



McCleary Regular City Council Meeting

Wednesday, October 25, 2023 – 6:30 PM

McCleary Community Center & Zoom Virtual Meeting

Minutes

Call to Order/Flag Salute/Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 6:30pm

Agenda Modifications/Acceptance

Mayor Protem Huff suggested we not take any action on the Property Tax Resolution tonight until they have time to review the revenues.

Motion made by Councilmember Dahl, Seconded by Councilmember Simmons.

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

Special Presentations

1. FCS Group Rate Study Presentation - Including Public Q&A

Sergey & Paul Quinn gave an update on the Rate Study for City Utilities and included questions and answers at the end. They discussed the preliminary findings in June, they went through revenue requirements, forecasting, operations and capital projects. They discussed the goals of cash reserves and building the capital plan funds.

Public Questions

Councilmember Huff asked about low interest loans. Sergey said no, that just spreads the burden even more.

Councilmember Simmons asked if this included the full Capital Plan. Sergey said it does. Simmons wants to know what other scenarios were looked at. Public Works Director Bedlington shared the ideas he had.

Councilmember Huff wants to keep rate increases feasible.

Councilmember Simmons asked what minimum staffing would be for each utility.

Lisa Johnson asked to see a list of the Capital Projects and how they are prioritized, and the costs.

Carri Comer said she'd like to see a Capital Facility Plan to see the projects. She wants the public to have input on what projects are going to get done in 2024.

Sergey explained the economy of scale, size of our community, and why McCleary rates are higher.

Carri Comer said there has been a lot of misuse of money this year. The financial policies from 2007 need to be updated, and used.

Monica Reeves agreed she wanted a list of capital projects, and prioritized. She'd like to see efforts to lower the operating costs, you might have more support for increases. We've seen erroneous spending and hiring.

Bob Dahl asked if residential growth would dilute rates? Sergey explained growth can help offset. Bob asked if there is consideration of large developers with residential increases.

Gary Ashworth asked if elderly or people on fixed income are getting this info with no computers? Are they getting anything mailed to them?

Councilmember Huff suggested a Town Hall Meeting with flyers handed out.

Public Hearing

Please turn off Cell Phones- Thank you

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accommodation is Provided Upon Request.

The City of McCleary is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

La ciudad de McCleary es un proveedor de igualdad de oportunidades y el empleador.

2. 2024 Budget Revenue

Public Hearing opened at 8:35pm

Carri Comer said they didn't have time to review the revenues. Clerk-Treasurer Jenna Amsbury said we just got the property tax information from the county on Friday. We will have 3 public hearings for the budget, and this is just the first of them. This is just to review, no decisions are being made. Carri said this is a bait and switch, and now you're asking for comments at this public hearing.

Chris Coker explained we are on timeframes for Public Hearings. We just got the information from the County on Friday for the Property Tax.

Councilmember Huff recommended closing the hearing and having a Special Meeting next week with another public hearing.

Council agreed, they will schedule a Special Meeting on November 1st.

Public Hearing closed at 8:47pm

Public Comment - Agenda Items Only

None

Consent Agenda

Councilmember Huff asked about the money spent on the asphalt cleanup, and it was \$25,716.81.

Huff spoke in regards to the City not trying to recoup money spent that hasn't been approved by Council. He said MRSC recommended restructuring how we do our Accounts Payable.

Councilmember Ross asked if anyone wanted to join policy committee. Councilmember Simmons will join.

Motion made by Councilmember Dahl, Seconded by Councilmember Simmons to approve the consent agenda

Voting Yea: Councilmember Simmons, Councilmember Ross, Councilmember Dahl

Voting Nay: Councilmember Huff

3. Accounts Payable October 1-15, 2033 Ck Numbers 52544-52600 including EFT's totaling \$167,341.86

4. September 30th Council Retreat Minutes

Updates

Councilmember Huff reminded everyone about the upcoming Downtown Trick or Treat and Fill the Cruiser event.

New Business

None

Old Business

Councilmember Dahl asked when we will have an Aquifer Study update. Chad Bedlington stated we needed to have a Planning Commission meeting first.

Ordinances and Resolutions

5. 2024 Property Tax Resolution

Moved to next meeting

Public Comment - City Business Only

Carri Comer thanked Brycen Huff for looking into issues. During budget development is a good time to evaluate what you are spending money on. We really want a Town Hall Meeting.

Missi Olson agreed we need a Town Hall Meeting. Meetings need to be advertised better.

Kyle Comer said the term transparency needs to be followed through.

Dustin Richey thanked Public Works staff for their work. He asked about an employee investigation and asphalt investigation. He would like to see more beautification done in town. He'd like to see something good done with our money.

Please turn off Cell Phones- Thank you

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accommodation is Provided Upon Request.

The City of McCleary is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

La ciudad de McCleary es un proveedor de igualdad de oportunidades y el empleador.

Executive Session

None

Council Comments

Councilmember Huff wants dates for a Town Hall Meeting. He will check with the VFW for dates for us to use it.

Mayor Comments

None

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm

Motion made by Councilmember Dahl, Seconded by Councilmember Simmons.

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

Please turn off Cell Phones- Thank you

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accommodation is Provided Upon Request.

The City of McCleary is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

La ciudad de McCleary es un proveedor de igualdad de oportunidades y el empleador.