



# McCleary City Council Meeting

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 – 6:30 PM

McCleary Community Center & Zoom Virtual Meeting

## Minutes

### Call to Order/Flag Salute/Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 6:34pm

#### PRESENT

Councilmember Jenna Amsbury

Councilmember Brycen Huff

Councilmember Max Ross

Councilmember Andrea Dahl

Councilmember Joy Iversen

Absent Mayor Miller

### Agenda Modifications/Acceptance

Councilmember Ross wants to add a Policy Update to the Agenda

Motion made by Councilmember Ross, Seconded by Councilmember Dahl.

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

Mayor Pro-tem Huff wants to add an update on the Blake Decision to the Agenda

Motion made by Councilmember Iversen, Seconded by Councilmember Amsbury.

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

### Special Presentations

1. Concern for Animals

Vice President Cella Hyde, along with Amy Geier, Joyce Watts and Gina Stommes from Concern for Animals gave a presentation on their 2022 highlights and what their non-profit program offers. They offer Pet Banks and Voucher Programs and they want to make sure every pet owner has the opportunity to care for their pets.

2. Timberland Regional Library Presentation

Timberland Regional Library gave a presentation on some of their 2022 Highlights. They spoke about what the Library offers and specifically, McCleary's Library.

### Public Comment - Agenda Items Only

No Public Comment

### Consent Agenda

Motion made by Councilmember Amsbury, Seconded by Councilmember Iversen.

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

3. Accounts Payable April 16-30 Check Numbers 52008-52043 including EFT's totaling \$92,410.50

4. Council Meeting Minutes April 26, 2023

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## 5. Special Council Meeting Minutes May 3, 2023

### Updates

Councilmember Dahl asked if there were any surprises coming on the Aquifer Study. Chad Bedlington stated he didn't see any surprises coming. We want to do some dry weather study to go along with the wet weather study, which is the only thing we're waiting on for completion. Chad is hoping we will have a draft report ready by later this month.

Lisa Johnson asked what a reserve officer makes in pay. Chief Patrick stated nothing, this is a volunteer program.

Mayor Pro-tem Huff stated that this is the 3rd consecutive meeting the Mayor has missed. He reached out to AWC with some questions and found out that there is no requirement for the Mayor to be at the Council Meeting, unlike the Councilmembers. There are options that other cities have done, like restructuring the Government to a City Administrator/Council form of government. This doesn't remove the Mayor, but the City Administrator does budget, hiring, firing, all of that. Councilmember Amsbury believes this requires an election. She believes this form of government works better, nothing against anyone here. Paul Nott stated the Mayor is a part-time position. 4 years isn't enough time for a Mayor to complete their tasks. For employees, you go down a path, then 4 years later, you are going down another path, nothing gets completed. He is in favor of paying a City Administrator to run the City. Rob Lisle doesn't like that anyone can run for Mayor, we don't know them, they don't go through a background check, now they have access to all our personal information, our personnel files, it isn't a good thing.

## 6. Staff Reports - Police, Public Works Director

### New Business

## 7. TIB Agreement

Chad Bedlington said this is an Agreement with the Transportation Improvement Board. This is for a \$100,000 grant for a Chip Seal Program. He included a map of the streets he would like this for, and we'd work with the County on this project. We will notify the public of the schedule for work.

Motion made by Councilmember Amsbury, Seconded by Councilmember Dahl.

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

## 8. Bradley Air Agreement

Chad Bedlington said this is for quarterly maintenance for our heat pumps that they installed for us a couple years ago.

Motion made by Councilmember Iversen, Seconded by Councilmember Dahl.

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

### Policy Discussion

Councilmember Ross updated everyone on how the Council can adopt some policies. There are four areas they would like to see staff come up with policies for; IT/Social Media, Safety & Risk Management, Hiring Policy and Blake Decision. Chris Coker stated we can have an Ordinance ready for next meeting if the Legislature fails on the Blake Decision.

### IT Update

Chad Bedlington stated our data server failed. We have data backed up from February and prior. Our

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IT system was neglected, held together by shoestrings and ultimately failed. We have worked as quickly as we can to find cost effective solutions. We are not asking for a budget amendment, we are going to try and do some adjustments in the current budget which include postponing the purchase of 3 new vehicles until next year.

