



McCleary City Council Meeting

Wednesday, April 12, 2023 – 6:30 PM
McCleary City Hall Council Chambers & Zoom

Minutes

Call to Order/Flag Salute/Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 6:31pm.

PRESENT

Councilmember Brycen Huff
Councilmember Max Ross
Councilmember Andrea Dahl
Councilmember Joy Iversen

ABSENT

Councilmember Jenna Amsbury

Motion made by Councilmember Ross, Seconded by Councilmember Iversen to excuse Councilmember Amsbury.

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

Agenda Modifications/Acceptance

Councilmember Dahl made a motion to add a 2nd Public Comment at the end of the meeting to include City Related Business

Roll Call Vote

Motion made by Councilmember Dahl, Seconded by Councilmember Huff.

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

Councilmember Dahl made a motion to add the Council Meeting Schedule Discussion to New Business on the Agenda.

Roll Call Vote

Motion made by Councilmember Dahl, Seconded by Councilmember Huff.

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

Special Presentations

1. Port of Grays Harbor

Kayla Dunlap, Gary Nelson and Leonard Barnes gave a presentation on the Port of Grays Harbor. They gave an overview of their 2023 priorities & projects and spoke about their 2022 Highlights.

Public Comment - Agenda Items Only

April Wright asked about the City Clerk's resignation and asked about a date of resignation. She asked about the qualifications of the new Clerk-Treasurer that is on the agenda tonight for confirmation.

Consent Agenda

Motion made by Councilmember Dahl, Seconded by Councilmember Huff to accept the Consent Agenda.

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

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2. March 2023 Council Meeting Minutes
3. Accounts Payable March 1-15 Check Numbers 51829-51830 & 51841-51900 including EFT's totaling \$249,497.43
4. Accounts Payable March 16-31 Check Numbers 51903-51940 totaling \$57,490.32

Updates

5. Staff Reports - Light & Power, Police, Finance

Councilmember Huff asked Chad where we are at on the Utility Rate Study. Chad Bedlington said we are going to review a little more, but should have an update for Council next month.

Councilmember Dahl asked for the missing Public Works and Water Staff Reports. Kevin Trehwella is here tonight to give an update on the water. She also asked to see the Police Business Audit. Chief Patrick said he'd provide a copy at the next Council Meeting. Councilmember Dahl also asked about the dash cams. Chief Patrick gave an update on where they are at on that and are still working on getting them up and running. They spoke in regards to the cost of completing this project. They discussed where they are on the hiring of a new officer and spoke about an opening on the Civil Service.

There will be a report from our 2020-2021 audit soon.

6. Water System Update

Kevin Trehwella gave an update on the overdosing of chemicals to the Water Treatment Plant on March 13th. The reason for this was nothing that the programmers had ever ran into. He spoke on how the chemicals get added to the water and he explained how he corrected the problem.

Councilmember Dahl asked if the water was ever hazardous. Kevin said no, the Department of Health wants us to be at a certain level, or below. That level is 4 parts per million. We went to 3.78 parts per million so we did not violate. Councilmember Ross asked for our location, what is the normal level. Kevin said .52.

City-Wide hydrant flushing will be next week, all week. Councilmember Iversen asked if that meant we'd have dirty water for a week? Kevin explained why we need to flush the hydrants. A few residents had questions about trainings, certifications and water testing locations.

New Business

7. Planning Commission Appointment

Council will table this item until Lisa Rook can attend the meeting.

8. Salary Commission Appointments

Council will table this item until they can all attend the meeting.

9. Pitney Bowes Agreement

Councilmember Iversen asked if we already purchased this equipment and Ann-Marie stated we have. She asked if we were voting on this or just being given information on this. Ann-Marie said we will pay \$333.60 and \$45.20, which is much less than the \$600 plus postage that we paid DES. We paid DES \$1400-\$1700 every month. Councilmember Iversen asked what postage is on this new machine? Ann-Marie said we get a discount of \$0.03 to \$0.04 so postage will be less than what we were paying to the State. Ann Marie said the McCleary Post Office gave us bins, we sent the first batch of bills out already, they were all folded stuffed and sent out within a couple hours.

10. Confirmation of Clerk-Treasurer

Councilmember Huff asked when was Council made aware of this position coming open, because we do confirm our Department Heads, and we didn't know that our current clerk was leaving. He wants to know why they weren't made aware of this. He also wants to know why this wasn't posted externally. Huff said, he isn't saying this person isn't qualified, but how do we know they are the best qualified if

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we don't have anyone else to compare them to. Councilmember Dahl said she saw his resume, but doesn't have anything to compare it to to see if he meets the minimum and required qualifications for this position. Councilmember Ross agrees and wants more discussion on this.

Residents and Council asked the candidate a few questions but Councilmember Ross asked if we could stop because this is not a public interview. He asked that we open this job to the public, select the top 3 and continue with the process.

