



McCleary Regular City Council Meeting

Wednesday, March 23, 2022 – 6:30 PM
Community Center and Zoom Virtual Meeting

Minutes

Call to Order/Flag Salute/Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 6:33pm

Agenda Modifications/Acceptance

Todd Baun added the Rate Study under New Business and Councilmember Amsbury asked for a discussion on Public Comment.

Motion made by Councilmember Amsbury, Seconded by Councilmember Ross.

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

Public Hearing - Aquifer Zoning Moratorium

Mayor Miller stated we passed a temporary Ordinance back in January, so by law we had to do the 60-day Public Hearing portion to give the public a chance to talk about it. This is going to be a long process, this is just the initial portion of this.

Teri Franklin- She thinks we should let the moratorium stand until the County and the City implement the Interlocal agreement from 2008. She spoke in regards to monitoring wells and what the City was supposed to do. We should have 14 years of date by now to make informed decisions. She would like to commend Mayor Miller on getting this moratorium in place.

Dave Pearsall- No comment.

Bob Pringle commented on the salmon in Wildcat Creek.

Public Hearing Closed.

Public Comment - "Agenda Items Only"

A resident asked where the verbiage on 'H' came from on the Ordinance for the Salary Commission.

Lori- asked a question about the alley being used for a new house construction on Fir. Why are they not using the whole alley and only using the section in front of my duplex's? She would like the alley to be put to non-usage, like it was before. Todd Baun stated they would look into that.

Teri Franklin- Is wondering how the house on Fir got built on that piece of property based on the soil samples that she took. Councilmember Ross stated that there are ways around this.

Bob Pringle- I'm curious how long you guys are going to pick and choose what the public can talk to the City Council about. Mayor Miller stated that is one of our topics tonight that we're going to try and figure out. We don't have to offer Public Comment, we're trying to find this happy medium to make this work.

Gary Atkins- recording inaudible. People come to these meeting to get their voices heard. If you limit Public Comment to 'Agenda Items Only' the public isn't heard. People should be able to talk for 3-5 minutes with no interruptions from others. He is asking that the Council answer the questions that the public speaks about during Public Comment. He wants to be heard, to be taken seriously, and to get answers. We wouldn't be in a lawsuit right now if people would have taken things seriously. Now as a taxpayer, that's going to cost me money.

Name not audible- Would like to make a comment on Public Comment. I have found Public Comment to be very disruptive over the last year and would like to look forward to on-topic comments and written public comments for off-topic comments.

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Shelly- Is there a place during Public Comment if there is an event coming up, because we don't have a reader board, is there a way to let people know, since we don't have a way to do that. Is there an appropriate time for this? Mayor Miller said she could Email these in advance and we could announce them.

Bob Pringle- You talk about Public Comments being an hour, that depends on how many people are here. If you keep not letting people talk about what they want to talk about, you're going to get fewer and fewer people here, and nothing is getting done. 3 minutes, no interruptions.

Teri- I'm not sure what your talking about with your Public Comment, are you talking about doing something different than having a Public Comment and the beginning and at the end of the meeting? Mayor Miller stated that's what we're trying to figure out. She's been attending these meetings for years and can't imagine that you'd try to limit people from coming and talking as a Public Comment. It's disappointing that is how our government operates.

Mayor Miller stated there are different ways of giving Public Comment, you can still submit written public comment, it would be included in the packet and everyone would be able to read it and it would give us time to research it and get answers to you. We do not have to have this platform here. And this is what we are trying to figure out.

Angela Rittinger- I've been attending the Council Meeting for 2 years and never has Public Comment been an issue, other than things getting a little out of control, but we do need to have our voice, and it seems to me that Brycen Huff, the Dahl's and Joy were fine when the attacks were on the Mayor, but when the questions started on them and their involvement of the mutiny of the Mayor, that's when they wanted to shut down the Public Comments. Also, I really hope you take Teri Frankin up on her offer to help us, she is very knowledgable on our water issues.

Public Comment Closed.

Consent Agenda

2. Accounts Payable March 1-15 Check #'s 50338-50441 totaling \$258,305.37 including EFT's
Motion made by Councilmember Iversen, Seconded by Councilmember Huff.
Voting Yea: Councilmember Amsbury, Councilmember Huff, Councilmember Ross, Councilmember Dahl, Councilmember Iversen

Updates – none

New Business

Todd Baun stated we got one proposal back from FCS for the Rate Study. He would like to move forward on a Rate Study with FCS on a Contract with them to bring back to Council.

Motion made by Councilmember Amsbury. Inaudible recording on Second.

