

CITY OF MCCLEARY
Regular City Council Meeting
Wednesday, May 13, 2020

ROLL CALL AND FLAG SALUTE Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic state-wide Stay Home, Stay Healthy mandate, the City Council held their meeting electronically through WebEx Meetings. Councilmembers Present were: Jenna Amsbury, Brycen Huff, Jaron Heller, Ben Blankenship and Joy Iversen. Mayor Brenda Orffer was also present.

ABSENT None.

PUBLIC HEARING None.

STAFF PRESENT Present at the meeting were Clerk-Treasurer Wendy Collins, Public Works Director Todd Baun, Police Chief Steve Blumer and City Attorney Chris Coker.

EXECUTIVE SESSION None.

MAYOR COMMENTS The Mayor introduced Sefo Nansen, the new Police Officer for the city. He comes from Squaxin Tribe.

All the crews and office staff are back except for Light and Power. The power crew should be back 100% next week after working out a social distancing plan.

The Finance Department has worked hard to get all of the accounting current so we know what the Covid-19 expenditures have been to date.

Mayor Orffer reported on some items the city has recently purchased. She requested new wastebaskets for the cemetery. Todd ordered a new large dropbox for both utility payments and for small packages to be dropped in to prevent additional contact. She said we also bought security cameras that are hung in different areas around town. An office space is being added to the public works department and the police remodel is almost finished.

PUBLIC COMMENT Councilmember Blankenship asked Todd where the treatment plant chemicals come from and Todd didn't know. He asked Todd to check to see if they are from China. He is concerned about the potential issue of not receiving shipments when needed and thinks it is a good idea to have an alternative company from a different location other than China.

Councilmember Blankenship asked if we are looking into refinancing our loans with the interest rates being so low. Todd said we are looking into it and so far, he has reached out to Chase Bank, Timberland and some other banks around Olympia. He said one of our loans goes out 40 years and the banks may consider giving a lower interest rate but not go out more than 20 years. It all depends on what they come back with. We reached out to Peter McMillen from USDA to see if we can refinance through USDA and he said no, they do not refinance their existing loans. Councilmember Blankenship would like the Council to receive an update on the status at the next meeting.

Councilmember Blankenship asked what the status is on when the park will be opening. Mayor Orffer spoke with Chris Coker about this and they believe with proper signage, we could open it. She wanted to ask the Council whether they prefer to open up the park bathrooms or put up portable restrooms. If we went with portable restrooms, they would be maintained by the company. Councilmember Iversen is concerned about the germs from kids sharing equipment. Councilmember Blankenship doesn't object to portable toilets and supports whatever is easiest. He added that UV light and heat kills the virus so mother nature will help with that. He also wants to see the basketball court and pickle ball court opened up. Councilmember Amsbury remembers the transit station having problems with the portable restroom and wonders if they will be vandalized the same as before, plus, she stated the portable restrooms are just as dirty as the park bathrooms. Councilmember Huff votes to open the bathrooms at the park and not use temporary restrooms. Councilmember Heller and Councilmember Iversen both agreed to opening the park as long as we have proper facilities for handwashing and appropriate signage.

Chris Coker said the liability issue is unknown but he doesn't think liability would apply to opening up the park. Councilmember Iversen stated that people that are afraid to use it will stay home and Councilmember Amsbury agreed and said people would have to use at their own risk and it would be hard to monitor. Chris replied to not monitor it. Mayor Orffer will discuss with the EOC group tomorrow and let them know the Council prefers to open the park and restrooms.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

Chris Coker continues to work with the Mayor on emergency protocols and legal process. He reported Grays Harbor had their first Zoom Hearing yesterday so they are gearing up for online court. It makes it a little easier for McCleary because we utilize the County Court.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS
REPORT

Todd provided a written report for the Council.

MINUTES APPROVED

Councilmember Iversen noticed a sentence was cut short on their copy of the minutes and asked if it was made in the final copy. Wendy responded it was corrected. **It was moved by Councilmember Blankenship, seconded by Councilmember Heller to adopt the minutes from the April 22, 2020 meeting. Motion Carried 5-0.**

VOUCHERS

Accounts Payable checks approved were 47704 - 47734 including EFT's, in the amount of \$43,357.79.

Payroll checks approved were 47650 - 47746 including EFT's, in the amount of \$219,015.52.

Councilmember Amsbury asked about an excavator and dozer rental. The City has had an agreement with the County and she wanted to know if the city ever rents from the County and Todd said no, we do not ever rent from the county. If we need equipment, we pay for the equipment and an operator from the county to perform the job. **It was moved by Councilmember Iversen, seconded by Councilmember Heller to approve the vouchers. Motion Carried 5-0.**

COVID-19 UPDATE

Councilmember Amsbury read on Wendy's report that they have been completing some of the FEMA Emergency Courses online and she was reviewing what we have been charging as Covid-19 related expenses. She stated she has been receiving conflicting messaging on what qualifies and what doesn't qualify as covid-19, regarding reimbursements. She is under the impression only overtime pay and emergency responder pay is allowable but not regular wages. She wondered if any information on this came up in those trainings. Chief Blumer said that is wrong. He said on a supplemental FEMA 4481 public assistance grant is overtime or backfill. We are not in recovery yet, when we are, we will ask for all of it. All the supplemental grants have different requirements and so does the CARES act money. All money given to the state for the CARES Act must follow Federal guidelines because they are the originators, not the state. The state has been trying to set deadlines and they can't. The federal guidelines should be coming out next week. He said any police and fire salaries will be reimbursable but that is a whole different FEMA grant

