



Utility Rate Changes effective January 2024

The City Council approved a 2% rate increase for all utilities beginning January 1, 2024. This is less than the 3.8% CPI that normally would have gone into effect per Resolution. This translates to a \$10-12 increase on average for utility bills. The city is continuing to work through the utility rate analysis for ongoing needs in infrastructure projects. Citizens can expect to see more meetings in the coming year to discuss future rates and rate structures. For citizens that are in need of assistance in paying a utility bill, please contact city hall for resources.

The Coastal Community Action Program (www.coastalcap.org) is one resource that can be explored for eligible citizens through the L.I.H.E.A.P. program.

McCleary Commissions

The City of McCleary has numerous Commission vacancies available for interested individuals. Please visit <https://www.cityofmccleary.com/bc> for information on how to apply. The Planning Commission is a five (5) member, non-paid, voluntary board that typically meets as needed in the evenings. The Planning Commission acts as the research and fact-finding agency of the city for such purposes as may be found appropriate in McCleary Municipal Code (MMC) 2.28 including zoning, development and changes to the comprehensive plan. The Civil Service Commission is a three (3) member board that covers McCleary Municipal Code 2.56 for City Police eligibility lists and hearings when applicable.

Outside of government commissions, there is also always a need for community organization volunteers. If you are interested in assisting the community with events and preservation of local history, please reach out to the Civic Renewal Council, McCleary Museum, Bear Festival and McCleary Wildcat Boosters. All of these organizations are assets to our city and can always use an extra set of hands!

Upcoming Events

City Council Meeting 1/24

City Council Meeting 2/14

City Council Meeting 2/24

City Council Meeting 3/7

City Council Meeting 3/21

City Council Meeting 4/6

City Hall Closures

Feb 19th—Presidents Day

Desk of the Mayor

I'm thrilled to share exciting news with you! This November, the city achieved a significant milestone by securing a \$496,000 grant to embark on a complete reconstruction of the sidewalks along Maple Street, stretching from 3rd Street to the Beehive Retirement Community.

This project holds immense value as it will seamlessly connect our residents to the vibrant heart of our city, linking crucial locations such as the transit station, city hall, post office, and library. The City Council accepted the grant and staff are making preparations to initiate bids and contract the work, scheduled to commence next summer.

A heartfelt congratulations is due to Chad Bedlington and our city engineering firm, Gray & Osborne, for their unwavering dedication and hard work in successfully completing and securing this grant from the Transportation Improvement Board.

Congratulations and a heartfelt thank you to Lieutenant Brad Lott for his 25 years of dedicated service at the McCleary Fire Department. I would also like to thank his wife Patty Lott and his family for all the late night calls and hours he served the community.



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After Hours Outage

(360) 495-3667 opt. 1

Council Corner

Thank you to the community volunteers, businesses, city employees and organizations that assisted with the holiday festivities around town: the train lighting, Santa breakfast, lighted vehicle parade, Santa around town with the Fire Department, luminary lighting at the cemetery and holiday light competition.



Asphalt Cleanup

Last summer, our city embarked on a transformative initiative at the wells to create a potential orchard for the McCleary Food Bank. What began as a cleanup evolved into a full excavation process, uncovering larger chunks that required specialized equipment. We obtained permission from the Department of Ecology before proceeding with this important project.

While we previously had approval to stockpile above-ground concrete and asphalt from the 3rd Street project, we discovered unauthorized burial of asphalt within the exclusion zone of the wells. Proactively addressing this issue, we removed 400 tons of asphalt with support from Grays Harbor County Environmental Health and the Department of Ecology. Proper disposal was ensured with the assistance of Waste Connections.

This cleanup was essential, not only for compliance but for the well-being of our city and water users. Our dedicated city workers played a crucial role in addressing a concern that resonated with many residents. Without this proactive approach, the site would have remained a dumpsite, delaying any potential use of the property.

"McCleary: Where diversity thrives, heritage is cherished, and community shapes the future. Together, we create a legacy of unity and pride." - TJR

McCleary Food Bank

The McCleary Food Bank volunteers are grateful for the generous support we received during the holidays. The support couldn't have come at a better time as we were experiencing a lull in financial donations and higher than normal food prices. We are so proud to say our community came through with over \$7,500 in donations! We are truly blessed by so many people willing to help their neighbors-in-need throughout the year. We appreciate your financial support and the many food donations we have received.

Most importantly we were able to serve 195 people in the month of November and 158 people in the month of December. We know for each person we serve there are 2.4 people who benefit from the food we distribute. Over 460 people were provided meals in November and over 370 people were provided meals in December!

In 2024 we expect our numbers to remain high during this time of inflation affecting food, fuel and living expenses.

We want to thank those who gave:

- The City of McCleary for continuing to support our food bank since its inception.
- McCleary Elementary School through the Elma High School's food drive.
- The McCleary Volunteer Fire Fighters from their annual food drive.
- The Warm Company for their continuous support.
- Local 2761 Union of Simpson Door in McCleary
- The Simpson Door Company
- Gordon's Select Market through their Meat Bucks program, and
- Individual donations from our loyal community members.

We could not exist without your support. We love you!

Bill Wilson, president

McCleary Food Bank

