

CITY OF MCCLEARY
Regular City Council Meeting
Wednesday, February 26, 2020

ROLL CALL AND FLAG SALUTE Councilmembers Jenna Amsbury, Brycen Huff, Jaron Heller, Ben Blankenship and Joy Iversen were in attendance. Mayor Brenda Orffer was also present.

ABSENT None.

PUBLIC HEARING None.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION None.

MAYOR COMMENTS Mayor Orffer thanked the group that met to discuss truck permits. An outcome from that meeting that came to her attention was there was a concern that the DOT had reached out to the City, suggesting they take over 3rd Street for maintenance and upkeep and the Mayor had declined their offer. She said that is absolutely not the case and she has never spoken with anyone from the DOT regarding this. She may have had a conversation with Todd in years past about this but it was before her time on Council. The only conversation she has had with the DOT is when we were working on this ordinance and they did not offer to take over 3rd Street. She would never have a discussion like that without bringing it to Council.

The Mayor was sad she missed the Shrove Pancake Race this past weekend because she was running in a Disneyworld Princess Marathon. She heard it went well.

PUBLIC COMMENT Chris Vessey was on the City Council in the 1990's when the Department of Transportation (DOT) put in the overpass due to fatalities. At that time, it was dangerous for any truck to cross HWY 108 at the west end and it even more dangerous now. He recently spoke to a Councilmember that served with him and he also spoke to a past employee, Brian Shay, who now works as the City Administrator for the City of Hoquiam because Brian did a good job working with the DOT to get the overpass project going.

Mr. Vessey does not believe a truck driver should be held accountable to know every city code in the County. He spoke about various truck sizes and how they would not fit in our permit criteria until they are off of the highway. The signage does not state the requirement before they enter the City. They have to come in town and find a place to turn around. He asked the Council and Mayor what facts they took into consideration when working on this truck permit ordinance and where was the truck study from? Councilmember Blankenship said it was a study Todd provided that was a vehicle survey that was done on South Mox Chehalis Road in 2017. Todd said he provided a traffic count report.

Chris Vessey said traffic counts change daily. He thinks the Mayor should get ahold of the DOT and discuss having them take 3rd Street back over. He asked if since the money is generated by 3rd Street permits, will it be spent only on 3rd Street and Mayor Orffer said the ordinance outlines how the money is allocated and the majority of the money is for streets, with some going to administration for processing their permits. Mr. Vessey believes the money should only be used for 3rd Street maintenance. Mayor Orffer thanked him for sharing his perspective and said she is happy to have a conversation with the DOT if that is what the Council wishes.

Carmen Smith said Jeff Geer stated he had stopped by the office and he asked the front office staff how much money the Council was expecting to get from the permits and they told him \$100,000 dollars. She is wondering how long it will take to get that much money, but it certainly won't be in a year if it is based off of the traffic study she looked at. The study was based off of axels, not what type of trucks they were and you have to consider how many vehicles could have been motor homes.

Andrea Watts from the McCleary Civic Renewal Council thanked the City for supporting the Shrove Day Pancake Race. They appreciate the City helping with preparing the race route and being supportive of the event.

JANUARY MAYOR BUSINESS
FORUM REPORT

Mayor Pro Tem Brycen Huff attended the Mayor's Business Forum Meeting last month in Aberdeen with Wendy Collins. The Business Forum Meeting was on projects happening in cities around the Harbor and it was a packed room. He found it was interesting to hear what people are doing in different cities. Montesano has a running start type of a program for people who are interested in going into the public service to help educate people who are interested in going into the public service field for law enforcement, fire and dispatch. It's similar to the New Market program in Tumwater. He said it was a good experience and he met Mayors from Hoquiam and Ocean Shores and Hoquiam's City Administrator Brian Shay, who used to be McCleary's City Administrator. Councilmember Iversen said she heard from Summit Pacific Hospital representatives that said Brycen spoke well and did a really nice job representing our city.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

Chris Coker has been working with Todd Baun on some different things. There are resolutions that are missing and they are working on how to recreate these through the municipal code and old minutes. He also shared there is a problem house on East Cedar Street that may have a potential buyer. He is working on a public disclosure that is significant and he stated his philosophy is when you are in doubt of something being subject to disclosure, then you should disclose. Councilmember Amsbury asked if anyone has checked the State Archives for the missing resolutions and Todd said he hadn't.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS
REPORT

Todd Baun introduced Steve Randich, the new Public Facilities Manager for the Public Works crew. Steve comes from a background of working at Grays Harbor County and the City of Aberdeen. The Council welcomed him to the City.