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

Old Business

3. Public Comment Discussion

Councilmember Amsbury wanted to bring this up again and suggests we keep the first Public Comment to Agenda Items Only, and the second one for Public Comments but keep it to 3 minutes, keep a timer on the screen and let people know when their time is up.

Councilmember Iversen stated she has tried over the years to get people responses, but it does help if an Email is sent, because it's hard in the meetings to keep track of all the questions.

Bob Pringle said to Mayor Miller that some people don't like to Email, he doesn't.

Councilmember Iversen would like to see something that address how people are going to get answers.

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Councilmember Amsbury was wondering if on the new website if we could have a Public Comment tracking sheet, where they could type in their questions, and the answer would be posted there as well, so everyone could see. Mayor Miller just wants the questions in writing, regardless of how we get them.

Councilmember Ross wanted to remind everyone why we're having this discussion. First, Public Comment has become a huge distraction, community members have turned it into a time to attack on one another. The second is the purpose for these meetings is for the City Council to conduct official business. He agrees the public needs to be heard and wants there to be a public comment for agenda items, but the general public comment because it has become such a distraction, I think something needs to be done and is open to ideas. He likes all the ideas he's heard so far.

Inaudible recording.

Gary Atkins stated we have allowed the public to be a distraction, more since Zoom started. I'm tired of being interrupted during my public comment. You want us to write down our questions to get us answers, you want us to do all this work, no, that's not how it works. Angela Rittinger stated its upsetting to hear some of these councilmembers speak of the disruption when some of them are the ones that supported some of this nonsense that we've been seeing, Bufford calling in. It's a shame that the rest of us that are bringing up legitimate issues are being silenced because of people like Bufford and people on Zoom.

Name not stated, suggested a voicemail inbox for Public Comment.

Councilmember Huff likes the idea of hand-written public comment, then there is no misunderstanding and we can research and get back to them. The idea of restructuring public comment isn't saying, we don't care what you think, it's to try to get control back of the meetings. We want to hear what you think, it's not trying to silence anybody.

John Allardin stated he thinks they are doing a good job and agrees, there is too much bickering, childish, and needs to get back to professionalism.

Councilmember Amsbury suggests, if they don't have a City related comment, then move to the next person.

Councilmember Iversen stated it's not a dialog back and forth, it is a tell us your concerns and we can get the answers back to you.

Councilmember Ross said we don't need to over-complicate it, we just need a simple common sense solution.

Council agreed on an Agenda Items Only Public Comment at the beginning, City Business Only Public Comment at the end, and questions are put in writing.

Bob Pringle stated he knows these meetings are audio recorded, can someone come in and video record? Mayor Miller said it was legal.

Ordinances and Resolutions

4. Ordinance 870 – Salary Commission

Councilmember Ross stated a concern is he's worried about the Commission doing some extreme action. Mayor Miller stated when he talked to other Mayors, he believes our Council is the lowest paid in the County. If you choose to go this route, we can always modify it later. I think the best solution is to have a 3rd party entity look at this and be objective, but you would have to accept their decision, weather its up, down or staying the same. There was Council discussion on different ideas.

Councilmember Amsbury suggested having set guidelines for them to follow.

Name not stated asked if there was a discount or rebate for people who have heat pumps. Todd Baun stated to talk to Josh Cooper, he handles the conservation rebates.

Councilmember Dahl stated if there are increases in the middle of the budget year, she would like to see them go into effect the next year to be budgeted in. Councilmember Amsbury agreed.

Motion made by Councilmember Amsbury, Seconded by Councilmember Iversen with modifications to add the date of January 1 and removing section H.

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

Voting Nay: Councilmember Dahl

Updates

Councilmember Huff stated he talked with the Fire Department, and they do have an open-door policy and anyone can come down and ask questions.

Councilmember Dahl attended the school board meeting, met the board and superintendent, and they encourage public involvement as well.

Todd Baun wanted to introduce our new Clerk-Treasurer, Ann Marie.

Mayor Miller stated Lindsay is working on completing previous Minutes and will get them caught up. We hired Matt Rabe at the Police Department and we are finishing up the paperwork with him and getting his equipment. We are losing Brent McCullough, who has put in his 2-week notice. We interviewed for Police Chief and are starting on the background checks for them. At some point, Mayor Miller would like to bring back a Sergeant position, and also a School Resource Officer, part time.

Miller also said after we passed the Fireworks Ordinance, people were asking him about banning bottle rockets and wants to have a discussion on this at a later meeting.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm

Motion made by Inaudible, Seconded by Councilmember Ross.

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

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