

CITY OF MCCLEARY
Regular City Council Meeting
October 27,2010

REGULAR MEETING	Called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Michael Lant.
FLAG SALUTE	The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM with the Flag Salute.
ROLL CALL	Councilmember's Boling, Geer, Schiller, and Ator. All present. Mayor Dent is absent.
ABSENT	Mayor Dent.
STAFF PRESENT	City Attorney Dan Glenn, City Clerk/Treasurer Collins, Public Works Director Nick Bird, and staff member' s Paul Nott, Pierce Ridgway, Christiane Mercer, Randy Bunch, John Graham and Jennie Reed.
PUBLIC COMMENT	Chris Vessey asked what the status was of the large pot hole near 7th and Ash Street, which he asked about at the last meeting. Staff is working on an interlocal agreement with Hoquiam, which will provide street repair work. Mr. Vessey also reported a water leak on Ash and 8th Street and asked staff to please check into it.
MAYOR'S REPORT	Mayor Pro Tem Lant announced the new Accounts Payable/Deputy Clerk as Kim O'Connor, who previously worked for many years for a city in Eastern Washington. Feel free to stop by and say hi and help her feel welcome.
MINUTES APPROVED	It was moved by Councilmember Boling and seconded by Councilmember Schiller to approve the minutes. Motion Carried.
SNOW BIRD RATE	<p>Dan Glenn asked Council to review the options for a snow bird rate for residents that leave their residence during winter months. Other cities do not offer any reduction in rates during an absence and McCleary currently does, which is a loss of revenue for all those that utilize it. No action taken.</p> <p>Nick Bird asked Council to review the options for the float shed roof. He has provided them with options and asked them to be prepared to give staff direction on which way they want to move forward. Councilmember Schiller asked if staff can do the work and Mr. Bird responded stating we need a structural engineer to design the job and there is no one on staff that has that specific qualifications. Paul Nott added that Ron Pittman had submitted a bid to re-truss and reroof the float shed and it's probably in the past City Administrator's files. It might be a good tool to review so we know approximately how much we are looking at. Mr. Nott also stated the overhang is dangerous and should be removed right away.</p>
INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH CITY OF HOQUIAM	Dan Glenn prepared a draft Interlocal Agreement for Council to review, which will enter the City of McCleary and the City of Hoquiam into an agreement for certain public works projects, which the City of McCleary does not have the equipment necessary to perform. Attorney Glenn is asking for the Council to read and review the agreement so they may discuss, and possibly approve it, at a future meeting. The Council agreed for staff to move forward on the Interlocal Agreement with Hoquiam.
PRELIMINARY 2011 DRAFT BUDGET	<p>Mayor Dent provided a letter to the Council, along with a copy of the preliminary budget for their review. Nick Bird opened the discussion to the Council and public. Councilmember Schiller stated his concern over the 9% raise increase for administrative staff on the salary schedule. He didn't understand how they could lay one person off and budget for cutting the Building Official's job in half, and at the same time, increase the salaries for the non-union employees. Nick explained the Building Official's salary is charged 100% from current expense, which is a fund in bad shape. The administrative staff member's salaries are taken out of the utility funds.</p> <p>Councilmember Schiller said the Mayor previously stated he was not going to be giving Nick Bird a raise until he proved himself, and he quoted the January 27, 2010 minutes where the Mayor stated Nick would not be involved with the budget and financials, however, as he sees it, Nick is the main contributor to the financials. Nick said that was his understanding as well.</p>
BUDGET COMMENTS	Helen Lake stated with the economy and business failures in McCleary, 9% raises do not seem right. She also wondered if we could contract for services for the Building Official.

Ray Boling said he recently heard the Simpson Mill is losing half of he production cutting department on December 31, 2010, which will cause the City another loss in revenues for the loss of power used. He commented he believes the Mayor needs to get with the unions and ask for the raises to stop while we are in this dire straights. He is worried McCleary is going to end up a ghost town.

John Graham spoke regarding the Police Union stating the officers all agree to freeze their wages for a year to keep their jobs and help the city through this difficult time.

Paul Nott, IBEW Electrical Union Shop Steward, wanted the Council to know the union has never been approached with an offer to reopen the union contract. They offered, but it has never been accepted. He does not want the unions to be the big bad guy that is holding the city back. They want to react and make things work but the question hasn't been asked.

Councilmember Schiller asked where the city can cut our level of service. He wants to know if the department heads have been brought in to discuss when and how we need to make 10% cuts to our level of service. Nick stated he has spoke with Paul Nott regarding this and hasn't had to cut any level of service at this point.

Councilmember Boling submitted a letter to the Mayor and Council with an idea of cutting city hours by four hours a week to save money.

Dan Glenn spoke up stating these cost saving ideas are things the council should list and then schedule a time to come to the city and discuss them with staff to see if any of them are feasible.

Nick wanted to inform the Council that the intent of the next meeting will be the property tax issue of 1%.

Councilmember Geer wanted to know what the delay is on Lemay's garbage transitioning. Wendy Collins explained Lemay has installed new software and are training staff and working out the issues before taking our accounts back. They need to review all accounts and make sure every piece of information we have is current and accurate before they take it back, which is a timely process. Christiane Mercer, Utility Account Manager, informed the Council the task of comparing data and checking for accuracy is very time consuming.

Helen Lake wanted to know if the auditor is looking at the missing funds issue from the previous Utility Billing Clerk. Wendy Collins told her the auditor is currently working on that issue and her audit is not completed yet.

Councilmember Ray Boling asked why it took so long to get the auditor here. Wendy Collins told him it was due to scheduling issues due to the fact they wanted to do the 2009 audit, along with the fraud audit, so they needed more time in their schedule, and that wasn't available until this fall.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

It was moved by Councilmember Boling, seconded by Councilmember Ator to approve the vouchers. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:34 pm Mayor Pro Tem Lant requested an Executive Session for 15 minutes regarding potential litigation and to discuss a personnel issue (pursuant to sub paragraph F). There will be no action taken.

At 7:49 pm the Council asked for 5 additional minutes.

At 7:54 the Council resumed the City Council Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:56 pm, it was moved by Councilmember Boling seconded by Councilmember Geer to adjourn the meeting. Motion Carried.