MINUTES APPROVED

It was moved by Councilmember Iversen, seconded by Councilmember Blankenship to adopt the minutes from the February 12, 2020 meeting. Motion Carried 5-0.

VOUCHERS

Accounts Payable checks approved were 47332 - 47455, including EFT's, in the amount of \$298,293.11.

Payroll checks approved were 47178 - 47331, including EFT's, in the amount of \$221,562.29.

Bank reconciliation for January 2020.

It was moved by Councilmember Blankenship, seconded by Councilmember Heller to approve the vouchers. Motion Carried 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Councilmember Blankenship held a truck permit meeting with members of the community. One suggestion was to request the DOT to take over 3rd Street and he stated he is not opposed to that idea at all. Other options they discussed were adding signage to the Highway so the truckers know about the required trucking permit before they exit into McCleary, correct the ordinance number that is on the current signs, add a quarterly fee to the fee schedule and increase the approved weight limit to 105,500 with a 68' length. They will be meeting again on March 16th at noon. Mayor Orffer said she will call the Department of Transportation and have a conversation regarding the transfer of 3rd Street before the 16th for the committee to review and discuss.

MISSION/VISION/CORE VALUES
DISCUSSION

Councilmembers Huff and Amsbury both like the flow of Councilmember Iversen's version of the mission statement. Councilmember Iversen wants to discuss core values in more detail. Mayor Orffer will bring Councilmember Iversen's version of the mission statement to the next meeting for adoption.

HOQUIAM SIDEWALK
PROGRAM

Todd was informed of this program by Steve Randich, which is currently being run through the City of Hoquiam. Todd called Brian Shay to get more information and he received the brochure that is in the packet. The program is set up to help maintain the sidewalks in town. If a resident purchases all of the materials, the City will install or fix the sidewalk and the average cost is \$400 to \$600. Councilmember Iversen is concerned because our community has a lot of struggling residents who cannot afford this. She asked who is responsible for the sidewalks and Todd said the residents are. He said the ordinance is written stating the homeowner is responsible for the sidewalk in front of their house. She asked Todd if she could see our ordinance to review the language. Councilmember Amsbury brought this up with the McCleary School Board because they have walking routes for students that live within a certain distance from the school. She wants to have safe walking routes for those students that have to walk because the bus won't pick them up. She is looking for joint projects that the citizens, school and city can benefit from by pooling resources.

Chris Coker is looking at case law and it says that cities generally are responsible for sidewalks unless the city can prove damage caused by the homeowner. He does not recommend creating an ordinance that's going to define liability. Councilmember Iversen wants to see any ordinance we have that states the homeowner is responsible for sidewalks in front of their homes.

NASPO SOFTWARE
CONTRACT

Todd looked at the Request For Proposal (RFP) for document retention software and technically, he doesn't know if he can write the RFP. NASPO is the State Contract system and they have three vendor companies that provide the service we need for document management and retention software. Councilmember Amsbury has not had very good experiences with middle-man companies and suggested any time we can go directly to a company, it's better for support and everything involved. Middle-men companies are frustrating and you could be waiting days for simple support assistance. She is happy to help with drafting whatever needs to be prepared and suggested a committee to work on it and suggested including the IT person because it does get technical and we need their input.

Mayor Orffer said she hears the Council approving Todd to use the NASPO contract. Councilmember Iversen asked if they are going to have a committee to look at NASPO options and Chief Steve Blumer said he can work with Todd on that and he knows all of our IT stuff and can work with Jesse. Mayor Orffer said if they have questions, we have a good resource in Councilmember Amsbury who just went through this in her job working with the County Commissioners.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Orffer will be participating in Reading Across America at the McCleary School. She will be reading to a classroom.

Councilmember Huff may have to miss the next meeting and if he does, he would appreciate being excused.

Councilmember Amsbury asked if they are going to discuss committees. Chris Coker reminded the Council keep committees to only two Councilmembers and include staff. The public can be added on a case by case situation. He said to pick the critical things that need to be addressed first because it can be daunting. The Council agreed to two committees; Review Ordinance and Code Committee with both Councilmember Amsbury and Iversen and a Public Works Committee including Councilmembers Huff and Heller, along with the McCleary Civic Renewal Council.

MEETING ADJOURNED

It was moved by Councilmember Iversen, seconded by Councilmember Amsbury to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 pm. The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 11, 2020 at 6:30 pm. Motion Carried 5-0.

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