11. WSDOT Maintenance Agreement

Chad Bedlington stated that WSDOT approached us with the agreement that gives us joint utilization of equipment. If we need assistance with sanding or sweeping for example, they can assist us with that and we will know the cost ahead of time. Brent Schiller from WSDOT was at the meeting and stated this will be a partnership with the City so we can use each other's resources. Councilmember Dahl recused herself from voting

Motion made by Councilmember Iversen, Seconded by Councilmember Ross.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Huff, Councilmember Ross, Councilmember Iversen

12. Information Technology Upgrades

Tyson Ryder gave an update on our current IT situation and the upgrades that we need. He has spent a lot of time working on getting our infrastructure up to where it needs to be. Chad Bedlington stated our system has been neglected and we haven't invested in our IT infrastructure the way we should have. We got two companies that provided assessments and estimates for us. We estimate the total cost for this is going to be around \$80,000. Right now we do not have the \$80,00 budgeted in the 2023 budget so what we would have to do is get Council approval for a budget amendment at the May meeting. Councilmember Huff asked if they could see the proposals from these companies so they could have a discussion, along with the Budget Amendment Ordinance, at the next meeting. That way after discussion, they could vote on the Ordinance. Councilmember Ross asked if there were any grant opportunities that could help pay for this and Chad stated he wasn't aware of any. Some other options for funding would be using ARP Funds, pull from reserves or re-allocate Capital Funds and sacrifice another project.

Residents asked questions on security training and policies on making sure former employees no longer have access to personal information at the City.

Council Meeting Schedule

Councilmember Dahl said all last year we had two meetings a month, with the exception a few months. I'd like to propose we go back to that. Just this meeting alone, we have so much information on here, and we're still only getting it 4-days in advance and it's taking us twice as long to go over everything. Councilmember Dahl would like to be in the loop more than once a month.

Councilmember Iversen agrees. Councilmember Huff supports this and Councilmember Ross is fine either way.

Old Business

Ordinances and Resolutions

13. LGIP Resolution

This item will be tabled until next month.

14. Trespass on City Property Ordinance

Chad Bedlington said there have been instances where City Employees have been subject to harassment and verbal abuse. We asked our City Attorney, Chris Coker, to draft an Ordinance to adopt a process so we know how we are able to respond to it. There was discussion on what this does and

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doesn't cover. Residents asked questions on how long the harassment has been going on, and Councilmember Dahl said at least 16 months or longer. A resident asked what the City has done to protect their employees. Councilmember Ross wants to circle back into the Ordinance in front of us and said the Council wants to take the legal route that they can, we want to take the step to stop this. Councilmember Iversen likes that this gives us something in writing that we can use. She thinks this is a good start, she can't speak for why this hasn't happened before, but today it did, so we can move forward and see if this can help. Councilmember Huff agrees. He doesn't like that our City Employees give so much to the community are subject to belittlement, blown kisses to, being cussed out, having their tools kicked off the sidewalk while working and nothing happens to her, and it has to stop. Councilmember Dahl would like to see section 9.50.060 struck, the Police have the authority to issue the no trespassing and that should be it.

Motion made by Councilmember Ross, Seconded by Councilmember Dahl to Adopt ordinance 882 with the change to revise section 9.50.060 so the Chief of Police or his designee replaces the City Administrator.

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

15. Utility Discount for Non-Profits Ordinance

Councilmembers Huff and Iversen will recuse themselves from this discussion and voting. Councilmember Dahl asked Chris Coker if we ever got a definitive answer on this in regards to gifting of public funds. Coker said he checked with MRSC and could only get a grayish answer. He explained that cities are allowed to give certain entities a break for purposes of helping 'the poor and infirm' and if we are doing that, it isn't a gift of public funds. The Museum for example, provides lunches for the Community, so if they can document this, he thinks this will qualify to give them a discount. If the auditors had a problem with this, he would have no problem going to bat for us on this. Councilmember Ross asked to table this item until the next meeting since they don't have enough councilmembers voting on this tonight.

Public Comment

Monica Reeves spoke about her and other community member's concerns relating to staffing, unfair labor practices, misuse of City funds and lack of trust with City leadership.

Steve Sleasman spoke in regards to targeting certain employees. He spoke in regards to multiple police officer issues that he'd like investigated.

Missi Olson spoke about her concerns about the future of McCleary and the division within the City. She has concerns about the leadership and is afraid our town will eventually look like a small rundown town.

Tania Finlayson wanted to share her admiration for Paul Nott who has dedicated 30-years of his life to this Community, making it a better place for everyone and is now being reprimanded. She spoke about all the great qualities he has and what a good person her brother, Paul, is. She spoke about the integrity and compassion that he has.

April Wright had questions about public records and the process of them. She has concerns about a records request that was released that was not redacted and is an ongoing investigation, and shouldn't have been released.

Gina Banks spoke about her concerns about the looks of this town. She spoke about her concerns with the Mayor about showing respect for our town and having compassion.

Lisa Johnson spoke about the unfair, targeted harassment they are doing against the employees of the

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City. She asked about HR policies and who was in charge of that. She spoke in regards to the recent Public Records Request that was sent out. She asked to stop with the harassment of the good employees that do their jobs.

Jason Johnson spoke to the leadership about getting better educated with OSHA. He encouraged the employees from now on, if they have an issue, go directly to OSHA.

Tyler Sauer spoke in regards to how mad he is about the Public Records request that was released with his information on it that was posted on Facebook. He spoke about his concerns with a couple employees getting put on leave and how much those employees are worth, including the Light and Power Crew.

Angela Rittinger's name was on the sign in sheet, but wasn't there when her name was called.

Executive Session

16. RCW 42.30.110(1)(f)

Executive session not to exceed 5-minutes and there will be no action taken. Executive session started at 9:24pm and ended at 9:29pm

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm

Motion made by Councilmember Huff, Seconded by Councilmember Dahl.

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

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