

CITY OF MCCLEARY
Regular City Council Meeting
Wednesday, April 22, 2015

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

ABSENT None.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT Sue Portschy said she found a letter at the post office that was not signed. It had ideas for the upcoming town hall meeting and it was printed on City of McCleary letterhead. Mayor Dent said it was not produced by the City. Ms. Portschy then commented on the letter Mayor Dent wrote and said she wants to keep the police department in McCleary but thinks there should be cuts on everybody that works for the City, including the Council, and not just the police. She was just told about the possibility of merging with the City of Elma's Police Department and she believes that may be a better deal than what the Sheriff will give us.

 Gary Atkins reiterated his request for the Council to establish some type of business licensing for the City. He also addressed the letter the Mayor wrote. He said we are now back to scare tactics with no facts. He said the comment the Mayor made about Councilmembers trying to get people fired was hitting below the belt. The letter did not offer any solutions to the shortfall. Mr. Atkins contacted the auditor's office and they told him that no money can be transferred between funds unless it's a loan, which would have interest. Mayor Dent said he contacted the auditor's office today too. Mr. Atkins asked why we doesn't merge with Elma and become one police department. He said there was no problem sending our court to the County so why can't we send our police department to Elma? He said he spoke to the Chief of Police and she said if Mayor Dent would reach out to them, they would be willing to talk it over.

 Dan Glenn told Mr. Atkins that he spoke to the Elma Chief of Police and she denied that she talked that way to Mr. Atkins and she said they have not spoken since and Mr. Atkins said, "you would be surprised" and then he stated that Mayor Osgood wants to discuss this but doesn't want to step on Mayor Dent's toes. He said the problem is we need an attorney that wants to represent McCleary. Dan Glenn said he wants the Council to know that what Mr. Atkins is representing to them tonight, and two weeks ago, is absolutely incorrect. Mr. Atkins said the Elma Police Chief told him he could quote her, and he did quote her verbatim, because he wrote everything down.

 Helen Hamilton asked how the City proposes to pay for the storm pond maintenance and will any of the rate payers have to pay for it. Mayor Dent said it is currently being handled by Todd Baun.

MINUTES APPROVED **It was moved by Councilmember Peterson, seconded by Councilmember Reed to approve the minutes from the April 8, 2015 meeting. Motion Carried 5-0.**

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT Dan Glenn provided a written report for the Council. Mr. Glenn spoke to the representative of the current bank who owns Cedar Heights. They discussed resolutions to resolve the problems, which included transferring the pump station site to the City, and transferring to the owners (HOA), the storm pond and the other parcel. They discussed fiscal information provided by Todd Baun, in terms of what it would take to bring the pond into compliance. The bank representative will discuss these options with his counsel and will contact Mr. Glenn at a later date.

 Mr. Glenn reported the ponds for Summit II continue to be in the name of the original developer, Todd A. Hansen, Inc. He discovered that none of the accrued taxes have been paid. Ms. Burgess, the attorney for Mr. Hanson, indicates she was not aware of this situation and will be contacting her client.

 Dan Glenn said the approach for medical care with the Chehalis Tribal Jail Service Contract would be handled within the tribal facility, which is included in the fifty dollar per day cost.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS None.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS
REPORT

Todd Baun reported there will be paving around the Beehive Retirement Home taking place over the next couple of months. He also reported there will be some changes coming to the property where the Sterling Bank used to be but he cannot elaborate at this time.

STORM POND DISCUSSION

Tabled.

ACCIDENT PREVENTION
DISCUSSION

The Council considered adopting the draft plan. After discussion, including comments made by Paul Nott about the importance of knowing what is in the large and complex document, they decided to hold off and withdraw the motion until the next meeting. This should give them time to thoroughly review it. Mr. Nott emphasized there is an obligation for the City to provide protection equipment for specific jobs and by passing this, the Council is agreeing to the additional expense and accommodation for the required guidelines. He complimented Todd on the hours he invested on reviewing and preparing the plan. Mayor Dent said he understands there will be additional cost involved. The Council wants an electronic copy emailed to them to review instead of printed copies.

GHC JAIL CONTRACT
AMENDMENT

Tabled.

