

**CITY OF MCCLEARY**  
**Regular City Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday, May 13, 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, Paul Nott and John Graham.
PUBLIC COMMENT	<p>Gary Atkins asked where the money for the police comes from and Mayor Dent stated it comes from the current expense fund, which is funded by taxes. Mr. Atkins asked how much money will the City save by contracting with the County and Mayor Dent said we would save nothing. Councilmember Catterlin said he disagrees with that. Mr. Atkins will hold his comments until the police contract discussion.</p> <p>Both Councilmember Schiller and Peterson asked to be excused from the May 27, 2015 meeting. They will both be out of town.</p>
SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR 6-YEAR STREET PLAN	<b>It was moved by Councilmember Peterson, seconded by Councilmember Catterlin to set the Public Hearing on the six-year street plan for June 24, 2015. Motion Carried 5-0.</b>
MINUTES APPROVED	<b>It was moved by Councilmember Ator, seconded by Councilmember Peterson to approve the minutes from the April 22, 2015 meeting. Motion Carried 5-0.</b>
CITY ATTORNEY REPORT	Dan Glenn provided a written report for the Council and is available if they have any questions.
MAYOR'S COMMENTS	None.
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT	Todd Baun provided a written report for the Council and is available if they have any questions.
ACCIDENT PREVENTION DISCUSSION	Tabled.
MINI EXCAVATOR WITH MOWER ATTACHMENT PURCHASE	After receiving approval to purchase a mini excavator at the last meeting, Todd Baun found one that would best suit the City. It will cost approximately \$12,000 more. Mr. Baun is bringing the purchase request back to the Council for approval of the additional cost. <b>It was moved by Councilmember Peterson, seconded by Councilmember Catterlin to authorize the purchase of a mini excavator with mower attachment in the estimate provided from Jennings Equipment, Inc. at a total cost of \$72,248.22. Motion Carried 5-0.</b>
WILDCAT DRIVE SPEED LIMIT CHANGE	The residents living on Wildcat Drive provided the City with a petition signed by numerous home owners in the area. They request the speed to be lowered to 15 MPH from the current speed of 25 MPH to slow the vehicles down. Chief Crumb agreed the 15 MPH speed change would be appropriate for the street. In addition, the residents requested the City to post a Children at Play sign. <b>It was moved by Councilmember Catterlin, seconded by Councilmember Reed to lower the speed limit on Wildcat Drive to 15 MPH and post a Children at Play sign. Motion Carried 5-0.</b>
TOWN HALL MEETING	Councilmember Schiller collected the completed forms regarding ideas for the town hall meeting. There were only five written ballots and four online comments submitted, which were not all related to City issues. He was disappointed in the turnout of comments and wants to keep it open for a couple more weeks.

GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S CONTRACT  
DISCUSSION

Gary Atkins asked how much the City will save by contracting police with the County. Wendy Collins responded stating we need to look at the budgeted total for the past two years and compare it to the contractual offer by the County. Last year, the budgeted amount for law enforcement was \$533,820 and this year it is \$417,509. The County is offering a contract for \$225,000 for a year. After adjusting the absence of the car payment and adding in the cost for office space, utilities, communications, and computers, it would add roughly \$15,000 to \$25,000 and would total approximately \$250,000 for the County contract. We also need to consider that the cost for insurance will drop and we still will have the cost of the caretakers for Garth Jones, which is around \$80,000 year.

Councilmember Catterlin said the budget this year is \$417,000 and will run out of money around July or August. He said it was important to bring up the prior year to see the comparison to this year to understand the actual savings.

Gary Atkins asked if laying off one employee from each department would help the police department and Mayor Dent said he didn't believe so. Mr. Atkins asked if the half of Colin's salary that comes from the general fund could go to the police budget or to pay for other things in town? He asked if we need a full time building inspector in a town that is not building anything. Mayor Dent said he's been asked that question and is looking into it.

Gary Atkins said according to the auditor, we can't take the money that was set aside and put it back into the police fund. Mayor Dent said that is also his understanding at this time. Mr. Atkins asked if we would save money by finding an attorney that solely represents and promotes McCleary and helps us grow. He asked if we can find a cheaper attorney. Mayor Dent said Dan Glenn does a good job and is already retiring from Montesano.

Gary Atkins asked Tom Reed about his response in the newspaper when he said he feels the Mayor has a plan, and he doesn't know what that plan is, but will still follow his plan. Gary asked Tom if he were in the army and was given a gun and sent to Kuwait, would he want to know the game plan first? Councilmember Reed said that would probably be a good approach, but not necessarily, because some people are just blindly led. Mr. Atkins asked him how he could blindly be led down a path when you don't know what the outcome is? Mr. Atkins said that is why he is so argumentative because the attorney speaks and gives the Council things in writing and doesn't tell the people of the town what is happening. We, as a town, want to know what's going on. Mayor Dent told Mr. Atkins he can come see the Clerk-Treasurer any time to see the attorney's latest minutes.

George Crumb wanted to make a correction regarding a compliment the police department received at the last meeting regarding a municipal code violation. He believes Dan Glenn and Colin Mercer should receive the credit for their help in correcting the matter.

Chris Vessey wants to keep the police in McCleary. He said the County is in financial trouble and he is worried about response time. Councilmember Catterlin added there will be one officer on duty, twenty-four hours a day, patrolling between Elma and McCleary. Mr. Vessey also does not believe a five-year contract should be signed. Mayor Dent responded by stating the contract allows ninety-days notice to cancel.

