

CITY OF MCCLEARY
Regular City Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 11, 2015

ROLL CALL AND FLAG SALUTE Councilmember's Reed, Schiller, Catterlin, Ator and Peterson.

ABSENT Mayor Dent was absent. Mayor Pro Tem Ator chaired the meeting.

STAFF PRESENT Present at the meeting were Todd Baun, Wendy Collins, George Crumb, Dan Glenn, Paul Nott and Randy Bunch.

PUBLIC COMMENT Chris Vessey is highly upset with the draft sheriff contract and doesn't think it's what's best for the City. He doesn't like the county asking for our police cars and for the City to provide office space and equipment. The contract doesn't say anything specific about 40-hour per week coverage with two deputies. Mr. Vessey sees a whole lot of questions that need to be answered. He believes the citizens of McCleary should be entitled to have a town hall meeting to discuss what they want for police services. He doesn't believe the City should approve the contract.

Sue Portschy doesn't like the contract either. She's concerned about vicious dogs in town and wants to know who would respond if someone gets attacked and bit while walking. Will the county respond to dog complaints? The McCleary Police respond in a matter of minutes.

Gary Atkins is on the fence with the draft contract. He has been doing research and believes the City needs to come up with a solution because neither the Sheriff's office or the City Police have come forward to tell the citizens what they will do for us. He stated the Council needs to have a game plan to help with revenue and with the drug issues. He doesn't believe we will attract businesses if we don't clean up the drug areas. He thinks it would be a good idea to consider a merge with either Shelton or Elma Police or with another city.

Brenda Orffer read the draft contract and said it is not on par with what was presented by the Council. She stated that contracting out police services comes at too high of a price to warrant what the savings are supposed to be. Her family home was recently burglarized while her 14-year old daughter was at home. She said safety cannot be assured or measured. She asked what would prevent the cash-strapped county, as its budget continues to suffer, from paring back from even the vaguely promised components of this deal. She stated this is a huge county and she sees no guarantee that our safety here in McCleary would be a priority. She said the Council made a mistake when taking two ballot measures to the vote of the people. She said there is never success when two measures are proposed. The Council should have proposed only one solution and worded it carefully so all of the Council's desired needs were presented. She urges the Council to keep the police force in McCleary and not outsource it away.

Helen Hamilton brought a letter written by Mrs. James to be read to the Council. Joy Iverson read it for her. The letter stated many concerns over the County taking over the police department. She is not in support of a contract with the Sheriff.

Joy Iverson was impressed by June Arndt's story about her son, which she shared at the last Council meeting. Joy said if the Council has a town hall meeting, she likes the idea of having both the County Sheriff and the Police Chief be present. She would like the community to have an opportunity to ask them both what they can provide the citizens of McCleary for police protection.

MINUTES APPROVED **It was moved by Councilmember Peterson, seconded by Councilmember Reed to approve the minutes from the February 11, 2015 meeting. Motion Carried 4-0.**

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT Dan Glenn provided a written report for the Council.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS None.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT Todd Baun provided a written report to the Council.

It was moved by Councilmember Schiller, seconded by Councilmember Catterlin to accept the 2015 calendar as is and make adjustments later, if necessary. Motion Carried 4-0.

GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY
SHERIFF DRAFT CONTRACT

Councilmember Catterlin stated the draft contract is a beginning document and we need to write down what we don't like about it and send it back to the County. He added that he does not agree with not listing the hours of patrol and he would like to see us keep the cars.

Councilmember Schiller said there was no language about "special events" coverage. He said he's only had the draft contract since Monday so it hasn't given him enough time to review it entirely. He added that the police budget this year is \$417,000, compared to \$570,000 last year. We've already expended 30% of the police budget and we are only in to March. We are already having problems with our current budget. He said they protected \$150,000 from not being spent. He asked again what level of service is the city willing to accept for police services. He said that is the bottom line here. Normally we have eight people at the meetings and tonight there is a large turnout because of the contract. He said we can keep the police but we need to figure out what level of service we can accept and afford. That is not being a politician, it is the bottom line.

Councilmember Catterlin said property taxes are down in the city so it decreases the tax revenue the city receives, which is the main source of revenue that pays for the police department. It's not a question of what the Council likes or prefers, it's the facts that they have to deal with.

