



McCleary Regular City Council Meeting

Wednesday, July 14, 2021 – 6:30 PM
McCleary Community Center & WebEx

Minutes

Call to Order/Flag Salute/Roll Call

Mayor Orffer called the meeting to order at 6:30pm

PRESENT: Councilmembers Amsbury, Huff, Heller, Miller, and Iversen, and Mayor Orffer

Staff present were Wendy Collins, Clerk-Treasurer, Todd Baun, Public Works Director, Steve Blumer, Police Chief, Chris Coker, City Attorney

Agenda Modifications/Acceptance

There were no changes or modifications to the agenda.

Public Comment

Bob Pringle said he had a couple concerns. Derelict cars, it's kind of been a problem over the years, but it has really been getting worse over the last few years. He lives at the end of his road and there has been somebody's car parked there for over a year. Part of the car is even on City property. There is also one in the alley that has been there for a good 6 months. You have to watch where you are walking or driving around. He was wondering if anything can be done about this. Possibly increased police patrols at night, or maybe issue a warning for people to clean up their yards. Also, there are a lot of cars parked in the wrong side of the roads, this is kind of a hazard, he is curious if anything can be done about this. Lastly, Bob is concerned about 4th of July fireworks. He knows that McCleary is not going to completely ban fireworks, but some go off rattling around his windows. Again, maybe extra patrols, or someone going around to stop the fireworks. He understands this will cost the city a little bit extra, but something needs to be done. Maybe an ordinance of the weather is hot like it has been, you are taking a chance on doing something like this, it other city councils are banning fireworks completely.

Gary Atkins

I have a couple of concerns. I like to splash the rumor mill. What I've been told is that council did not approve these cameras that got put up in our city. You personally ordered them, so, I'd like to know if that's true or false. Also, I'd like to know about this huge sign that cost 27,000 dollars. That is something I was also told that did not get approved by the council, you took it upon yourself to do that. Some laptops....

Mayor Orffer responded: no, that is not true information. The cameras were part of the budget they were brought before city council. The council approved the cameras. That computer lease for the computers was also discussed with counsel, brought before counsel and approved by the council. The bear sign was also approved in our budget. By council. I can say, I cannot think of any time since I've been mayor that I have personally made a purchase or ordered anything for the city that I didn't personally pay for. All the furniture in my office I paid for personally, when I set up my office. I don't have a city credit card, and I don't order things for the city. When the city had the opportunity to make magnets for the Lindsay Baum thing, the city could not pay for them. I paid for those personally. So, I do not spend the city's money on my own accord. Everything comes through this council.

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Well, according to Washington state, when you do it, like a camera thing, they recommend that you do a cost analysis. They recommend you get the community to be involved and listen to their input. And I don't really feel like any of that was done, it was like 1 day they were all up everywhere. And I feel it's not really, I mean there are water ponds, ok, I'll give you that, but all around town on street signs and stuff, I mean, to me, that's just a lot of expense that we don't need, and didn't need. We sure in the heck don't need a 27,000 dollar sign. I mean people's cars around here don't even cost 27,000 dollars, so, why is the city out spending all of this money? On these things that really aren't a necessity.

Mayor Orffer said, one of the things that I started talking about, when I first got on city council was why the city did not have cameras for public safety. If we had had cameras in our city at the entrances and egresses on different occasions when crimes have occurred, and we could have identified the cars coming in and out of town, it would be very helpful in investigations. So that was something that I started working on when I became a council member and then it's been a conversation that has been ongoing and we've worked with this council and the council approved the cameras.

Gary continued, somebody robbed somebody on a street, and they're breaking out of town, and it's in the middle of the night and nobody saw their car, just getting out of town is not going to say oh, that's the one. You're not really, it's just a, I heard that they have audio. Which you can't have audio in the state of Washington.