TRAIN SHELTER AND
COMMUNITY CENTER ROOF
REPLACEMENT

It was moved by Councilmember Catterlin, seconded by Councilmember Peterson to award the replacement of the train shelter roof to the lowest bidder, Ron Pittman Construction, in the amount of \$5,085.40 and also for the replacement of the community center roof for \$6,632.16. Both amounts include tax. Motion Carried 5-0.

MINI EXCAVATOR WITH MOWER
ATTACHMENT PURCHASE

Todd Baun requested the purchase of a mini excavator with a mower attachment. The cost will come out of the light and power, stormwater, water and sewer operating funds. Councilmember Schiller asked if we have the money for this purchase and what the Finance Committee thinks. He said he doesn't even know if the Finance Committee has met at all this year and what the state of the financials are. Councilmember Catterlin told him the Finance Committee just met on Monday. **It was moved by Councilmember Catterlin, seconded by Councilmember Reed to authorize the purchase of a mini excavator with mower attachment, not to exceed the budgeted amount of \$60,000. Motion Carried 5-0.**

SEWER MAINTENANCE
EQUIPMENT PURCHASE

It was moved by Councilmember Peterson, seconded by Councilmember Catterlin to authorize the purchase of a push camera with a 200 foot reel, a monitor with two batteries and charger, a cable cleaning machine, and a locater from Ballard Industrial for the cost of \$14,836.28, including tax. Motion Carried 5-0.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

Accounts Payable vouchers/checks approved were 39417 - 39485 including EFT's in the amount of \$202,399.31.

Payroll checks approved were 39281 - 39413 including EFT's in the amount of \$223,608.00.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Councilmember Catterlin said he met with Councilmember Reed, Todd Baun and Wendy Collins, all members of the Finance Committee, to review the state of the budget. Everything looks normal except for the law enforcement section. According to projections, the police will run out of funding by July.

Resident, Tom Macklin, wanted to say he is leaving town and his experience here has been the worst experience he's ever had. He said the police department is incompetent in slamming business owners, ruining his reputation with his customers, and letting assaults go on without punishment. He said this is unheard of. He said he was arrested for disorderly conduct without saying a word and has been confronted and threatened by another community member. Before leaving the meeting, he said he will be suing the City.

Mayor Dent called for the meeting to be adjourned. Councilmember Schiller asked the audience if they really wanted to adjourn and go home when it's only 7:35. He said the City has problems and we shouldn't just go home. Gary Atkins wants to know where the money is going to come from to fund the police. He said neighbors are fighting with each other over this and it's been helter skelter for over a year with turmoil and chaos. Mayor Dent said the money will come from a variety of sources but they are still being investigated.

Councilmember Schiller agreed that Mr. Atkins brings up a good point. He said he's asked numerous times for a plan from the City. He's asked George for a year for a plan. He's asked John Graham for a plan and even Mayor Dent for a plan. Nobody has a plan but it's okay for the Mayor to send out a letter bashing three of the Councilmembers for trying to save the City from financial destruction. He said Mayor Dent hammers them but can't provide one of these people a sound solution of how to save the police department, which he believes all three of them would be in support of, if there was a plan. He said the Mayor keeps saying we need to keep the police but cannot back it up with one idea or solution. He said to Mayor Dent, "give us a plan now" because he's been asking for two years.

Mayor Dent said that given Councilmember Catterlin's statements, he will look into the police budget more deeply and quickly. Councilmember Schiller said that sounds great but why does he have to send letters out to the "Concerned Citizen's of McCleary" bashing the three guys that are trying to come up with a plan. He said for two years he has asked the Mayor and Chief Crumb for a plan and they have provided nothing.

Chief Crumb asked what type of plan can he come up with for three guys. He asked how much more do you want to cut us? Councilmember Schiller asked George why he had to go talk to his officer about funding? He said it's because George can't figure it out because he can't manage for nothing. Mayor Dent told George to stop.

Councilmember Schiller addressed the crowd and said they, the Council, supports the police but nobody has come up with an idea or solution to help them support the police. He said they haven't signed a County contract yet and haven't run to the City of Elma. He said they've talked this thing over and over and then Mayor Dent sends letters to stir the pot and takes attention away from the budget. We are coming to a time when we're going to slam into a wall head-first and then we will be stuck in a position that won't be good for any party; the police, the citizens, the City, the County or anyone. The City has not provided any plan whatsoever of how to provide the police department. None of the Council has received anything on what the Mayor's plan is.

