



McCleary Regular City Council Meeting

Wednesday, July 24, 2024 – 6:30 PM

McCleary Community Center & Zoom Virtual Meeting

Minutes

Call to Order/Flag Salute/Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 6:30pm

PRESENT

Councilmember Jacob Simmons

Councilmember Brycen Huff

Councilmember Max Ross by phone

Councilmember Keith Klimek

ABSENT Mayor Chris Miller

A motion was made, seconded and passed to excuse Councilmember Andrea Dahl.

Agenda Modifications/Acceptance

Councilmember Huff requested to move the camera police Resolution item to item 4 and move the others items after that. Councilmember Simmons asked to add a discussion on turning camera back on if the Resolution is approved. Motion made by Councilmember Simmons, Seconded by Councilmember Klimek to move the camera policy Resolution to item number 4 and add a discussion regarding turning cameras back on to the agenda.

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

Special Presentations

None

Public Comment - Agenda Items Only

None

Consent Agenda

1. Accounts Payable July 1-15, 2024 Ck Numbers 53498-53538 Including EFT's Totaling \$144,676.26
2. Minutes – June 26, 2024
3. Minutes – July 10, 2024

Motion made by Councilmember Simmons, Seconded by Councilmember Klimek to approve consent agenda.

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

Updates

None

New Business

None

Ordinances and Resolutions

4. Camera Policy Resolution

Councilmember Simmons provided an overview of the policy committee draft changes to the policy. He explained they reviewed Councilmember Dahl's suggestions and incorporated her major concerns. This policy puts the camera software in the hands of the police chief. Councilmember Ross stated he is ready to adopt the policy and thanked Keith and Jacob for their work on it.

Motion made by Councilmember Klimek, Seconded by Councilmember Simmons to Resolution No. 763 Adopting the camera video surveillance policy.

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

5. Turning on Cameras Discussion:

Councilmember Simmons stated the cameras have been misused since they were purchased and he doesn't believe in a surveillance state. They were put in four years ago and sold on the false lie that it is for our safety. It is used and abused by past and present leaders. He does not support turning the cameras back on.

Councilmember Klimek stated he has heard about recent child abductions in other areas and doesn't want that to happen here. He is requesting one of the cameras to be put in the park so we don't have to worry about the kids playing at the park. He would like to turn cameras on.

Councilmember Ross stated he understands their opinions. He thinks the cameras are for safety. He would like to at least see the cameras at all entrance/exits to the city turned on, and only accessed if there is an issue. Then there could be further discussion on placement of other cameras, as he agrees that he doesn't think there needs to be as many.

Councilmember Huff stated we have cameras at entrances and buildings to also deal with vandalism. He supports the cameras at the exits and entrances to town. He stated Centralia has plate readers and even more camera presence; it is becoming more common. He said he is in favor of the cameras, and he still wants the logs to see how they have been used. The policy can be adjusted as needed. He stated he spoke to Chief Patrick and he stated he will provide the logs if directed to by policy.

Councilmember Klimek asked how many cameras are installed. Chad Bedlington stated between 16 and 25. He was not sure off the top of his head. He stated there are two cameras that were purchased in the past that have not been installed that were slated for the transit station and park.

Councilmember Klimek stated those are the locations that cameras are needed. Councilmember Simmons stated new camera placement is not on the agenda tonight. Councilmember Ross stated it would be good to have the Public Safety Committee look at locations for the cameras. He stated he would like the entrance and exit cameras turned on and then more discussion on the others in a future meeting.

Chad Bedlington asked that the council consider three cameras at the treatment/well properties as well for a total of 6 camera with the entrance and exit ones.

Motion made by Councilmember Ross, Seconded by Councilmember Klimek to approve turning on the cameras at the treatment plant, wells and entrance and exit to town for a total of six cameras.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Huff, Councilmember Ross, Councilmember Klimek

Voting Nay: Councilmember Simmons

Old Business

6. Washington Department of Enterprise Services - Energy Services Authorization/Agreement Bedlington agreement with the Department of Enterprise Services

explained the City applied for a decarbonization grant and was awarded \$2,750,000 for a solar array project. There was a presentation last meeting regarding the project. The next step in this project is to complete an Investment Grade Audit (IGA) which generates an Energy Services Proposal. He stated this will get the project to 30% design and refine the scope of the project. This is facilitated through contracts with the State. Bedlington is asking for approval to enter into an agreement with Department of Enterprise Services (DES). The cost to complete the IGA is just under \$48,000, and is reimbursable through the Department of Commerce grant award. Initially the cost will be born by Light and Power Utility Fund, and after we would seek reimbursement through the grant. While the IGA is being completed a contract will be drafted and negotiated with the Department of Commerce to secure the grant funding under contract. This is the kickoff for the project and determining the benefits of the solar array system to the City. The next milestone will be to discuss the Audit and the Energy Service proposal.