Councilmember Peterson asked Mr. Vessey what his solution to the police issue would be. Mr. Vessey wants to see a town hall meeting for people to be able to discuss the police matter and he said there are people in this town who would gladly pay extra taxes to keep the police. Mr. Peterson reminded everyone that we are in financial trouble and have to make a decision. He said we can't keep going on the way we have been. He gives kudos to the police for doing a good job, however, we've asked and asked for a decision but we cannot come up with an agreement from anyone at the table. He said nobody will agree on anything so he and Jeff came up with a solution and everybody is against it. He said if anybody has a solution, the committee will look at it, but no one gives any suggestions.

Brenda Orffer is in favor of keeping the police in town and she also knows it's a big challenge. She thinks the reason they are not getting a suggested solution is because the public does not have all the facts. They don't really know what the police department costs. Mayor Dent said she can come in and talk to the Clerk-Treasurer at any time. She doesn't know what other solutions they have looked at besides going to the County but she wonders if they have looked at all possible solutions. Mayor Dent said a police levy is one proposal we could look at. Mrs. Orffer believes they will find more support for a levy that has only one proposition on it. She said we need to have a realistic understanding of what that is. That is why the town hall meeting is a good idea. She asked if we've looked at limiting our own services and what we can still operate with. She would rather have 80 hours of full coverage in her own City than a full weeks' coverage from people coming reactively.

Councilmember Catterlin replied stating whenever it is brought up to the Police Chief or Mayor what cuts they can make and still function, the answer is no, we are not going to make any cuts. He said how do you work with that, when it's just a flat refusal no, we don't have to make cuts?

Councilmember Peterson said he understands it's hard to make cuts on a three-man crew. Chief Crumb said his budget continually gets cut each year and he is set up for failure. He wants to know the motivation behind the people that are taking money away from the police department. His concern is response time. He knows what streets like Wildcat are, with the speeding issue. Councilmember Schiller said when he asked the Chief about enforcement of speeding, and if he writes tickets, Chief Crumb told him no. Councilmember Schiller asked if there's been a ticket written for speeding on those streets and Chief Crumb said he is out there, and that is his enforcement. Councilmember Schiller said that is not enforcement. Chief Crumb asked how much more can they cut before the police department is ineffective?

Dan Glenn stated Alexander the Great always tried to solve problems and he prefers the same approach. Either the City can or can't fund the police department but we have to entertain some options. Mr. Glenn suggested proposing a ballot issue in the fall for a one-year police levy. He hoped we could run a special election but it's too late and it will have to go on the November ballot. An audience member said a one-year only levy will be kicking the can down the road.

Councilmember Schiller said there is a \$132,000 shortfall in revenue in current expense this year. They aren't trying to single out the police department, it's a simple fact.

Scott Snyder commented on Chief Crumb's concern that his police department used to have a budget of \$600,000 and had five officers. In order to cover a 24 hour a day, 7 days per week police department, the City has to have five police officers. With three officers, it is difficult to budget when overtime and callouts are driving the cost. He said the police could go "dark" by not responding during certain hours during the day or night. He added that the Sheriff has been reluctant to provide a method for prioritizing calls and stating which types of calls to respond to. It is very tough with three officers and 124 hours in a week and try to determine which hours and types of calls to respond to.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

**It was moved by Councilmember Ator, seconded by Councilmember Reed to go into executive session for 20 minutes or less, per RCW 42.30.140(4), starting at 7:40 PM. Motion Carried 5-0.**

The executive session ended at 7:57 PM.

#### FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE (FOP) SETTLEMENT

**It was moved by Councilmember Catterlin, seconded by Councilmember Peterson to approve the Fraternal Order of Police Memorandum of Understanding regarding lay off and severance. Roll call taken in the affirmative. Motion Carried 5-0.**

#### GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY SHERIFF'S CONTRACT

Councilmember Schiller said he will be voting no because the police cars are the City's and we paid around \$100,000 to purchase and install equipment on the cars and he can't let them go. Councilmember Catterlin said the \$225,000 Sheriff contract will barely pay for the two officers from the County. If the County has to buy their own cars, the County will increase the contract cost another \$150,000. Councilmember Schiller said there are more items in the contract that are unknown such as transportation to jail. The contract is too vague.

Councilmember Ator asked why we have to supply equipment for the sheriff's contract? He wondered if we will have to buy a new computer if they need one. He also wants to know what happens if we don't have a police department and don't go with the County. Councilmember Catterlin said other cities get bills from the County for coverage when they don't have either a police department or a contract with the county. Councilmember Ator asked why sign a contract if they have to cover our city anyway?

Councilmember Schiller wants to know what the level of service is going to be for unincorporated county areas. He told Councilmember Catterlin he needs to know what that means for us.

**It was moved by Councilmember Catterlin, seconded by Councilmember Peterson to accept the Grays Harbor County Sheriff Contract, effective June 15, 2015, and for the Sheriff's Department to take possession of the two police cars within the next five working days. Roll call taken in the negative with Councilmember's Reed, Schiller and Ator voting against. Motion Failed 3-2.**

CHEHALIS TRIBAL JAIL  
CONTRACT

Tabled.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

Accounts Payable vouchers/checks approved were 39486 - 39523 including EFT's in the amount of \$61,113.32.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

MEETING ADJOURNED

**It was moved by Councilmember Ator, seconded by Councilmember Peterson to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 pm. The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 27, 2015 at 7:00 pm. Motion Carried 5-0.**

Mayor Gary Dent:

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Clerk-Treasurer Wendy Collins:

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