Councilmember Amsbury said the CARES Act has an extensive list of grants available, which includes grants for businesses and she hopes the Council can discuss programs and provide input on how to spend the \$53,000 the city will be receiving from the CARES Act. Councilmember Blankenship said there are a lot of grants we are missing out on and he had a lengthy discussion with John Taylor today. We could use our food bank for food distribution and we missed out on that. He thinks as a city we have to decide how to move forward on this. He said to Councilmember Amsbury he sees she is getting conflicting information from GH Emergency Management compared to what Squaxin Tribe Emergency Management is giving him. He cautioned Councilmember Amsbury because squaxin already secured 7.9 million for the tribe over this. If we are in a state of emergency, all of that time is reimbursable. When we go into recovery mode, is when we apply for it.

Chief Blumer said the reimbursement amount is 87.5%. The state is going to reimburse us for 12-1/2%. If it exceeds 1.1 billion dollars, they will put in a special request and we will receive 90% and the federal government will drop to 10%. He said there is a lot of grants out there and he is trying to follow them all but he has his other job. Because the city isn't attached to the food bank, he didn't follow that one unfortunately. He can only follow what the city is able to receive reimbursement. He has a lot of meetings and he has a weekly meeting with the White House. He has meetings every day. Mayor Orffer said there is so much information out there

Councilmember Blankenship asked Mayor Orffer if she has heard any more from Grays Harbor County about opening up under Phase 2 and she said she has not. Mayor Orffer asked Councilmember Amsbury if she's heard any updates and she said their goal is for the IMT group to have a recommendation to the County Health Officer and for him to hopefully make a recommendation to the Board of Health, which is the County Commissioners. A meeting is set up for Monday with the Board of Health at 1:00 pm and one with the County Commissioners right after that at 2:00 pm. The Commissioners want to work through the variance quickly. Councilmember Iversen took some AWC courses and one of the time frames she learned about is there is a timeframe required between the last reported case and when you can apply for the variance to reopen. Mayor Orffer said it is three weeks. We made it to that point when a new case was reported

Councilmember Amsbury stated the beach approaches are supposed to open up tomorrow. This is separate from Phase 2. It goes along with recreation opening up. The City of Ocean Shores made the decision to open up the beach approaches.

Councilmember Blankenship stated, we have to have our own plan in place in case we do get an outbreak. If we decide to apply to move to Phase 2, part of the State Health Department's requirement is that we have our plan in place. We would attach our Emergency Management Plan to the measures we plan on taking allowing our businesses to open.

SUMMER COUNCIL MEETING
SCHEDULE

The Council set their summer schedule earlier this year and chose to hold one meeting a month for the months of June, July, August and September. The Council prefers meeting twice a month for the months of June and July until they know more about whether the county will be opening up or not. Wendy will notify the Daily World of the change.

SURPLUS VEHICLE

The city has a 2005 Chevy Impala that needs to be surplused. The Washington State Patrol Chaplin's Association has expressed they want the car. Councilmember Iversen has no problem donating it, if we can. Councilmember Amsbury asked if we are allowed to donate the vehicle or would it be viewed as gifting city funds? Chris Coker will double check but he thinks we can donate it and he asked if the city knows the current value. Councilmember Amsbury stated it needs to go for fair market value and not a low amount like a dollar. Chris Coker will prepare a resolution for the next meeting to either surplus and sale the vehicle or surplus and donate, pending on his legal review of donations. **It was moved by Councilmember Blankenship, seconded by Councilmember Iversen to surplus the 2005 Chevy Impala. Motion Carried 5-0.**

LOCAL AGENCY AGREEMENT
SUPPLEMENT #4

This is the final supplement from the Department of Transportation. **It was moved by Councilmember Amsbury, seconded by Councilmember Blankenship to authorize the Mayor to sign and accept the Final Department of Transportation Supplement. Motion Carried 5-0.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Councilmember Amsbury asked if the Council is going to get a copy of the updated Emergency Management Plan and Mayor Orffer said she will have an updated copy for the next meeting, along with information on the CARES money, where the chemicals for the treatment plant are manufactured, and an update on refinancing the loans.

Councilmember Amsbury asked how we went about the camera purchase. She stated at Grays Harbor County, they received a finding of not handling the purchase of cameras as a Public Works project. Todd said the cost didn't meet the threshold. Chris Coker asked Todd if he bought just a couple of cameras and Todd replied, yes.

Councilmember Iversen said people expressed their appreciation for the noise and recognitions throughout town during the scheduled essential employees noise rally. She said she wasn't sure who put up the smaller signs but they were nice. Todd replied he caught them on the city camera so he knows who they are.

MEETING ADJOURNED

It was moved by Councilmember Iversen, seconded by Councilmember Heller to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 pm. The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 27, 2020 at 6:30 pm. Motion Carried 5-0.

Approved by Mayor Brenda Orffer and Clerk-Treasurer Wendy Collins.