



McCleary Regular City Council Meeting

Wednesday, May 22, 2024 – 6:30 PM

McCleary Community Center & Zoom Virtual Meeting

Minutes

Call to Order/Flag Salute/Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 6:31 p.m. by Mayor Pro-Tem Huff.

PRESENT

Councilmember Jacob Simmons

Councilmember Brycen Huff

Councilmember Max Ross

Councilmember Andrea Dahl

Councilmember Keith Klimek

Agenda Modifications/Acceptance

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

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

Presentations

1. Aquifer Study

David Nausee from EA Engineering gave an update on the aquifer study. HE presented a PowerPoint on the data collected, aquifer structure and water levels. There was discussion on modeling and impacts on the aquifer.

Councilmember Ross asked about the percentage for growth available. Nausee stated it is hard to answer that question, as each new well would have an impact on the aquifer but did not express concern over normal growth impacts to the sustainability of the water.

There were no further questions from citizens or council.

Public Hearing

2. Signs Ordinance - Continued from 05/08/2024 Meeting

The Signs Public Hearing opened at 7:14pm, there was no public comment. Public Hearing closed at 7:15pm.

Public Comment - Agenda Items Only

Jeff Geer said he pays for the water but cannot drink it. Geer also wanted to know who put the post on Facebook on the 14th. The excuse was the geomagnetic storm caused the influx of chlorine in the water. Is that the best excuse? Geer knows the Mayor believes the education level of the citizens of McCleary is 8th grade or below. Something needs to be done with everything that is getting thrown out there. It's pure lies.

Consent Agenda

Councilmember Simmons asked for the Mayor's travel be charged to his fund and not the water fund. His funds for travel are already used up for the year. That is supposed to be for employee trainings. Councilmember Dahl agrees with this, which they brought up in the Finance Meeting.

Mayor Pro-Tem Huff asked if the council wanted to freeze travel for the rest of the year for the Mayor. He has used all of his travel for the year already, and is \$1,300 over.

Motion made by Councilmember Huff, Seconded by Councilmember Klimek to approve the consent agenda with the exception to freeze travel for the Mayor and to move his travel charge from water to the Mayor's fund.

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

3. Accounts Payable May 1-15, 2024 Ck Numbers 53309-53367 Including EFT's Totaling \$265,471.88
4. Meeting Minutes - May 8, 2024

Updates

5. Water Discussion

Councilmember Ross stated we all know there was a chlorine spike in the water last week. He would like to have a brief discussion on this, but would like to discuss this further when Kevin Trehwella, Water Treatment Manager, can be here to address what happened.

Director of Public Works Chad Bedlington stated he is prepared to discuss the issue. He explained that about 7 days ago, the city had a spike in the chlorine level in the city water system. The automated system was showing there were zero parts of chlorine in the water which caused the pump to run more, adding extra chlorine to the water. There were two reasons for this, human error and a fouled sensor in the chlorine pumps. The sensor had just been cleaned three days prior, as per routine maintenance. Safeguards have been put in place to prevent excess chlorine level from being administered in the system again. The wells now have a log that is being maintained by the weekend duty crew to monitor chlorine levels. The SCADA system for the wells have had changes made for additional fail safes and alerts to the operators. The system is now in manual mode and will not allow for more than 90 minutes of chlorine to be added to the system. The normal chlorine levels in the system are between .05 and .65 parts per million and we had levels as high as 5 parts per million reported which is the cap before we have to report it to the Health Department. Bedlington thanked Councilmember Ross for doing his own water testing and notifying the City.

McCleary resident Dustin Richey asked since we reached chlorine levels or 5 and higher, was this reported to the Health Department? Bedlington said, if it hasn't been done already, then it should have been done by staff.

Huff asked Bedlington, when this post went out about the solar storm screwing up our water, the information you are giving us tonight is more plausible. Is the City going to put something out that is believable, like you provided tonight, that explains what happened and what is being done to fix the issue, so they aren't expected to believe this was caused by the Northern Lights. Bedlington said he didn't post the statement, and he's basing his comments tonight on what he believes to be true.

Councilmember Simmons thanked Bedlington for being here tonight. Simmons wanted to know if this was the same issue that happened on March 13, 2023, and what wasn't done to fix this from then until this last event happened? Bedlington will check into this.

Councilmember Dahl said the Facebook post was embarrassing. Comments were turned off so people couldn't even ask questions about it. She got calls from people asking about it. Dahl wanted to know if Kevin was the only operator. Bedlington stated Kevin and Joe are both operators.

Councilmembers would like the post removed from Facebook and a new post made.

New Business – None

Old Business

6. SCJ Contract Modification

Bedlington would like to move this until after the comprehensive plan ordinance is discussed.

After Ordinance passed, Bedlington said there are some development codes that need updated and zoning changes that need to be made. He's asking for Council to modify our existing contract with SCJ Alliance with a cost of \$18,500. Huff asked if this can be done at any time. Without knowing if growth is coming, is the expense worth it? Bedlington said developers may need this.