Mayor Orffer said, no, our cameras do not have any audio on. Some of them have audio capability, but the audio is not on. And if it was on, we would, we would have to tell you would have to say that as the case. Our camera system has an audit report that we can go in and see every camera. We can tell whether it's on or off or video, we can tell whether it's on or off or audio. We can tell who is logged in and looked at that camera, and when. The city does not take a stance of monitoring the cameras they are there that we can go back and look at video that's been captured, if something happens. So at any time, we can go into the audit report and say so, and so logged in and look at this camera at this time. So, my whole reasoning, the reason that I brought this to the council, was that I feel it is a public safety, and it helps in keeping things in order, and it gives us a place to go if something does happen that we can see. What happened, who was here? Maybe the person that got robbed didn't see the car, but if they start running plates, and they see a plate, come up on someone that has another issue, or another event that they were part of on their record, it at least gives us a place to start. I can't speak to how police do their investigations, but cities all over the United States, houses, I have 6 or 7 cameras now on my own home, neighbors have cameras on their homes. That's what people do, it helps them to feel like I can see what happened and that's what the city's doing. It's a public safety effort.

Gary continued, but unfortunately you pay for your own cameras.

Mayor Orffer said that council approved it.

Gary continued, the council approved, if for 7,500 dollars, you guys spent 42,000 dollars, Plus, it looks like another 25.5.

Mayor Orffer said, I don't have all the numbers in front of me so I cannot answer you on that. But, my understanding is what we brought to council in a proposal is what we spent. I will be happy to do some research on that, but I can't answer you that now.

Gary said, I would appreciate some research because there's a big difference between 7,500 dollars and 42,000. My last thing I like to bring up is why are we paying a reservist to drive to Puyallup every day and back and forth.

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Mayor Orffer said, you can connect with chief Blumer to discuss that. We have a reserve officer because we have had a vacancy in our department, so connect with him and he will be very happy to have a conversation around that with, you. Thank you.

Bob Pringle said, question, who has access to this camera? Does everybody here, or just the police.

Mayor said Chief Blumer, and Wendy and Todd.

Bob Pringle asked why does Todd have access, what does Todd have to do with this part of law enforcement?

Mayor Orffer said because we have cameras on public facilities. So, if something happens to the well side, if something happens up at the water tower, wherever we have the cameras.

Bob Pringle asked wouldn't the chief know by looking at that instead of Todd. Wouldn't the chief know these are our sites, that the sites are owed by the city McCleary? Why would Todd have to do anything with that?

Mayor Orffer said, because if something happens on a city property, if someone calls our director of public works, he's the one that's going to go deal with it.

Bob said, they would call Todd. Why wouldn't they call the Grays Harbor County Sheriff's Department?

Mayor Orffer said I can't speak to every situation, but I can tell you that sometimes when things occur, it's not a crime. If a tree falls on something, we can go back and see, the tree fell on something. The police don't need to investigate that, but public works has to go fix it. And, like, I said, the people that have access all 3 of our top administrative team, have access to every camera.

Bob said, Wendy, to every camera. Wendy, you have access to every camera?

Wendy said, I have access to the city hall one, where, when I'm alone up there, I can see if someone comes into the door, so I can go up and help the counter.

Bob said, so out of 25 cameras, you have access to one.

Wendy said yes, I have access to one.

Bob said he wanted to verify that not all administrative positions have access to all the cameras.

Mayor Orffer said, but you weren't told you couldn't have access, that's the one you wanted access to.

Gary said she knows better that she doesn't need to have access. Unlike Todd. All right. I heard there is one at the school.

Mayor Orffer said there is a list on our website. There was a camera the school but there was a citizen complaint, so it was removed.

Angela Rittinger said the request that I did for camera locations, they're not in the places that they say they are.

Suzannah Winstedt

I have a couple of things. Start with the cameras, because that was on my list as well. I am familiar with the cameras and what you're saying about the audit and everything else about that is true. I don't understand why

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everybody has the same level of access. If some of them are in our buildings and some of them are in the city in general. I also find that the list of locations is insufficient in that, we should have a map. We even have things that's just mean we've added them, and we haven't even named them to the list. And that's just a list of what we call them in the system. With what model that is that it means not we should have a map with the location, the cameras on it. And even if it's just 5 cameras, that city hall with the building. It just the list is insufficient. I also find it questionable that we don't have an ordinance passed for a video surveillance policy. And that is very concerning, although I, thank you for answering the question already about, who had access to it. I don't understand why, if we had the exact same level of access. Um, just because it seems to be different amounts. Also, the fact that our administrators and the various personnel have access clearly outlined, and it only talks about. Police access it does not talk about anything else. Suzannah knows that you can set up different sites so if we wanted to have it for both purposes, we should split the system and give 1 set of access to the police 1 set of access to the city. I do want to check the city is paying for it. But if it's a police thing and an administrative thing, it should be split accordingly. And it is very easy to do so, and I looked it up because it was on the agenda. I did see that I could get a tour from the police, and I will. Suzannah said I did have a few more items. I do appreciate you guys getting back to me about my request about the dogs and the public spaces ordinance. Really my question is, why can't we amend that?

