



McCleary Regular City Council Meeting

Wednesday, February 26, 2025 – 6:30 PM

McCleary Community Building, and Zoom Virtual Meeting

Minutes

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/7878553789>

Meeting ID: 787 855 3789

253-215-8782

Call to Order/Flag Salute/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was conducted, followed by roll call. All councilmembers present.

Agenda Modifications/Acceptance

Mayor Pro Tem Brycen Huff and Councilmember Keith Klimek both asked to add discussion topics to the agenda under the section of Old Business.

A motion to modify the agenda was made by Councilmember Dahl, Seconded by Councilmember Simmons. Voting Yea: Councilmember Simmons, Councilmember Huff, Councilmember Schiller, Councilmember Dahl, Councilmember Klimek. Motion passed.

Special Presentations

1. Port of Grays Harbor - Kayla Dunlap

Kayla presented council with information on the history, governance, focus on economic development, number of ports, uses, and current projects for future improvements to the Port of Grays Harbor.

Public Comment - Agenda Items Only

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. If, at any time, the dialogue does not meet these criteria, a citizen will be asked to stop public comment.

Please note that this is for comment only, and the council or staff cannot engage in conversations with the public.

Mayor Pro Tem Huff read aloud the guidelines for public comment.

City Administrator Jon Martin announced Mayor Miller's recent letter regarding layoffs had been rescinded, and additional time was being taken to reevaluate finances. He voiced administration's intention to avoid layoffs if possible and maintain state regulations for crew minimums. He apologized to employees and their families for the stress this event caused.

Jeff Geer made comments regarding street maintenance, solar panels, meter reader equipment, the vote of no confidence in the mayor, and Mayor Miller's letter to the public.

Rich Ramirez acknowledged the sacrifices of Light & Power employees and thanked them for their dedication, especially during inclement weather.

Trevor Wollen thanked McCleary's Light & Power crew for their reliability. He acknowledged the brotherhood that exists between Light & Power workers throughout Grays Harbor. He encouraged councilmembers and administration to maintain the current McCleary's current crew size in the Light & Power department.

Sarah Daniels made comments regarding salaries of city employees.

Consent Agenda

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2. Claims Approval:

The following items are distributed to Councilmembers in advance for study and review, and the recommended actions 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 numbered 54282 to 54322 in the amount of \$212,340.98

Mayor Pro Tem Huff read the consent agenda aloud and asked if there were any questions or comments on this topic. Councilmember Dahl noted the position of Deputy Clerk Treasurer was still vacant and acknowledged the ongoing negotiations between the city and the union in relation to this position. She noted temporary staff are currently fulfilling these duties and expressed a desire to see this position posted as soon as possible.

A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Councilmember Schiller, Seconded by Councilmember Simmons.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Simmons, Mayor Pro Tem Huff, Councilmember Schiller, Councilmember Dahl, Councilmember Klimek. Motion passed.

Updates

None.

New Business

None.

Old Business

3. TIB 2025 Roadway Treatment Project - Jon Martin

City Administrator Jon Martin provided an update on this project and fielded questions from Councilmembers Dahl and Schiller.

4. Solar Panels - Jon Martin

City Administrator Jon Martin recognized Jill Ikenhurst from Commerce, who was in attendance via Zoom. Jill was asked to field any grant questions council may have regarding the solar grant award.

Jill verified there is no requirement by the city to commit to the company Amaresco as a solar panel provider, nor is there a requirement for the city to match grant funding. She also noted should the city choose to turn down the grant award, this in no way impacts McCleary from applying for or receiving future grant funding for solar.

Councilmember Brent Schiller inquired as to whether possible changes to site selection or reducing the number of panels purchased would impact grant funding. Jill verified the city is welcome to change the location or reduce the number of panels previously outlined in the grant application, but noted the change would be subject to review and approval, and may result in a reduction of grant funding.

Councilmembers Schiller, Dahl and Klimek had several questions pertaining to costs, revenue, installation, damage and maintenance of solar panels. Jon recommended council create an ad hoc committee, to conduct a deeper investigation and provide answers to these questions.

A motion to (take the next step? in the grant process?) was made by Councilmember Simmons, Seconded by Councilmember ??.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Simmons, Councilmember Huff, Councilmember Schiller, Councilmember Dahl, Councilmember Klimek. Motion passed.

Ordinances and Resolutions

Lindsay Baum Banner Discussion

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Mayor Pro Tem Huff recounted a previous discussion on this matter, whereby the Lindsay Baum Foundation asked council if they would donate the current banner on City Hall to the foundation, for them to use at events, and pay to replace it with one of the updated banner designs they have created. Huff made a motion asking council to amend the 2025 budget to include this expense. Councilmember Simmons requested a quote for the cost of banner, before he is be willing to vote on amending the budget. Therefore this issue will be addressed at the next council meeting.