Councilmember Huff asked about the timeline for approval of this agreement. Mr. Bedlington stated the IGA will take 6 to 8 weeks to complete, which is about the same time period it will take to negotiate the grant contract with Department of Commerce. They will run on a parallel course. Councilmember Simmons asked if the audit will be presented around the same time as the Commerce contract. He asked how long to reimburse the Light and Power Fund. Mr. Bedlington stated the city would do quarterly billing for the grant. Councilmember Simmons asked if at any point we stop the project will we still get the money reimbursed? Mr. Bedlington stated he can only guarantee the funds will be reimbursed by the grant once the funding is approved by council.

Council member Huff asked if the item can be moved to the next meeting so Councilmember Dahl can also be present. Mr. Bedlington stated waiting two weeks should not be a problem. Councilmember Ross and Simmons were ok with the waiting until the next meeting.

The item was tabled to the next meeting.

7. Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Grant Application Authorizations

Chad Bedlington stated the City has applied for two RCO grants for parks. One for improvements to Beerbower Park and one to install/create a pocket park on city owned property in the Summit Place II area of the City. He stated this authorizes the Mayor to signing authority for the projects. The final approval, if awarded the grants, will still have to be presented to council and approved before accepting any grant funds. He explained the application process includes presentation as well as the formal application and takes a few months before awards are announced. It is a very competitive program.

Councilmember Huff asked about the maintenance of the pocket park, stating he doesn't see how it benefits the city. Mr. Bedlington stated the city would maintain like our other park property, and the purpose of this location is because it is already owned by the city so no purchase of property is necessary. He noted the city has reviewed two vendors with 50% grant opportunities for the purchase of equipment.

Councilmember Ross stated parks increase property values and rankings for desirability to live in an area. He stated it is not safe for kids to ride bikes or walk to Beerbower Park from Summit Road area and thinks new parks and recreation opportunities are good for the community.

Motion made by Councilmember Simmons, Seconded by Councilmember Ross to approve the Beerbower Park application authorization.

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

Motion made by Councilmember Klimek, Seconded by Councilmember Ross to approve the North Summit Road Pocket Park application.

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

Public Comment - City Business Only

Missi Olson stated Bear Fest was very nice. She was concerned about the landscaping and planters across from the Chiropractors office, stating there were no plants, weeds and the planters were falling apart. The plants in front of City Hall are shade plants and were withering in the heat, it was a waste of money to purchase them. She asked about a dog park and suggested the area by the cemetery and creek. She stated she decided to speak to her neighbors about the grass length issue instead of filing a complaint.

April Marsh stated the sidewalks, planters and parking lot behind city hall were all in terrible shape for Bear Fest. We need to maintain what we have before adding more to the list. We used to travel roads through high traffic areas as kids and we were just fine. We don't need another park to maintain.

Carri Comer stated she loves our parks and thinks the city should be promoting the community center more. The current park is a dump most of the time and the city should work on that before taking on more. She stated that the city should be reaching out to community partners for help with cleaning up the city before large events. She stated a lot more could have been accomplished. By the Council approving the grant for a park in Summit area you just sealed the deal for the mayor to rerun since he is keeping promises to his neighbors.

Executive Session

None

Council Comments

Councilmember Huff asked for discussion on allowing dogs in the park. Councilmember Klimek stated he spoke to Chad about getting together costs to put in waste stations and rule signs. He would also like to know if there would be any maintenance costs. Dog park discussion will be placed on the next agenda.

Gary Atkins was on the phone and asked to provide public comment. He stated he has been told the planters by the Chiropractor office are not city owned. He stated there could be a temporary fence put up behind the baseball area in the park to test out a dog park.

Lisa Jo, also online, stated the planters have always been maintained by the city in the past. Councilmember Huff stated that it could have been the Chamber of Commerce as well.

Councilmember Huff stated that National Night Out is August 6, 2024 at 6:00 pm at City Hall.

Councilmember Ross thanked Bear Fest and Councilmember Dahl for all their work on the event.

Mayor Comments None

Adjourn

Motion made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:34pm.

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