Mayor Orffer said Well, I think you suggested if you want counsel to consider that.

Suzannah said I would like to open up for amendment and maybe consider canceling or as Brycen and I have discussed, oftentimes, since we will do adopt history, why don't we have something? Because we have these cameras, like, a sign up fine to people who don't think about their dogs. The park is mostly used because lots of people I would say, I can't even guess, but I would say, at least a 3rd of the city has dogs. And, you know, why shouldn't they be allowed to take them in these public areas?

Mayor Orffer said ok, we can definitely bring that for a council to review and ask them about that. I know at 1 point we had talked about the city was really hoping to have a dog park. I was part of that conversation. So, maybe there's a space in there to visit that again as well. We will put that on the next agenda and bring that to council's attention.

Suzannah said I do have another question I'm not sure where this falls, but I noticed last summer that we never turn off the school zone lights, we have the flashing things all year round and that doesn't actually make sense to me. I don't have a lunch program, but unless we're having summer school every day, it doesn't make sense that it just flashes all year.

Mayor Orffer said ok, we will look into that that particular piece of equipment. We've had trouble with the programming of it. We'll check into that though, because I even said people when I come into town, why is that on? Thank you.

Suzannah said oh, I'm sorry, I do have a couple of other questions. Well. I will ask chief Blumer, but about the surveillance camera. I was wondering. Um, I know that we have who all has access, but do we have notifications set up and, or anything else, because there's a lot of creepy stuff you can do with the Verkata cameras that I don't know why, I run them for my company, and they creep me out because you can have the facial recognition and you can follow it. They can alert you when somebody comes on. We have any of that configured?

Mayor Orffer said to please check in with the Chief on that because but I'm not I'm not part of this. You might have a tour, and he'll be able to answer those questions.

Angela Rittinger

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First thing I want to bring up is kind of what you're talking about with the new bear sculptures. Although beautiful the one that we have down there, again I think it's kind of troubling that if it was for the public that the public had no idea what this was even going to cost. I'm a little concerned so I am just going to read the RCW on this. (Reads RCW). I guess my first question would be driving any ordinance, RCW, WAC or any other law of documentation of anything that would support the city's decision of purchases with sculptures or any other art with only one estimate, which seems to evade the small works roster and the public bidding process. The RCW also states that allocations for acquisitions of art pertains to all state agencies for the new construction of public buildings. Also, under this, this type of project requires the involvement of the Washington State Art Commission. I'm just curious if the Arts Commission was involved in that?

My next question Wendy I know you've handled a lot of the budget stuff for the city, is the top column here the geocoding? Is there a reason why so many line items break out into multiple columns? Some things don't really make sense. I'm looking at one here and was hoping that Todd was going to be here to answer the question, for instance we have weed, grass, and shrub chemical killer for a total of 800 bucks, and it is broken into streets, light and power, and storm water. Why the heck would we have weed killer budgeted into stormwater? How you budget having a pickup truck for 50,000 dollars, we have 7,000 of it into the park fund, 7,000 into the cemetery fund, 12 in street, and it is broken up throughout all of that.

Consent Agenda

1. Accounts Payable June 1-15
49311-49378 including EFT's totaling \$294,067.77.
2. Accounts Payable June 16-30
49379-49427 including EFT's totaling \$23,210.40
Payroll and treasurers report for June 2021 49380-49389 including EFT's totaling \$224720.89
3. Minutes
June 9, 2021

Approve the Consent Agenda

Motion made by Councilmember Huff, Seconded by Councilmember Iversen.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Amsbury, Councilmember Huff, Councilmember Heller, Councilmember Miller, Councilmember Iversen

Updates

4. Staff Reports - Public Works, Water & Wastewater, Finance, Building, Police

New Business

5. Verkada Renewal
Three options were presented to the Council for consideration...

Tabled until August 11th meeting
6. **Tenelco** Contract

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To approve the 1-year renewable contract at the rate of \$75 per wet ton with a minimum load of 25 tons, effective September 1, 2021, for Biosolids Transport and Beneficial Use Contract with **Tenelso, Inc.**

Motion made by Councilmember Amsbury, Seconded by Councilmember Huff.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Amsbury, Councilmember Huff, Councilmember Heller, Councilmember Miller, Councilmember Iversen

7. AWC Group Retro Program Consideration

Authorize Department of L&I and AWC to share and release all historical workers' compensation claims and premium date to AWC Retro for the City of McCleary.

