



McCleary Regular City Council Meeting

Wednesday, December 04, 2024 – 6:30 PM

McCleary Community Center & Zoom Virtual Meeting

Minutes

Call to Order/Flag Salute/Roll Call

Pledge of allegiance was conducted, along with roll call.

PRESENT

Councilmember Jacob Simmons

Councilmember Brycen Huff (Mayor Pro Tem)

Councilmember Brent Schiller

Councilmember Keith Klimek

ABSENT

Councilmember Andrea Dahl

Agenda Modifications/Acceptance

Councilmember Simmons added a topic to the New Business section of tonight's agenda. No other modifications were recommended.

A motion was made by Councilmember Klimek, Seconded by Councilmember Schiller to accept the agenda as modified.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Simmons, Councilmember Huff, Councilmember Schiller, Councilmember Klimek
Motion passed.

Special Presentations

1. Timberland Regional Library Presentation by Karen Kienenberger

Branch Manager Karen Kienenberger gave a presentation to council regarding the services available at the McCleary location of the Timberland Regional Library.

2. Olympic Ambulance Service Presentation by Joey Rodrigues

Joey Rodrigues (Executive Director) and Darrell Stanley (Duty Officer) of Olympic Ambulance, gave a presentation outlining the services they provide and suggested their agency can improve emergency services for McCleary's citizens. Joey and Darrell fielded several questions asked by council regarding wait times, weather limitations, liability, Grays Harbor County coverage, details of a potential agreement, and many others.

Public Comment - Agenda Items Only

Consent Agenda

3. November 6, 2024 Minutes
4. November 20, 2024 Minutes
5. Accounts Payable November 1-25, 2024 Ck Numbers 53975-53436 Including EFT's Totaling \$216,246.17

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Councilmember Simmons recommended Brycen Huff's title be changed from "Councilmember" to "Mayor Pro Tem" in the November 2024 meeting minutes. No other suggestions were made.

A motion was made by Councilmember Klimek, Seconded by Councilmember Simmons, to accept the Consent Agenda as modified.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Simmons, Councilmember Huff, Councilmember Schiller, Councilmember Klimek

Motion passed.

Updates

6. Staff Reports - Light & Power, Fire Department, Public Works, Finance, Police Activity Oct.

Staff reports for the month of November 2024 were provided by the city's Light & Power, Fire, Public Works, and Finance departments. The Police Department also provided a Call Activity Report for the month of October 2024.

Councilmember Simmons asked Waste Treatment Plant staff (Kevin Trehwella) for an update regarding issues with the lift station and costs associated with having House Brothers provide temporary, daily pumping services.

New Business

7. Emergency Management Services - Hannah Cleverly

Washington state law directs cities to meet certain provisions regarding emergency management. Hannah Cleverly, Deputy Director of Grays Harbor County Emergency Management (GHCEM), gave a presentation regarding the language of state law and creating comprehensive EM plans that meet state requirements. GHCEM has historically been performing EM functions for the county, in conjunction and coordination with the cities. McCleary does not currently have an agreement with GHCEM. Hannah invited council to participate in an interlocal agreement with other cities, for EM services. Hannah provided a cost analysis for such an agreement, along with the benefits of utilizing the agency's services, and fielded several questions from councilmembers.

New Personnel Discussion (Agenda amendment made by Councilmember Simmons)

City Administrator Jon Martin provided council with information on the city's two new interim employee hires, for the positions of Chief of Police and Clerk Treasurer.

Ryan Miskell is our new Chief of Police. He has previous law enforcement experience with the City of Long Beach and has been the previous Deputy Police Chief of Cosmopolis. Chief Miskell was unable to attend tonight's meeting, but plans to be in attendance at future meetings.

Jamie Vinyard is our new Clerk Treasurer. She has previous finance experience with the state's Fish & Wildlife Department, and was previously the Assistant Director of Finance for the city of Cosmopolis.

Administrator Martin provided an update regarding the city's CPA, Tara Dunford, noting that her cost analysis services are projected to save the city approximately \$71,000, and recommended the continued use of her services. He noted at this time, there is no plan to hire staff for the office clerk position.

Councilmember Simmons expressed his frustration with Mayor Miller regarding the recent hiring cycle; candidates should be approved by council before being hired as full-time city employees. A discussion regarding the hiring process and related city ordinances ensued between Councilmembers and Administrator Martin.

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Old Business

8. 2025 Budget Discussion

City Administrator Martin informed council of new information he's received regarding power costs, since the last budget discussion. The city's recent increased power usage has moved them to a different power tier, which will result in an additional \$46,000 per month (worst case scenario). He is working with CPA Dunford to find options to cover the increased costs in the budget. Jon noted the city will be able to receive rebates for any unused power.

9. Wastewater Treatment Plant Chiller Project

There were six companies who put in bids with the city for this project. Sunset Air was the lowest bid, with a 12 week estimation to complete the project. The goal is to complete it before summer.

A motion was made by Councilmember Klimek, Seconded by Councilmember Simmons to accept the bid and contract with Sunset Air to complete the project.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Simmons, Councilmember Huff, Councilmember Schiller, Councilmember Klimek

Motion passed.

Ordinances and Resolutions

None.

Public Comment - City Business Only

Carrie Comer invited everyone to attend the Christmas in McCleary event going on this Saturday. There will be events all day, including the lighting of the train at 6pm. She thanked city employees for decorating the park for this event.

Jeff Geer noted the temperature was only 38 degrees last Friday and inquired about having a city truck out to spread sand or salt on the roads, now that the weather has turned colder.

Executive Session

None.

Council Comments

Councilmember Klimek had follow up questions for City Administrator Martin regarding the negotiations of an ambulance contract. He is concerned about bad feelings developing if the city switches to another provider, but also wants to provide citizens with the best option.

Mayor Pro Tem Huff also encouraged everyone to attend the Christmas in McCleary event this Saturday, and help support the Civic Renewal committee. He thanked city crews for their help this week, in preparations for the festivities.

City Administrator Comments

Administrator Martin thanked council for the work they do, and acknowledged their frustration. His door is always open and his primary goal is to make McCleary a better place. He will attempt to improve his communication with them in the future regarding hiring decisions, and provide updates on the projects of the different city departments.

Jon informed council that the city has been awarded the enhanced bid to auto seal the roads, and also noted the city's sewer plan proposal was approved today.

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Adjourn

With no other city business to conduct, a motion was made by Councilmember Simmons, Seconded by Councilmember Klimek to adjourn the meeting.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Simmons, Councilmember Huff, Councilmember Schiller, Councilmember Klimek
Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

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