Councilmember Ross asked if we got multiple bids on this because \$18,500 seems high for code writing. Bedlington explained that it's a revamp of title 17 but he's open to other suggestions.

7. WA Families Clean Energy Credits Grant Contract with Department of Commerce

Council would like more time to review this. Item tabled until the June 12th meeting.

Ordinances and Resolutions

8. Signs Ordinance

Clerk-Treasurer Jenna Amsbury stated the policy committee removed the language about signs on public property. Councilmember Ross likes the changes that was made.

Councilmember Huff stated he wanted the ordinance to include private property and maintaining the signs.

Motion made by Councilmember Ross, Seconded by Councilmember Simmons to approve Ordinance 890.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Voting Nay: Councilmember Huff

9. Public Records Ordinance

Jenna Amsbury explained this is the same content the council has reviewed for the past month. It is all legal language that needed to be updated to current RCW standards as the past Ordinance was not in current legal compliance. Councilmember Simmons asked about the language of creating a document and the city not being required to do so. Ms. Amsbury stated that is case law and a legal question that Mr. Coker could better answer.

Motion made by Councilmember Ross, Seconded by Councilmember Klimek to approve the Public Records Ordinance.

Roll Call Vote:

Voting Yea: Councilmember Ross

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

Ordinance Fails.

10. Comprehensive Plan Ordinance

Chad Bedlington gave a recap from the last meeting on the Comprehensive Plan.

Motion made by Councilmember Ross, Seconded by Councilmember Simmons to adopt Ordinance 891.

Roll Call Vote

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

6. SCJ Contract Modification

After Ordinance passed, Bedlington said there are some development codes that need updated and zoning changes that need to be made. He's asking for Council to modify our existing contract with SCJ Alliance with a cost of \$18,500. Huff asked if this can be done at any time. Without knowing if growth is coming, is the expense worth it? Bedlington said developers may need this.

Councilmember Ross asked if we got multiple bids on this because \$18,500 seems high for code writing. Bedlington explained that it is a complete rewrite of title 17 but he's open to other suggestions and will bring back more information.

11. Camera Policy Resolution

Mayor Pro-tem Huff asked the policy committee if they had anything to add. Councilmember Simmons explained what they added to the policy. This rests on the Chief of Police and there will be no access to cameras from the Council or Mayor.

Council discussed what the cameras can view and if private property can be blacked out.

Councilmember Klimek said he talked with the Police Chief and he didn't think it was important that he take the time to learn this. Klimek said it is important that he learns it because he doesn't want anyone else other than the police to be accessing the cameras.

Councilmember Huff would like the policy to state that only the Chief or Sergeant will be the camera designees.

Councilmember Simmons wants to know how long it takes to get the login information. It shouldn't take this long. Dahl said several have asked for this data. She said she has several changes that she emailed that she would like added to the policy.

Councilmember Huff asked for a timeline of when the logs will be provided. He was told on May 6th

that they would have them by the end of the week.

Dahl would like to see where the cameras are located because she cannot find it on the website anymore.

Councilmember Simmons would like to look over this again and bring it back for the next meeting.

Councilmember Ross would like the cameras to be turned back on as soon as possible for security purposes.

Public Comment - City Business Only

Ron Mullins spoke in regards to the water needing to be safe. He was a social worker and met with the elderly who wanted to talk about the power rates. The Council can talk to GHPUD to absorb the McCleary customers.

A senior citizen outside of McCleary spoke about her power rates. She is on a budget pay. Councilmember Huff explained that the city bills are all the utilities on one billing.

Paul Nott explained the city utility bill and people think it's their power bill, but it's also their water and sewer on one bill. Our power bill has always been lower than all the surrounding utilities; Grays Harbor PUD, Mason PUD and Puget Sound Energy. Nott explained that if you live in Elma, you get two bills, a City bill and a PUD bill, in McCleary, you get one bill.

Another resident spoke about Public Records. He said to contact Russell Woods, he is the State Records Archive Manager and will be able to answer your questions.

Council Comments

Huff asked for an update from a prior meeting on the potholes and the odor from the Treatment Plant. Bedlington said the deodorizer has been implemented. He stated the city has a very limited streets budget for the potholes. We cannot do a full alley restoration, which is what that alley needs. But we can do some cold mix repairs.

Dahl asked how everything was going with the new IT company. Bedlington said the Police will need more work, a revised scope of work. She asked if a new RFP has been started yet and Bedlington said, not yet.

Simmons said the delay in getting the camera login information is unacceptable. The Mayor's answer is unacceptable. To withhold information from the Council on the camera system is unacceptable.

Adjourn

Motion made by Councilmember Klimek, Seconded by Councilmember Simmons to adjourn the meeting at 8:47pm.

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