Motion made by Councilmember Iversen, Seconded by Councilmember Miller.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Amsbury, Councilmember Huff, Councilmember Heller, Councilmember Miller, Councilmember Iversen

8. BPA Energy Conservation Agreement Amendment

The current contract for the conservation program through BPA will be expiring soon. **Authorize the Mayor to sign the BPA amendment for the conservation program.**

Motion made by Councilmember Miller, Seconded by Councilmember Huff.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Amsbury, Councilmember Huff, Councilmember Heller, Councilmember Miller, Councilmember Iversen

9. Port Blakely Annexation

After Council discussion, the Council agreed to schedule a public hearing. Councilmember Amsbury will recuse herself because she is the Clerk for the Boundary Review Board.

Old Business

10. McCleary Road Latecomers Agreement

A developer wants to extend the water utility on McCleary Road. If they hook up, they must pay their fair share when outside of city limits. Councilmember Miller asked if this will extend water all the way to the end of the road and Todd Baun responded, Yes it would. He also asked if John Hinton, from Gray & Osborne sent questions to Chris Coker for review and Chris Coker responded, He has not seen the documentation yet, but he has done it before. He just has to make sure we cover all the basis and it shouldn't be an issue.

Updates

11. Councilmembers

Councilmember Huff announced they will have another trash clean up on Saturday. He also announced we will hold a National Night Out on Tuesday, August 3rd, and the Police Department and Fire Department will be giving demonstrations that night from 5-8pm.

Councilmember Miller reported they will be holding a Saturday Market and a Movie Night in the Park on Saturday, July 24th. The August Saturday Market and Movie Night will be on August 28th.

Councilmember Amsbury is working with the Policy Committee on the Council Policy Document.

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12. Mayor

We are operating under the downgraded COVID Emergency Status.

Mayor Orffer thanked the Bear Festival Committee for bringing Bear festival back for 2021, they did an excellent job.

Mayor Orffer will be out of town at the end of the month, Mayor pro tem Miller will be covering for her in her absence.

We received our first installment of \$249k of the ARP funding

The Utility Shutoff Moratorium has been extended to September 30th.

Public Comment

Bob Pringle has something to talk to PW Assistant Josh Cooper about. Curious if Josh has the authority like Morrison used to have. Mayor Orffer says that PW Assistant Cooper will initiate a complaint, send the initial letter regarding the complaint, however he has a different level of authority. If he gets no response or no compliance, he will move on to the next part of the process. Bob asked if we could give Josh the power to get things moving a little faster instead of dragging on for months.

Suzannah Winstedt thanked the mayor for being adamant that people have the opportunity to go to the budgetary meetings. She would like to see a public calendar on the webpage that lists all the events as this would make it easier to follow up with questions.

Gary Atkins inquired on the status of the emergency (I am not sure what he says here). Mayor Orffer said we would check in with Kevin Brian as he is pretty on top of the issue.

Chris Vessey, glad to hear Council put annexation on hold thanks to Josh Cooper for all the work he has done. Chris would like to thank Wendy Collins for all the work she has done for the City and wishes her best of luck on her new job.

Executive Session

13. Potential Purchase of Land - RCW 42.30.110(1)(b)

Mayor Orffer called for an Executive Session at 8:16pm for 13 minutes per RCW 42.30.110(1)(b) regarding potential purchase of land. The Executive Session ended at 8:29pm. The Council discussed seized drug property from the Grays Harbor Drug Task Force. **The Council agreed to research purchasing options for the seized drug property.**

Motion made by Councilmember Miller, Seconded by Councilmember Heller.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Amsbury, Councilmember Huff, Councilmember Heller, Councilmember Miller, Councilmember Iversen

Adjourn

To Adjourn at 8:31pm. The next City Council meeting will be at 6:30pm on August 11, 2021.

Motion made by Councilmember Amsbury, Seconded by Councilmember Iversen.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Amsbury, Councilmember Huff, Councilmember Heller, Councilmember Miller,

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Councilmember Iversen

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