Gary Atkins said he is confused because he was told the City can't take money from light and power but then the letter the Mayor sent out says he will take money from other funds to support the police. Mayor Dent said that has to do with the State Auditor's Office. He said there has to be certain steps you have to go through in order to take money from another fund. Mr. Atkins agreed and said it has to be a loan and we have to pay interest and he wants to know how much interest we would have to pay. He asked the Mayor how we can pay that back. Mayor Dent said right now we don't owe them anything and Mr. Atkins said we are going to if, according to your letter, you are going to take \$150,000 that you have the right to take and go pay them. Mayor Dent said that relates basically to current expense.

Gary Atkins read the Mayor's letter out loud to the audience.

Mayor Dent responded to the comment he made in the letter that referred to \$100,000 that is available from another fund. He said that we have a fund that has \$100,000 in it and it is overseen by a committee that is governed by four other citizens that we can take money out of for our police department. The committee is made up of citizen's, Mayor Dent and Mayor Pro Tem Ator. He said it is a fund in light and power that cannot be used for the light and power department. He added that the fund's dispersal is to save jobs.

Gary Atkins asked the Mayor that if saving jobs is what is important, then why is he not reaching out to our neighboring community and trying to merge? Mayor Dent said maybe he should look at lowering the numbers of people employed at the City other than just the police. Mr. Atkins responded saying if he lowers the number of people working here, how does that help the police when they are all funded from other funds.

Mayor Dent said the reality is that Elma is going to have to run a levy for \$600,000. Dan Glenn said it is a \$250,000 levy. Mayor Dent said it originally was for \$600,000 and added that they are depending on the levy to save their police department. Gary Atkins said if we merge with Elma, we would both win. Mayor Dent said he hasn't ruled that out and he is not going to argue with Mr. Atkins about it. Gary Atkins said he is not arguing, he is commenting that there are never any facts in these meetings. For instance, he said the Mayor just used a figure of \$600,000 and Dan Glenn had to correct him. Dan Glenn spoke up and said the comment period is lapsed. Councilmember Schiller said he is not done talking about this.

Councilmember Catterlin asked everyone to think about something. He said if \$100,000 was taken from the REED fund, and used for law enforcement, that will only last about two months and it will be gone. Is that really the best way to spend City money? It's like kicking a can down a very short road. That money is supposed to be for the purchase of something that will benefit the City for a long-term benefit for the people of McCleary. We will extend this for two months and be back in the same place we are in right now. Mayor Dent said that doesn't prevent us from running another levy and he has certain privileges to move certain amounts of money in significance. Gary Atkins responded saying we already did a levy and the Mayor didn't get his way so we are going to run another levy and drag it out for another year and now we are down to crunch time.

Brenda Orferr said the issue around law enforcement is a very emotional and spirited debate. She went on the website and put it on the proposed agenda that Councilmember Schiller is trying to put together. There needs to be a realistic outlay of options of what are the real cost of maintaining the police department, and for contracting out the police department. She asked the Council to put their personal feelings aside and take a fresh look at this from another perspective. We have to be concerned about now, but also ten and twenty years from now. We have to find out what is the vision for the City. She said we elected you and we want you to lead our City but we have to do that honestly, openly and objectively. She had not seen the Mayor's letter prior to the meeting and believes we should leave our personal feelings and specific references of certain people out of it. She thinks the levy failed last year because there were two options instead of one.

Gary Atkins thinks it failed because people don't want to pay more taxes. Mrs. Orferr didn't agree. She said this conversation feels like we are in a boat and everyone is rowing different ways. We all need to get together and row in the same direction and work together.

EXECUTIVE SESSION None.

MEETING ADJOURNED **It was moved by Councilmember Reed, seconded by Councilmember Ator to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 pm. The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 13, 2015 at 7:00 pm. Motion Carried 5-0.**

Mayor Gary Dent: _____

Clerk-Treasurer Wendy Collins: _____