Loose dogs in Beerbower Discussion

Councilmember Klimek spoke of a citizen's recent interaction with an aggressive dog at the park, who was not on a leash. He asked council to discuss creating an ordinance that would encompass such nuisances, requiring dog owners to keep their dogs on a leash, in control and pick up after their waste. He also asked council to consider posting signage of park rules regarding dogs.

Police Chief Ryan Miskell noted there are already ordinances in McCleary's Municipal Code that address these concerns. Chief Miskell was supportive of posting signage to reference these codes.

5. Emergency Purchase, Meter Reader - Jon Martin

City Administrator Jon Martin praised Utilities Clerk Lori Ann Hansen's extensive efforts to get the current meter reader system (Itron) repaired after it stopped functioning last week. He thanked employees from the Public Works and Light & Power crews for getting this month's meters read manually, during inclement weather. The current system cannot be fixed as the parts needed for repairs are no longer manufactured. To this point McCleary has received two bids for a new meter reader system, both at approximately \$40,000. Advantages of one system over the other, for a similar cost were provided.

A motion to approve emergency funding for a new meter reader system was made by Councilmember Simmons, Seconded by Councilmember Schiller.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Simmons, Councilmember Huff, Councilmember Schiller, Councilmember Dahl, Councilmember Klimek. Motion passed.

6. Vote of No Confidence - Brycen Huff

Open Letter to the McCleary Residents - Chris Miller

Mayor Pro Tem Brycen Huff read Resolution 774 aloud. Councilmembers Dahl, Schiller and Klimek commented on their experiences with Mayor Miller during his term, as they pertain to this resolution.

A motion to pass Resolution 774 was made by Councilmember Schiller, Seconded by Councilmember Dahl.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Simmons, Councilmember Huff, Councilmember Schiller, Councilmember Dahl, Councilmember Klimek. Resolution passed.

7. IBEW Support - Brycen Huff

Mayor Pro Tem Brycen Huff read Resolution 775 aloud.

Councilmember Jacob Simmons noted that passing the resolution does not guarantee no layoffs will occur. He asked City Attorney Madison Pleasant if the wording around layoffs in the resolution would put the city at risk for a lawsuit. Madison noted the executive power required to lay off an employee resides with the Mayor and not council. She noted the verbiage pertaining to layoffs does nothing more than show council's support for city workers to remain employed.

A motion to pass Resolution 775 was made by Councilmember Schiller, Seconded by Councilmember Klimek.

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Voting Yea: Councilmember Simmons, Councilmember Huff, Councilmember Schiller, Councilmember Dahl, Councilmember Klimek. Resolution passed.

Public Comment - City Business Only

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Jeff Geer expressed his support for council's actions.

Senior Lineman Paul Nott thanked all those in attendance for their support of Light & Power employees.

Executive Session

8. *Per RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i) to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency matters relating to agency enforcement actions, litigation, or potential litigation.*

Council broke for an executive session at 8:21pm, to discuss agency enforcement actions, litigation, and potential litigation with City Attorney Madison Pleasant.

Meeting reconvened at 8:51pm; no decisions or action was taken during the executive session.

Council Comments

Councilmember Simmons and Klimek expressed a desire to add conversations regarding employee confirmations and public records requests to the next council meeting agenda.

As Mayor Pro Tem Huff will be unable to attend next week's meeting, topic of employee confirmations will be added to the March 26th agenda in two weeks. The public records request discussion will be added to the March 5th agenda.

Councilmember Klimek asked for an update on the audit. Clerk-Treasurer Jamie Vinyard reported she is currently preparing cost allocation fees, which is the last item on the audit. A final meeting with the auditor is scheduled for next Tuesday. Presuming she has all the information to conclude her investigation, the auditor will write her report of findings, which will then be followed by an exit conference. Once this is complete, an audit discussion will be added to a future agenda.

Mayor Pro Tem Huff noted he sat in on the entrance conference, and encouraged another member of council to set in on the exit conference.

A motion to solicit an estimate from Washington Cities Insurance Authority (WCIA) for and investigation of the mayor and his conduct was made by Councilmember Schiller, Seconded by Councilmember Dahl.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Simmons, Councilmember Huff, Councilmember Schiller, Councilmember Dahl, Councilmember Klimek. Motion passed.

City Administrator Comments

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilmember Klimek, Seconded by Councilmember Dahl.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Simmons, Councilmember Huff, Councilmember Schiller, Councilmember Dahl, Councilmember Klimek. Meeting adjourned at 8:58pm.

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