 15 minutes. Executive session ended at 7:53pm. No action taken.

Closed Session

14. RCW 42.30.140 - Collective Bargaining

Closed session started at 8:03pm, not to exceed 10 minutes. No action taken. Executive session ended at 8:06pm.

Council Comments

Max Ross said someone from the Grays Harbor Conservation District reached out to him and the District got a pretty large grant to do restoration work in the Wildcat and Cloquallum watersheds. For some reason the City of McCleary is not in the Grays Harbor Conservation District boundary. He put the Conservation District in touch with Chad and are going to work on getting McCleary annexed into the District.

Andrea Dahl stated one of our duties is to adopt and amend the Comprehensive Plan. There was talk of additional zoning added to the Comp Plan. We are trying to figure out where to get money to fix our roads, and my thought was talking about removing the additional zoning which would remove the cost for that.

Brycen Huff said depending on if we can reallocate the funds, that would be smart. If we could use the funds to fix the 10th Street Alley, that would be beneficial.

Andrea Dahl said Bear Fest is on July 12-14. The Royalty would like the opportunity to do the traditional pinning of the Mayor and Council at the July 10th meeting.

Jacob Simmons asked about the Budget, and when we are planning to start the process? Jenna Amsbury said the goal is to start in August for the preliminary work. Hearings will start in October.

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Brycen Huff said the Mayor is gone tonight. He has asked before on the guidelines for the Mayor's absences. He was told that the Mayor is not obligated to be at the meeting, even though they facilitate it, they don't have a vote unless there is a tie. So it will fall on the Pro-Tem to run the meetings. We are on the path again of consecutive no-shows. Huff is happy to continue to look into to see what can be done to hold the Mayor more accountable when he is elected by the citizens to run the City, he should be here facilitating the meetings. We did an informal vote of no confidence on him around budget time last year. But he'll still check into this. Huff wished everyone a safe 4th of July.

Andrea Dahl asked if there was any update on the Council getting their own counsel.

Mayor Comments

Adjourn

Motion made by Councilmember Simmons, Seconded by Councilmember Ross to adjourn the meeting at 8:17pm.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Simmons, Councilmember Huff, Councilmember Ross, Councilmember Dahl, Councilmember Klimek

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