



# McCleary Special City Council Meeting

Wednesday, January 24, 2024 – 6:30 PM

Zoom Virtual Meeting & City Hall Council Chambers

## Minutes

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### Call to Order/Flag Salute/Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm by Mayor Miller

### PRESENT

Councilmember Jacob Simmons

Councilmember Brycen Huff

Councilmember Andrea Dahl

Councilmember Keith Klimek

A motion was made, seconded and passed to excuse Councilmember Ross from the meeting.

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

### Agenda Modifications/Acceptance

Motion made by Councilmember Dahl, Seconded by Councilmember Huff to approve the agenda as written.

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

### Public Comment - Agenda Items Only

Gina Banks made comments regarding the City's contract with Fire District No. 5 for ambulance services. She also stated concern for coverage and low staffing levels in the fire department. She asked for there to be more collaboration with Fire District 12.

### Consent Agenda

1. Accounts Payable Dec 22, 2023 - Jan 15, 2024 Ck Numbers 52887-52925 including EFT's Totaling \$511,207.93 2.
2. Accounts Payable 13th Month Check Numbers 52926-52955 Totaling \$39,069.56

Motion made by Councilmember Huff, Seconded by Councilmember Dahl to approve the consent agenda as written.

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

### Updates

3. Staff Reports - Public Works Director

Chad Bedlington, Director of Public Works, provided an update on the Aquifer study, stating there will be a meeting with the Chehalis Basin Partnership on Friday, then it will be coming in front of council.

4. Information Technologies (IT) Project Update

Mr. Bedlington provided an updated scope of work from Aktivov for completion of the IT Project and ongoing service. Arnie Bhowmick, Aktivov Asset Management, provided an overview of Aktivov. They are a global company in all time zones, so the city would have 24/7 response. Councilmember Klimek asked how they would be responding to the city as they are located in Sammamish. He stated the company is interested in hiring Tyson Ryder as a 1099 employee to help with onsite issues for IT support when needed through Aktivov. He would be employed outside of the city and only work

outside of his normal working hours. This would save the city money on commute time and call out time from Aktivov and provide better local service.

Councilmember Huff stated the city handbook does not allow employees to benefit personally from the city in outside employment. He thinks this is an ethical issue and gray area and doesn't sit well with him. Mr. Bhowmick responded this proposal is the most cost-effective for the city. They are trying to look out for the city's financial interest.

Councilmember Simmons asked how far from complete the project is and what the vulnerability is for the city. Mr. Bhowmick stated the project needs 6-8 weeks for completion and the city is vulnerable currently. He stated the ongoing service contract would be for monthly monitoring and system management after the initial completion of the system.

Councilmember Klimek asked how many hours the company would estimate needing Tyson onsite. Mr. Bhowmick stated he expects 15-20 for the first 6-8 weeks then much less as it would only be for hardware needs on site.

Councilmember Simmons asked what the budget included for IT Services in 2024. Jenna Amsbury, Clerk-Treasurer stated \$46,000 was in the budget, this proposal would add \$25,000 to \$30,000 to that figure.

Liability was discussed if Tyson were to be working for Aktivov how that would impact the City. Mr. Bhowmick stated he would be a 1099 employee, independent contractor. There was discussion that over 60 companies were sent the initial request for proposals for IT Services and only 3 responded. Aktivov was the lowest cost of the three.

No decisions were made.

## **New Business – None**

### **Old Business**

#### **5. Expanded Grant Writing Pool- Professional Service Agreements**

Chad Bedlington, Director of Public Works, explained there were two new organizations that responded to an RFP for grant writing services. Both offer different specialties and will only be paid if they are selected to work for a specific project. They are on call only and no monthly fees are included.

Motion made by Councilmember Huff, Seconded by Councilmember Dahl to approve the two contracts for grant writing services.

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

## **Ordinances and Resolutions - None**

### **Public Comment - City Business Only**

Monica Reeves made comments regarding the IT issue and the optics of the proposal are disturbing. She stated the monitoring should not cost that much monthly and questioned the amount of hours outside of the workday that would be used. She asked when the RFQ was completed.

Mr. Bhowmick stated there would be transparency of data for hours worked and separate accounting done. He stated his company's proposal is \$50,000 cheaper than the next RFP proposal for a company out of Olympia.

Ms. Reeves continued to question the employee work hours and how Aktivov knew the other RFP amounts. She also inquired about the Fire Chief process and the time and energy to do oral boards when there is one candidate.

Missi Olson asked why the IT project is only partially complete and why it was stopped. She asked about audits of who can access the system and discussed the total costs of the project.

### **Executive Session**

6. Potential Litigation - RCW 42.30.110(1)(i). The Mayor, Council, Clerk-Treasurer and Mr. Coker went into executive session at 7:22 pm. The Mayor announced the session would last 15 minutes.

At 7:37 pm the Mayor moved back in to session and announced no decisions were made.

### **Closed Session**

7. Collective Bargaining - RCW 42.30.140(4)(a). The Mayor, Council, Clerk-Treasurer and Mr. Coker went into closed session at 7:37 pm. The Mayor announced the session would last 15 minutes.

At 7:52 pm the Mayor moved back in to session and announced no decisions were made.

### **Council Comments**

Councilmember Klimek stated someone recently got sick at the front office and needed an ambulance. A city staff person responded and there was no radio in the front office for them to use. He asked for a radio to be put back in place.

Councilmember Huff stated the council and mayor met with Fire District 12 last night. He stated the meeting was very beneficial and asked the mayor to move forward with hiring Andrew Pittman as the Fire Chief.

Councilmember Dahl added that it makes sense to hire him.

Councilmember Simmons asked for a timeframe for the interviews of Fire Chief. Mayor Miller stated within a month hopefully, he is trying to coordinate schedules.

### **Adjourn**

Motion made by Councilmember Ross, Seconded by Councilmember Dahl.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:58pm