Jeff Geer asked if we knew it was being held together with shoestrings, why wasn't it backed up since February? Chad said, we dropped the ball, we should have been backing up more frequently.

Residents want the financial cost to recover what was lost.

### **Old Business**

9. Planning Commission Appointment

Council will table this item

### **Ordinances and Resolutions**

10. Utility Discount for Non-Profits Ordinance

Councilmembers Iversen and Huff recuse themselves from voting on this.

Councilmember Amsbury wants to make sure the lunches the museum provides are provided to public by donation. She wants to be sure there won't be a audit risk for not using our utility funds properly but wants to be able to help the museum but also doesn't want an audit finding. Amsbury would like to ask the auditors during the exit audit some of their questions and bring this back for discussion after that.

### **Public Comment - City Business Only**

Rachelle Klimek spoke about the last time road work was done by her house. They weren't notified and spoke in regards to safety concerns she has. She said the City crew was wonderful to work with though.

Heidi Sutton will defer to the next meeting when the Mayor is here.

Carri Comer stated she never got an answer to who made the Facebook posting a couple weeks ago. She asked the City to open Facebook right now and find out. She talked about the leadership of the Mayor. Councilmember Amsbury said it isn't fair to be putting this on staff, it needs to come from the Mayor. Monica Drake thanked the Council for them listening to the public's concerns. Thanked them for working on policies, giving them 5 minutes instead of getting cut off at 3 minutes, for moving the meetings to the Community Center to acomodate the larger crowds. She wants to make sure that new hires and new positions are being done correctly and not being hand-plucked and put into a position, they need to show experience and qualifications.

Lisa Johnson asked what the Council is doing to investigate the recent HR issues. The City is opening themselves up to lawsuits. Councilmember Dahl stated that they are individually reaching out to resources, AWC, WCIA, L&I to get answers from them.

Missi Olsen asked when and who makes the decision whether a 3rd party investigation is done or if one is done internally. Councilmember Huff said he reached out a while back on this and believes it's a decision that needs to come from the City's Insurance Company or City Attorney. Missi thinks this is a toxic environment and this opens us up for lawsuits.

Mayor Pro-tem Huff wants to get the City back to normalcy and wants the staff to be proud to say they are proud to work for the City of McCleary.

Paul Nott spoke about what this town means to him and his family. He said it is so humbling to see everyone at the meetings and thanked everyone for loving the town like he does.

Jeff Geer spoke about the unprofessionalism of the Mayor and him losing internet connection last year when questions were being asked, and again now, not showing up when people want answers.

Jacob Simmons wanted to make sure he heard correctly on the cost of the IT purchases and that we are saving money by having the internal IT person do the work. He spoke about his concerns about having 1 person setting up the new IT software. Chad Bedlington stated we are also using out outside IT company, Aktivov. He's concerned about not having an IT Policy in place and IT not being in anyone's job description.

Suzanna Winstedt shared her thoughts on IT beings she's an IT professional. She doesn't think the City should

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have an internal IT person, what you do want is an outside consultant. She said hiring a full time IT person is very challenging and very expensive and doesn't think McCleary can afford that.

A. Miller thanked Council and employees as it's Public Servants Appreciation Week. She spoke in regards to the Facebook post and not being able to see who posted it. She spoke about the Clerk-Treasurer position and thinks piecing out that position would be good. She wanted Council to be aware that at the last meeting, being on Zoom, she was not called on and it was very frustrating.

Bob Dahl asked about changing the form of Government and how to go about that. Mayor Pro-tem Huff stated we could have Chris Coker give us the information and have it as an agenda item.

Councilmember Dahl wanted to thank the employees for being here and recognize the staff.

Mayor Pro-tem Huff said the VFW offered for the City to use their building for Council Meeting if we need to. He also wanted to recognize Public Employees. He wish all the mother's Happy Mother's Day on Sunday.

### **Executive Session**

### **Adjourn**

Meeting Adjourned at 8:48pm

Motion made by Councilmember Iversen, Seconded by Councilmember Ross.

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

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