

CITY OF MCCLEARY
Regular City Council Meeting
Wednesday, April 22, 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 reported the city is still working in Emergency mode. The Governor will move to recovery plan slowly and methodically and will open in the same order as he closed things down. Chris Coker added the public meetings act expires tomorrow and he will follow up with any changes. Until then, we will maintain the status quo.
PUBLIC COMMENT	None.
CITY ATTORNEY REPORT	Chris Coker has been working with the Mayor on emergency protocols and legal process.
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT	Todd provided a written report for the Council.
MINUTES APPROVED	It was moved by Councilmember Huff, seconded by Councilmember Heller to adopt the minutes from the April 8, 2020 meeting. Motion Carried 5-0.
VOUCHERS	Accounts Payable checks approved were 47627 - 47649 including EFT's, in the amount of \$30,111.58 and 47652 - 47703 including EFT's in the amount of \$244,693.07. It was moved by Councilmember Iversen, seconded by Councilmember Huff to approve the vouchers. Motion Carried 5-0.
COVID-19 UPDATE	Mayor Orffer said the city crews are working hard on following social distancing rules and she is proud of everyone and how they have been handling everything during the pandemic.
TEAMSTERS MOU	The Teamster Union has submitted an MOU requesting \$500 compensation for four employees who covered their department during the time when the previous foreman retired and a new one was hired. Councilmember Huff asked if Todd covers during the absence of a Foreman and Mayor Orffer answered yes. He added that this employee appointed themselves to this roll without being appointed to it and Mayor Orffer agreed by stating yes, that his statement was accurate. Chris Coker commented that this grievance is an asset cost settlement and it is less expensive to settle than to fight it. He added that the crew did step up and work additional duties during the absence Councilmember Blankenship stated this is setting a precedence we don't want to set. He added that Police Officers work every shift without being supervised and this should be negotiated in their next contract. Mayor Orffer added that the person who brought this forward felt they were delegated tasks that they relayed to the crew. They had text messages verifying this. This situation is a gray area and the person has an argument, which is why it is being brought to Council to approve it. Councilmember Iversen said she messaged the Mayor with concerns but does not want to create a large cost to fight this. Councilmember Blankenship thinks the city should look at a better labor attorney because this should have been fixed a long time ago. He added we are all adults and shouldn't need our hand held and are not entitled to this. Councilmember Iversen said the bigger concern is not the lack of a supervisor, it is being short a person on their team.

After further discussion, Chris Coker stated he is not actively involved in this grievance and he understands not setting precedence, but it's tough to tell the city to go to the mat for \$2,000. Mayor Orffer added in the future, the city needs to be clear who is in charge and who does what. She did not clearly state to them that Todd was in charge. Councilmember Iversen said there are good, hard working people at the city. Councilmember Amsbury added that this is a learning thing and it is very small and will be more costly if it goes to arbitration. Councilmember Blankenship said at some point, this crap is enough. We pay astronomical money for a labor attorney and we'd be better served with cheaper cost with someone else

It was moved by Councilmember Iversen, seconded by Councilmember Amsbury to authorize the Mayor to sign the MOU with Teamsters union to pay four employees \$500 each for coverage during the transition time after the Foreman retired and the crew was shorthanded. Roll call taken with Councilmember's Amsbury, Heller and Iversen voting in the affirmative and Councilmember's Huff and Blankenship voting against. Motion Carried 3-2.

2020 BUDGET REVIEW

The Mayor met with staff to identify budget areas to increase due to the pandemic. We are waiting until after the second quarter to see where the budget stands before we spend certain budgeted dollars. Councilmember Huff asked if the public safety tax dollars allow us to still afford the fourth officer the Chief talked about and Mayor Orffer said we had an officer ready to hire but waited due to the pandemic. We can't train him and social distance but we plan to bring him on when we can.

Mayor Orffer said we are still running and paying salaries and buying items because of COVID while other cities have shut down. She said Wendy worked with our software company to get a specific fund set up for COVID-19. Councilmember Iversen asked if we owe the tribe for anything and Mayor Orffer said, not to date. Everything has been at no cost so far. She added that we gave them a case of hand sanitizer to help them out.

EMERGENCY MANAGMENT
PLAN

The Council received a draft plan to review. Councilmember Iversen caught misspellings and she said she contacted Todd with many questions.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Councilmember Iversen knows there are a lot of people in town that are still working and providing services. She thought it would be nice to do something to recognize all the essential workers in McCleary. Mayor Orffer would love to bang pots and pans together with all the residents in McCleary! Councilmember Heller has seen a similar thing with people living near hospitals to recognize the healthcare workers during their shift changes by honking horns. Councilmember Huff thinks it would be nice to paint thank you to the essential workers on the windows at city hall.

MEETING ADJOURNED

It was moved by Councilmember Blankenship, seconded by Councilmember Huff to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 pm. The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 13, 2020 at 6:30 pm. Motion Carried 5-0.

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