

Strategic Planning Update

On September 30, 2023, a pivotal meeting convened as Mayor Chris Miller, along with Councilmembers Simmons, Huff, Dahl, and Iverson, and key figures in the city's administration, including Director of Public Works Chad Bedlington and Clerk-Treasurer Jenna Amsbury, united to embark on strategic planning for the City of McCleary.

With a shared commitment to our community's well-being, the day's agenda revolved around forging a mission statement that resonates with our city, shaping our core values, defining our top priorities, and establishing a vision for the future. These elements will remain at the forefront of our decision-making processes, serving as the compass guiding our actions.

The guiding principles of our collaborative efforts emerged with the following tenets: **open communication, embracing diverse perspectives, nurturing solution-driven thinking, assuming the best intentions in one**

another, and fostering a spirit of teamwork. These principles shall illuminate our path forward as we work collectively to enrich the lives of McCleary's citizens.

Our Core Values, the moral bedrock of our endeavors, stand as follows: **Engagement, Civility, Stewardship, Integrity, and Safety.** These principles are the essence of McCleary's spirit, reflecting our deep-rooted commitment to the welfare of our community.

Our main priorities, the focal points of our collective efforts, comprise: **Economic Development, Fiscal Sustainability, Infrastructure Enhancement, and Public Safety.** These will be the touchstones for our actions, steering us toward a brighter future for McCleary.

We extend an open invitation to the community, and we await your feedback and insights in the coming months. Together, we shall build a McCleary that we can all be proud of, one step at a time.

Desk of the Mayor

In December 2022, the City Council approved a crucial update to our dog licensing and enforcement ordinance, bolstering the safety of both pets and our community. We are diligently working on updating the online city code to ensure easy access to these essential guidelines.

At City Hall, we welcome your pets, but we require permits that you can conveniently obtain at our office. You have the option of one-year, three-year, or lifetime permits, and we offer discounts for Seniors and Dis-

abled individuals.

Why should you license your dog? The proceeds from dog licensing are instrumental in funding vital services that benefit both pets and people. These funds support animal control efforts, ensuring lost pets find their way home and serve as a tool for addressing public nuisance issues, as per the city code.

License your dog and be a part of creating a more secure and harmonious community.

Council's Corner

Currently we have been working on the following projects/events:

- 2024 Budget
- Fill the cruiser.
- Family adoptions for Thanksgiving and Christmas.
- Welcome councilman Jacob Simmons to position #1.
- Looking to fill council position #5.

City Hall Closures

- 11/10/2023 Veterans Day
- 11/23/2023 Thanksgiving
- 11/24/2023 Thanksgiving

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Upcoming Events

City Council Meeting	10/25
City Council Vacancy End Date	10/31
Special City Council Budget Workshop	11/04
City Council Meeting	11/08
Special Council Meeting	11/29
City Council Meeting	12/13

Meet your Public Servants—Building Official

Larry Skinner has been the building official for the City of McCleary for over 7 years. Larry comes to the city as a contract building official through BHC Consultants in Seattle. He is available every Tuesday, 8AM – 12PM, or as needed, depending on the amount of construction activity.

Larry is a retired ICC Certified building official with over 30 years of experience. Past jurisdictions include, The City of Lake Stevens, The City of Bainbridge Island and Benton County. Larry also provides service to the Quinault Indian Nation and occasionally will help BHC with other remote projects. Before becoming a building official/

inspector, Larry worked as an independent contractor in Oregon, building new homes and light commercial projects. His dad was a building contractor, so it is safe to say, he “grew up in the trades”. In his spare time, Larry is a passionate beekeeper, producing the best honey in the harbor. He also is an avid kayak fisherman and can be seen on the local rivers during salmon season.

Larry enjoys working on his Aberdeen home and spending time with his wife Beverly (42 years) and their two Shih tzu dogs, Ruby and Pearl. They have three lovely daughters and five wonderful grandchildren.

"McCleary is not just a place; it's a community of compassionate hearts. Together, we're building a city we can all be proud of."

2021 State Building Code Adoption - revised schedule

The State Building Code Council voted on September 15, 2023, to delay the effective date of the 2021 Washington State codes.

The new code effective date will be **March 15, 2024**. The previous effective date was October 29, 2023 and July 1, 2023 respectively.

Budget Pay for Utilities

We have some exciting news that could make managing your household expenses easier. If you own a home in our wonderful city, you may be eligible for our Budget Pay program. Enrolling in the Budget Pay Plan allows you to spread your utility payments into 12 equal monthly installments, providing predictability and peace of mind for your budget.

To take advantage of this opportunity, simply submit your request to City Hall by November 15th, 2023. However, to qualify for this convenient program, we kindly ask you to meet the following requirements:

1. Account History: You must have maintained a utility account with the City of McCleary for the past twelve months continuously.
2. Delinquency-Free: There should be no instances of delinquency during the past twelve months of your account history.
3. Current Account: At the time of your application, your utility account must be current.
4. Ownership and Residency: To qualify, you must be the owner of the residence and currently reside there. This program is designed to benefit homeowners who are actively living in the property.

We believe that the Budget Pay Plan can offer financial flexibility and convenience to our homeowners. It's our way of making your life a little easier.

If you meet these requirements and would like to enroll in Budget Pay, submit your request by November 15th, 2023.

