



McCleary Regular City Council Meeting

Wednesday, August 23, 2023 – 6:30 PM

McCleary Community Center & Zoom Virtual Meeting

Minutes

Call to Order/Flag Salute/Roll Call

A motion to excuse Councilmember Ross was made by Councilmember Iverson and seconded by Councilmember Huff.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Huff, Councilmember Dahl, Councilmember Iverson

Agenda Modifications/Acceptance

A motion was made by Councilmember Huff and seconded by Councilmember Dahl to accept the agenda as published.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Huff, Councilmember Dahl, Councilmember Iverson

Public Hearing

None

1. Signs Ordinance

At 6:35 p.m. Mayor Miller opened a public hearing for consideration of a sign ordinance. Public comment was heard. Jacob Simmons brought up 1st amendment rights. Gary Atkins asked who wrote the Ordinance, if it was Brycen. Chris Coker said he drafted it. Gary also asked what banners fall under. Paul Nott wanted to remind people not to hang signs on the power poles because it is a hazard for the linemen. Councilmember Huff asked to modify for businesses. Chris Coker said if the Council emails him he can modify the Ordinance. This will go back to the Policy Committee. Public Hearing closed at 7:02pm.

Public Comment - Agenda Items Only

April Wright asked to find out the process and procedure for filling the vacant Council Position. Chris Coker stated it's an application process and the City has 90-days to fill it. The candidate needs to be a resident for at least 1 year and also be a registered voter.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Councilmember Iverson and seconded by Councilmember Huff to adopt the consent agenda. Councilmember Dahl asked if there were invoices available for the IT purchases included in the Accounts Payables. Chad Bedlington, Public Works Director, stated all invoices are in the binder of materials and Council has been sent a detailed breakdown of the expenses incurred for the IT project.

Motion made by Councilmember Iverson, Seconded by Councilmember Huff.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Huff, Councilmember Dahl, Councilmember Iverson

2. Accounts Payable June 30, 2023 Check Number 52233 totaling \$61,214.39

Accounts Payable July 31, 2023 Check Number 52336 totaling \$295.01

Accounts Payable August 1-15 Check Numbers 52353-52402 including EFT's totaling \$\$151,367.15

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3. June 28, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Updates

4. Staff Report - IT Department

Chad Bedlington said the servers are up and running and The City is fully functional. Most of the data that was initially lost has been recovered.

New Business

5. Utility Rate Review – Scope of Work Amendment

Chad Bedlington said we are still looking at this. Staff are looking into our water rate structure for evaluation. We are looking into tiers for people that conserve their water. Chad is asking for Council approval to amend the initial agreement for the additional scope of work which is approximately \$6900.

Motion made by Councilmember Iversen, Seconded by Councilmember Dahl.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Huff, Councilmember Dahl, Councilmember Iversen

6. Memorandum of Understanding – Amendment to the Current IBEW Collective Bargaining Agreement

Chad Bedlington said staff is trying to prep for 2024's budget and he would like to add a Program Manager Position and have had the Policy Committee review the job description. This would be IT and urban planning. Chad said having an IT person on staff is valuable to the City. He got comparables from AWC for the salary range. Councilmember Dahl wants to see the job description and comparables. April Wright asked with the potential utility rate increases and staff not getting cost of living raises, why are we adding an additional position? She votes no for this position.

Councilmember Huff asked to see billable hours from last year for IT to compare it to having an IT person on staff. Huff also doesn't see the urgency on approving this tonight. With a brand new system we should not need as much IT support and we can contract out for bigger projects.

Gary Atkins asked if Tyson was hired to do Code Enforcement and if he was getting paid out of class for IT work. Gary said he didn't think it is fair to ask Tyson to do IT work for free when we paid the prior IT a couple thousand dollars a month.

Monica Reeves asked what the urban planner portion of the job would be doing, she asked if they would be doing grant writing. She wanted to know what the cost savings would be.

7. Council Retreat

Councilmember Huff said he'd like to plan another Council Retreat and is hoping we will have filled the open position before that. Council agreed to move the deadline for the vacant council position to September 15th so they can plan the retreat with the new councilmember. There will be a Budget Hearing on September 20th and the Retreat will be on September 30th.

8. Agenda Format Discussion

Councilmember Huff liked the layout of Aberdeen's Council Agenda. He asked if we could change ours to be more user friendly. He'd like to add financial impacts into our packets and wants to add cover sheets for Agenda items. Jenna Amsbury stated she will provide a template for review.

Old Business

9. Public Records Request Status Update

Jenna Amsbury said Lindsay is on vacation and will meet with her when she comes back on Monday to receive the status.

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10. IT Update - Lost Information, Recovery, Recovery Costs

Chad Bedlington said this was covered earlier in the meeting.

11. Asphalt Update

Chad Bedlington said the City pulled out about 60 tons of asphalt, pipe and concrete and will dispose of the materials. Councilmember Huff asked if the County and Department of Health were notified that we were out there working.

Teri Franklin spoke in regards to the aquifer. She wants us to do a better job of watching out for our water and said we need monitoring wells.

Ordinances and Resolutions

12. Signs Ordinance

No Action

Public Comment - City Business Only

Gary Atkins says the name calling is getting old. We need to work together. I should be able to come here and give my comments without backlash. He wants facts, and will share some. The former Mayor spent a lot of money, the bears for example, the vehicle leases and computer leases. Gary said he thinks Tyson is doing great and should be getting paid out of class for his work. Gary spoke in regards to employees using personal computers for city business. He said the Council shouldn't be allowed to use their personal computer, they should all have one paid for by the City. Gary said we would like a City Administrator to oversee employees and to assist the Mayor.

Kyle Comer asked to put the person running unopposed for Council in the vacant position.

April Wright wanted to recap from a few meeting ago the Mayor said that the debris that was removed was not all due to the paving project, it is from years of dumping. April spoke about the utility rates and asked about public records. She also congratulated Jenna on her new position.

Monica Reeves said thank you for getting all of these items on the agenda. She thinks everyone is asking good questions and this was an engaging meeting.

Jim Wright asked about the unmarked police cars. Chief Patrick said they are allowed by RCW, but are looking at other graphics.

Executive Session

None

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm

Motion made by Councilmember Iversen, Seconded by Councilmember Huff.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Huff, Councilmember Dahl, Councilmember Iversen

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