Hello,,

My name is Scott Wood. My wife and I moved to McCleary in the spring of 2026 from Oklahoma City. We purchased our home at 429 West Pine Street because we wanted to be closer to family, our son, who lives in Olympia.

After retiring from the U.S. Navy in 2010, I took about a month off before beginning my next career. Through Orion Head Hunters, I attended several job fairs for veterans and connected with an engineering company based in Houston. They offered me a position with TH Hill if I was willing to relocate to Oklahoma, which I did.

From 2011 until my retirement, I worked with TH Hill in the oil and gas industry. My work took me throughout the United States and to Equatorial Guinea, where I provided engineering and quality assurance services for drilling operations.

I am interested in serving on the Community Planning Committee because this is my first experience living in a small town, and I would like to become more involved in the community where we have chosen to make our home. I do not come from a background specifically in city planning, but I believe my career has given me experience that could be valuable to the committee—particularly in planning, problem-solving, working with different groups of people, and looking at an issue from more than one perspective.

During the last ten years of my Navy career, I served as a Leading Chief Petty Officer responsible for the maintenance of approximately fifty hovercraft on the West Coast of the United States. A large part of my responsibility involved scheduling and planning maintenance, coordinating with crews, and determining when maintenance needed to be completed to keep the vessels ready for their missions.

In the oil and gas industry, I represented the energy company while working with shops that provided and maintained the tools used on drilling rigs. I was responsible for making sure maintenance and equipment work was completed according to approved procedures. I also traveled to drilling rigs to perform inspections and audits and to help resolve problems when they occurred.

One of the biggest lessons I took from both careers is the importance of bringing people together and planning a job correctly. Whether I was preparing a Navy vessel for deployment or making sure the right equipment and people were available to complete a drilling operation, success depended on good planning, communication, and understanding what was actually needed to get the job done.

1) What is your understanding of what the planning committee is or does?

My understanding is that the Planning Committee helps the City consider how land is used and how future development may affect the community. The committee listens to residents, property owners, and developers while considering both the immediate issue and the long-term effects on

McCleary. Good planning requires listening to different perspectives and finding practical solutions that allow the community to grow while maintaining its character and quality of life.

2) Do you think city government should adapt policies and regulations that control or restrict what people can do with their private property? “why”

I believe there are situations where city regulations are necessary, but there needs to be a reasonable balance between protecting the community and respecting property owners' rights.

For example, converting a garage into living space could increase demands on city water and sewer services, and an unsafe or neglected property can affect neighboring residents. At the same time, regulations can go too far. I previously lived in an HOA where rules could dictate something as simple as the color of your house.

I believe regulations should have a clear purpose and that the City should consider both the reason for the regulation and its impact on property owners and the community.

3) Do you have any business interests, employment relations, or related to anyone within the City of McCleary as this could cause a conflict of interest with your role as a Planning Commissioner?

I am a retired veteran who spent my career in the oil and gas industry and have worked and lived on three different continents. At this point in my life, I am not looking to start another business or career. My wife and I want to enjoy our home, travel, spend time with family, and enjoy life.

I do not have a business interest in McCleary, nor do I have plans to start a business here that would create a conflict with serving on the Planning Committee.

I am interested in serving because I would like to contribute the experience I have gained over the years to the community we now call home.

4) Can you look at both sides of an issue and be fair and impartial in making a decision? Do you have any particular experience in doing so? And what experience do you have that demonstrates your ability with conflict resolution?

Looking at issues from different perspectives has been a major part of my career. In the Navy, I often had to consider both the operator's and maintenance team's perspectives when deciding whether equipment needed to be taken out of service or could safely continue operating.

In the oilfield, decisions often required balancing safety, cost, risk, and the effect on the overall operation. I also worked with people who had different responsibilities and opinions about how problems should be handled.

These experiences taught me the importance of listening, understanding the concerns of others, separating facts from assumptions, and finding practical solutions. I would bring that same approach to the Planning Committee.

5) In your opinion, what is one of the most critical planning issues facing our City at this time and what were McCleary's best and worst land development decisions?

Because I am new to McCleary, I do not know the City's history well enough to fairly identify its best or worst land-development decisions. I would rather learn that history before forming an opinion.

I believe one of the most important issues facing McCleary is how to manage future growth while making sure the City's infrastructure and services can support it. I understand the City is considering annexation associated with a proposed housing development. Additional housing could bring more property-tax and utility revenue and additional customers for local businesses, but it could also increase demands on roads, water and sewer systems, and schools.

I believe the important question is not simply whether development should occur, but whether it can be done responsibly while considering the City's infrastructure, costs, services, and long-term needs.

6) What is your vision or where do you see the City of McCleary in ten (10) years?

Looking ahead ten years, I expect McCleary will continue to grow. Its proximity to Olympia and other larger communities makes it attractive to people who want to live in a smaller community while commuting to work elsewhere.

I would like to see McCleary manage that growth while maintaining the qualities that make it a good place to live. Planning for the future means considering infrastructure, water and sewer capacity, roads, public services, housing, and the overall character of the community.

As someone who is new to McCleary, I still have a lot to learn. I would like the opportunity to listen, learn, meet more of my neighbors, and contribute my time and experience to the community we chose to call home.

We chose McCleary because we wanted to be part of a smaller community. I would appreciate the opportunity to give some of my time and experience back to that community.

Scott Wood

Readwood1964@yahoo.com
405-826-3377