

CITY OF MCCLEARY
Regular City Council Meeting
Wednesday, July 25, 2012

FLAG SALUTE Mayor Dent Called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 PM with the Flag Salute.

ROLL CALL Council members Catterlin, Schiller, Reed, Lant and Ator.

ABSENT **Councilman Ator. It was moved by Councilman Schiller, seconded by Councilman Lant to excuse Councilman Ator. Motion Carried 4-0.**

STAFF PRESENT Present at the meeting were Dan Glenn, Wendy Collins, Nick Bird, George Crumb, Randy Bunch, John Graham and Jon Hinton from Gray & Osborne.

MINUTES APPROVED **It was moved by Councilman Catterlin, seconded by Councilman Reed to approve the minutes from June 27, 2012 meeting. Motion Carried 4-0.**

MAYOR'S COMMENTS Fire District 13 has set up a meeting with the City to discuss their contract.

The FOP Police union contract was expected to be ready for approval tonight but they have chosen to reopen the contract to address additional issues so it will not be discussed this evening.

The Grays Harbor Mayor's met at the county court house regarding the jail contract issue. Commissioner Wilson made a comment that the County does so much for the cities but the cities don't do much for the county in return. Mayor Durney stood up for the cities and their contributions. He said he tallied it up and the towns and cities contributed over 6 million dollars a year. They also transferred \$13,000, which should have been our money, in addition from the road fund from property taxes, to their general fund, which comes right out of the cities pockets. The State Auditor told them they need to build up their reserve fund but this is not the way to do it.

PUBLIC COMMENT Ben Blankenship lives at 722 Evergreen Place and asked to address the Council regarding the closed road at the 2nd Street and McCleary Road intersection. He stated the residents in the Cedar Heights development must use the intersection of Hemlock and 3rd Street to gain access to SR-8. This has proven to be very dangerous due to limited sight distance. He worked with other officers to do a test study to see what would be safer; opening the closed road or continue as always. They found it was safer to open 2nd Street and cross McCleary Road rather than continuing trying to turn on 3rd Street from Hemlock Street.

Mr. Blankenship highly encourages the Council to consider opening the Road, even as a one-way out, as a solution to the dangerous current problem. Another consideration is to cut-back the vegetation that is growing up at the top of the hill on 3rd Street, which limits sight distance and visibility. Mr. Blankenship is concerned about school buses turning off of Hemlock onto 3rd Street. He included detailed scale diagrams of both intersections to support his position for the Council to review.

Councilman Catterlin would like to see all of the suggestions implemented. Cut away the bank to increase site distance and to work toward getting the intersection open, along with lowering the speed limit on 3rd Street to 20mph all day, not just during school hours.

Mayor Dent also informed the public that the fraud audit is finally coming to a close. He has an undisclosed meeting with the fraud auditor in the near future and will be able to report something at the next meeting.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT Dan Glenn submitted a written report to the Council.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT Nick Bird submitted his written report and also commented that the planned power outage went very well. The City had six crew members that did two projects in a short amount of time and also got the power turned back on early. Nick stated the City crew accomplished more than Grays Harbor PUD because they had 19 people working on their crew.

WATER RIGHT TRANSFER The City has water rights for all three City wells. Well No. 1 was taken out of service many years ago. To utilize the water rights for Well No. 1, the City would need to drill and equip another well, which is too costly. Staff recommends transferring the water rights from Well No. 1, to the well field consisting of Well No. 2 and No. 3. The cost to complete this change is \$50. **It was moved by Councilmember Catterlin, seconded by Councilmember Schiller to authorize the City to file the Water Right Transfer application for \$50 to move the water rights from Well No. 1 to Well No. 2 and No. 3. Motion Carried 4-0.**

VENDORS AND ENTERTAINMENT; BEAR FESTIVAL The property near D&D Cycle rented property space to a pony ride group, bouncy house, and a balloon vendor during the Bear Festival. The Bear Festival Committee was very upset because the vendors did not pay the committee for their space, which was required from all the other vendors located in the park. Another issue is that pony rides were not approved due to insurance reasons so the City was also unaware of the unapproved vendors. Dan Glenn suggested the City impose a special event licensing for vendors during events such as this.

BEAR FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS Mayor Dent stated the Bear Festival is struggling to find volunteers after 53 years. The top leadership has all turned in their resignations so there is a desperate need for new volunteer leaders. Three people in the community have approached the Mayor to see if the City would help restructure the Bear Festival Committee and be more involved. Mayor Dent is in favor of it and thinks the City could oversee it. Councilmen Schiller and Lant asked Clerk-Treasurer Wendy Collins how she felt about taking this on. Wendy stated other Cities she has worked for had the same type of thing where they recruited community members and appointed them to the different positions and met at City Hall for their meetings. She found there was stronger ownership of the positions and the festival kept getting bigger over the years. It was all volunteer community members so staff time was minimal but the support was there.

Councilman Catterlin added that he has watched the committee for years and he said Kathy Elofson has been a strong volunteer over the years. He said it would be great if she could write down all the things that have worked and have not worked over the years to help the new volunteers that take over so they don't keep addressing the same issues over and over.

VFW Mayor Dent commented on the VFW fixing up their facility. It's looking nice and they have been starting to add new games and activities to their schedule for the public to participate in.

IBEW CONTRACT The IBEW contract was provided to the Council for their approval. Councilman Schiller asked where the money is coming from for the raises after hearing two years ago that the City was financially struggling. Mayor Dent stated that Park & Cemetery fund is in trouble but the L&P fund is in the black. He informed the Council that he did not replace the gardener when she was hired as the Court/Police Clerk and the Building Official position is still not filled. Another employee was laid off in 2010 in the Public Works Department that has not been replaced. The Mayor transferred \$22,000 from the REET fund to the Park & Cemetery fund, per approved 2012 budget, which should help the fund. The reserve fund has not been touched yet. **It was moved by Councilmember Lant, seconded by Councilmember Reed to adopt the three-year IBEW union contract. Clerk-Treasurer Wendy Collins asked for a roll call to assure correctness for the approval of the motion. Motion carried 4-0.**

FOP CONTRACT Tabled. The contract was not ready for Council review.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS Vouchers/Checks approved were 35036-35088 including EFT's in the amount of \$182,468.16.

Payroll checks approved were 34906 - 34995 including EFT's in the amount of \$178,496.65.

It was moved by Councilman Lant, seconded by Councilman Catterlin to approve the vouchers. Motion Carried 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT Councilman Schiller asked when the well improvement project will start. Nick Bird responded stating the official start date is September 4, 2012 and will be a 5-6 month project.

Chief Crumb agrees with Ben Blankenship's issue and suggested corrections. He would like to see something decided before school starts as this will be a significant change and it would give appropriate time for the bus drivers to be notified and for the residents to get used to the change. Chief Crumb urges a timely decision. Councilman Catterlin believes the first thing that should be done is have the vegetation cut back.

EXECUTIVE SESSION None.

MEETING ADJOURNED **It was moved by Councilman Lant, seconded by Councilmen Catterlin to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 PM. The next meeting will be on August 22, 2012 at 7:00 PM. Motion Carried 4-0.**

Mayor Gary Dent: _____

Clerk-Treasurer Wendy Collins: _____