

CITY OF McCLEARY

December 3, 2008

Final Public Hearing on the 2009 Proposed Budget.
Special Meeting Followed—Posted, Agendas Provided to Council
Members 3 Days in Advance, and 3 Newspapers Notified.

The Special Meeting of the Council was opened at 6:00 PM with the flag salute.

Roll Call: Mayor Wallace Bentley
Council Members Vessey, Vatne, Lake, Hays and Boling

Staff Present: Attorney Glenn, City Administrator Nutley, City Clerk Rostedt, Police Chief Crumb, Building Official Schlenker, and Deputy Police Officer Bunch

Prior to opening the hearing, Administrator Nutley reminded members of the Finance Committee of their meeting on Thursday, December 4 at 10:00 AM, and invited the Mayor and Council to join with the employees for a holiday lasagna lunch on Wednesday, December 17 at noon at City Hall. She asked if there were any questions regarding the October financial statements and there were none.

The Public Hearing on the 2009 Proposed Budget was opened. Administrator Nutley went over the basics included in each fund. She pointed out the fact that estimated 2009 budget revenues in the Water Fund will not support the proposed expenditures, and the Council will be facing some difficult rate decisions. The City needs to keep in mind water projects defined in the Capital Improvement Plan which also includes some of the projects residents have said they want to see addressed, such as improving the smell in the water. But she said that the increase needed in the water rates is not just for system upgrades. Operation of the system has outpaced the existing rate structure. At this point, the estimate of a water rate increase from the rate study done by FCS Group is around 22% for the first year, 2009. She pointed out that the study calls for automatic increases over a 5 year period. Councilwoman Lake said she may want to revisit the issue each year, rather than adopting automatic increase over the next few years.

Questions were asked by Councilwoman Lake on the estimated 2009 Budget, such as the increased cost in cell phone bills and fuel costs. There being no further input from the public, the hearing was closed.

Back in the special meeting, it was moved by Councilman Vatne, seconded by Councilman Vessey, to authorize the Mayor to sign the 2009 Computer Software Maintenance Agreement with Visions. Carried.

Attorney Glenn has provided the Council with a draft of a Supplemental Budget Ordinance for 2008 for possible consideration at the December 10 regular meeting. The Clerk is going over the end of November financial statements to see if this will be necessary.

Ordinance No. 752, entitled AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A BUDGET FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2009 AND ESTABLISHING SALARIES, was introduced. It was moved by Councilman Vatne, seconded by Councilman Vessey to read the ordinance by first and last lines only. Carried. Councilwoman Lake voted against. It was moved by Councilman Vessey, seconded by Councilman Vatne to adopt the ordinance. Carried. Roll call showed Council Members Vessey,

Vatne, Hays and Boling voting in the affirmative. Councilwoman Lake voted against.

Councilman Vessey reported that he met, purely by accident, with a gentleman who repairs the spokes and wheels of old vehicles, like the antique train and fire wagon displayed in Beerbower Park. Considering the conditions of the wheels, Councilman Vessey was told to get an estimate of cost. Administrator Nutley said that she was aware of the contact and that she had asked Public Facilities Manager Baun to follow up.

It was moved by Councilman Vessey, seconded by Councilman Vatne, to hold an executive session of approximately 20 minutes as relates to the continuing negotiations with Rural Fire District 5 for ambulance service, indicating there would be no formal action taken after the session. Carried.

Back in regular session at 7:05 PM, six members of the McCleary Volunteer Fire Department addressed the Council regarding the current negotiations going on between the City of McCleary, City of Elma, Fire District No.12 and Fire District No. 5 regarding contracting for ambulance service. There have been a number of false rumors regarding the ongoing negotiation, and the Volunteer Firemen are concerned about how the contract would affect them. They would like to be kept informed. Attorney Glenn said that all of the meetings, with exception of one, have been opened to the public, and he encouraged them to attend. Administrator Nutley said she would be glad to meet with the firemen at their next regular meeting on Monday, December 8 at 6:30 PM.

It was moved by Councilman Vatne, seconded by Councilman Boling, that the meeting be adjourned. Carried.