Brenda Orffer said the tax revenue will drop considerably if we do not have a police department because that is what happened in Tenino. She did research over a ten-year time period and found that since they got rid of their police department, they now have graffiti, drugs, and people speeding through town. She said because of this, people left that city in hordes and now landlords don't even want to have rentals in Tenino because they don't have police coverage.

Pastor Brian Orffer asked if the City can operate the police department for \$225,000, which is the amount the County is asking. Councilmember Schiller said he spoke to John Graham about it but he hasn't heard anything back yet. He said the question is what type of coverage can we afford. What is the minimum the City can operate at off of an affordable cost? Pastor Orffer asked why should we go with less with the County when maybe we can go with just a little bit less and keep our department? Councilmember Schiller has been asking that same question for years.

Dan Glenn stated that Scott Snyder, the labor consultant, is discussing these matters, along with alternative solutions, with the union. He anticipates a report by either the next meeting or the first meeting in April.

Mr. Dunning asked how many employees have been hired over the last twenty years and wanted to know if we need all these employees. Todd Baun responded by saying he isn't sure exactly how many have been hired over the last twenty years, however, that would be like comparing apples and oranges. The police are funded by current expense and most of the other employees are split between utility funds so eliminating people or positions would not help the current expense deficit or benefit the police department in any way. He said we have to answer to the state auditor and have to account for the money according to their requirements. The majority of the police department is funded by property taxes. Mr. Dunning asked if we can change the law or rules and Todd said we would have to change the state constitution.

FUTURE TOWN HALL MEETING
DISCUSSION

Councilmember Schiller has lived here since 1993 and not much has changed as far as businesses go. He would like to have a town hall meeting to talk about the city, in general, and how to move forward toward success. He wants to bring the residents together to talk about how to bring the community together and move our town forward on all issues, not just regarding police services. He is willing to sponsor and set up the meeting. He said we have a major challenge in front of us and he wants to hear the public's input. Councilmember Ator said if Councilmember Schiller sets it up, he will be there. Mr. Schiller would appreciate it if all of the Councilmembers attend, along with the public. He will propose a date at the next meeting. Joy Iverson would like to see people bring a list of ideas and be prepared with suggestions and not just come to talk.

JOHN DEERE MOWER
PURCHASE

It was moved by Councilmember Catterlin, seconded by Councilmember Schiller to authorize the purchase of a new riding lawn mower for \$9,630.53, including tax from the Washington State Contract #10212. Motion Carried 4-0.

ATV ORDINANCE

Conversation took place regarding the use of ATV's on certain city streets. **It was moved by Councilmember Catterlin, seconded by Councilmember Reed to adopt the Ordinance. Councilmember Schiller asked to hold off until the next meeting until Todd Baun can work up a street allowance map to show street locations for where they would be prohibited and where they would be allowed. Councilmember Catterlin moved and Councilmember Reed seconded to withdraw the motion for adoption until the next meeting. Motion Carried 4-0.**

ASTOUND WAVE BROADBAND
ORDINANCE DRAFT B

The Council understands this will not generate much revenue for the City other than pole and rental fees. Dan Glenn stated that communication's change frequently so by opting in, we will have availability, which could benefit the City at a later date. If they build later and we had chose to opt out, they will go around us and we will miss out. The ordinance was tabled until the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Councilmember Catterlin asked about the financial printouts they were provided. Wendy Collins stated they were to be distributed to the Council, per the Mayor's request. Mayor Dent did not want the topic as part of the regular agenda so they were given to the Council for review. The reports were printed on March 5, 2015. One of the them is for the current expense fund and the other is a detailed report for the police department fund. One of the requirements made during the passing of the budget ordinance was the condition that the police budget be approved on a month-by-month basis by the Council. The reports are to comply with that provision.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

Accounts Payable vouchers/checks approved were 39188 - 39241 including EFT's in the amount of \$165,324.00 and 39248-39280 including EFT's in the amount of \$47,727.89.

Payroll checks approved were 39158 - 39187 and 39242-39247 including EFT's in the amount of \$146,283.33.

It was moved by Councilmember Peterson, seconded by Councilmember Reed to approve the vouchers. Motion Carried 4-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

MEETING ADJOURNED

It was moved by Councilmember Ator, seconded by Councilmember Peterson to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm. The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 25, 2015 at 7:00 pm. Motion Carried 4-0.

Mayor Gary Dent:

Clerk-Treasurer Wendy Collins:
