

The Regular meeting of the McGill Town Council was held on August 18, 2015 at the McGill Senior/Community Center located at the top of Avenue K at 7:00 P.M.

The following McGill Town Council Members were in attendance:

Bob Winder, Chairman  
Roxane Ballandby, Vice-Chairperson  
Mike Borovansky, Member  
Ed Dubrutz, Member

Absent Council Member: Andy McVicars, Member

Also in attendance:

Delores Manchester, Secretary/Clerk  
Mike Coster, County Commissioner  
Anne Schroeder, MRA  
Cynthia Angelopoulos, MRA  
Lee Garcia, McGill Fire Chief  
Brett Waters, White Pine County Fire Chief  
Eva Trimble, Kinnear Library/Cultural Center  
Bonnie Gurr, Kinnear Library/Cultural Center  
Joni Drahos, MRA  
Burton Hilton, White Pine County Assessor  
Stacy Laird, Business Rep./MRA  
Susan Merwin

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Council Chairman Winder called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Council Member Dubrutz led the Council and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Council Chairman Winder called for comments from the public.

Anne Schroeder addressed the Board to report that she had checked on the Christmas tree that had been ordered from V & S Variety. The tree is available to be picked up by a Council Member.

Burton Hilton, White Pine County Assessor, addressed the Board referring to the correspondence the Council sent to him regarding “Common Ground” and some of the concerns that had been expressed about some of the dilapidated garages or sheds. He has been doing some checking into the matter and learned that the County may be responsible for the sheds because they have been placed in the alleys for public use. McGill’s correspondence also refers to Kennecott

selling some of the sheds to one person, but selling the land under the shed to another person. He feels that the owners of the property could either make an agreement with the person who has the shed to either remove the shed, give it up, or charge rent. As far as some of the more dilapidated sheds/garages, the Town Council could ask the Board of County Commissioners to proceed under the abatement of abandoned building codes in an effort to have them removed. If that were the case, he would suggest that the process be advertised first. Another option is to abandon the alleys where the sheds/garages sit.

The secretary pointed out that the McGill Town Council has gone on record many times through the years opposing any alley or road abandonments. Several alleys have been abandoned and people have either built a garage in the middle of the alley, or blocked the alley off. As a result, the alley behind first street has garages in the middle of the roadway, some sheds blocking access so emergency vehicles can no longer gain access to those homes, and the front of the house the steps are too steep to safely remove a person who needs service. Also, the BOCC abandoned a portion of seventh street several years ago and the adjacent property owner built a garage in the middle of the street. Now the Road Department cannot gain access to maintain part of the street.

Council Chairman Winder agreed. Noting that he had heard of fist fights about alley abandonments because access has been blocked. He would also point out that many of the garages are not sitting in alleys, but are sitting on small portions of land. Many of those garages are dangerous and some are eyesores, and also there is no record of who owns many of the garages because there is just a bill of sale passed from person to person.

Assessor Hilton explained that he is still researching this matter and hopes to have more answers before the next meeting.

The Council directed their secretary to place this matter on the next agenda.

Cynthia Angelopoulos, MRA, addressed the Council stating that someone had a goat in town, but after it was reported, the goat was moved elsewhere. Also, at #18 Fourth Street, there are some chickens in the back yard.

Council Member Borovansky recalled that having chickens and small animals were grandfathered in McGill.

#### PREPARATIONS FOR THE ANNUAL LABBOR DAY FESTIVITIES (Picnic – Street Dance – Fireworks Display – etc.)

Brenda McConaha, Women's Auxiliary, reported that they have obtained the certificate of insurance so they could hold the street dance at the corner of Avenue K and Fourth Street. She would ask if the McGill park personnel could clean the lot.

Council Member Borovansky assured her that he would forward the message to the park employees.

Brenda McCohaha explained that she has been working on ordering the hamburgers and hot dogs for the annual Labor Day picnic, but she cannot find anyone who can remember how much was ordered last year. If she recalls, there was a lot of food left over. If there is food left over, they would like to serve it at the Baseball game the following day.

Council Chairman Winder cautioned her on the health issues by saving food for another event on another day. He would also like a copy of the food inventory so it can be placed in the Council files.

Council Vice-Chairperson Ballandby stated that she feels it is a good idea they are selling the leftover food the next day, but she agrees with the option to lower the amount ordered for next year.

Brenda McConaha verified that there was a purchase order obtained for the portable potties and for the fireworks. They have the liquor licenses and they have secured the band for the street dance. She ran into a little difficulty in reserving the park above the swimming pool as they do not have the \$250 deposit for the park.

County Commissioner Coster assured her that he would place the waiving of the \$250 deposit for the use of the swimming pool park.

Joni Drahos, MRA, noted they have reserved the Ball Park for the baseball game and fireworks, but she would like to know why the McGill Town Council did not manage the swimming pool park along with all the other parks in McGill. She would like suggestions on what the theme should be for the parade.

The secretary explained that the swimming pool and the park above it was not within the town limits until McGill completed their annexation a few years ago.

Council Member Dubrutz assured her that he would come up with a theme.

#### ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD – ASSIGNMENT OF DUTIES FOR EACH TOWN COUNCIL MEMBER

The Council directed the secretary to carry this matter on the agenda because the newly appointed Council Member, Andy McVicars, had to miss this meeting due to being assigned to fight forest fires in Idaho.

STUDY OF PROPOSALS TO PURCHASE A NEW OR USED WILDLAND FIRE BRUSH TRUCK AND/OR A NEW OR USED BRUSH TRUCK TO SERVICE THE TOWN OF MCGILL:

McGill Fire Chief, Lee Garcia, addressed the Council explaining that they have been looking for a suitable brush truck to service McGill and surrounding areas; however, it is difficult to find anything in decent shape right now. Just about all available brush trucks are out and the many fires throughout the Western states. They have not given up looking. They had found one truck, but the holding tank was too small for what McGill would require and it required other upgrades. Council Chairman Winder asked that they not give up looking as there could be some trucks that come available after the fire season.

White Pine County Fire Chief, Brett Waters, explained that he has kept in communication with the County Finance Director, Elizabeth Francis. He is learning there is a lot of work involved in making a purchase through the medium term financing.

The secretary noted that Finance Director Francis assured her that she has apprised the Board of County Commissioners about the possible purchase, and augmentation of funds for the down payment and for the first installment. Once a truck has been located, she will move as quickly as possible to ensure the deal is not lost.

The Council directed their secretary to carry this matter on the next agenda.

AUGMENT FUNDS FOR THE DOWN PAYMENT/FIRST ANNUAL INSTALLMENT/ PURCHASE OF A NEW OR USED WILDLAND FIRE BRUSH TRUCK, AND TO BEGIN PROCESS FOR FINANCING OF THE TRUCK:

The Council directed their secretary to carry this matter on the next agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Council Member Dubrutz motioned to approve the McGill Town Council minutes dated July 21, 2015.

Council Member Borovansky seconded the motion.

Council Chairman Winder abstained from voting due to being absent from that meeting.

Motion was carried by a majority vote of the quorum present.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence received or mailed since the previous meeting was listed as follows:

1. Letter from Kay & John Sundberg lodging a complaint about derelict garages sitting on “Common Ground”.
2. Letter to WPC Sheriff’s Office requesting copies of police reports.
3. Police reports for vandalism and theft incidents on 7/10/15, 7/15/15, & 8/6/2015.
4. Labor Day insurance Certificate of Coverage.
5. Secretary monthly report.
6. Pages from BOCC minutes regarding Standard Market.
7. Letter to WPC Assessor regarding “Common Ground” problems.
8. Letter to Ely Time as letter to the editor offering \$500.00 reward for theft of trees.
9. Copy of Resolution 2015-11 regarding parking on Avenue K.
10. Letter to WPC Sheriff, Dan Watts listing nuisances reported at previous meeting.
11. Letter to McGill-Ruth District thanking them for \$250 donation for Labor Day.
12. Open letter to all McGill volunteer groups.
13. Letters to vendors listing persons authorized to make purchases.
14. Copies of statements of qualifications for appointed officials.
15. Memo from WPC Maintenance Super regarding work on Kinnear Library Building.

The Council directed the secretary to place the engineering of the Kinnear Library Building on the next agenda.

APPROVAL OF BILLS/AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE:

The following bills were read into the record:

Bradley’s Bestway Market	\$ 65.10
(supplies for center, Honor Camp and Neighborhood Watch refreshments)	
Gale Oil and Tire	\$129.80
(flat repair, tire tubes, etc.)	
Gale Oil and Tire	\$286.01
(2 new tires for park truck)	
OPI	\$ 29.99
(monthly copy machine maintenance)	
Aloha Express	\$101.00
(park gasoline)	
Bath Lumber	\$947.85
(chain saw & operating)	
Linnell Electric	\$3,522.23
(replacement of street light that was hit)	
C & B Auto	\$ 8.58
(Auto filter)	
Delores Manchester	\$ 49.00
(reimbursement for postage)	

Council Vice-Chairperson Ballandby motioned to approve the bills as read.  
Council Member Dubrutz seconded the motion.  
Motion was carried by a unanimous vote of the quorum present.

Council Chairman Winder referred to the payment of bill to Linnell Electric in the amount of \$3,522.23 for the replacement of a street light that had been struck by a semi. He contacted vendor about its repair. However, just before the meeting he learned it may not have been defective pole, but may have actually been struck again. He will look into the matter.

#### NUISANCE ABATEMENTS:

Received correspondence from Kay & John Sundberg lodging a complaint about garages that are falling down and posing a danger and are an eyesore. Letter notes that the garages are sitting on what is commonly known as “Common Ground”.

It was reported that the residents at #10 North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street have been throwing their garbage outside. This was previously reported, officers spoke with them, but instead of hauling the trash, they simply moved the trash into various cans and the trash keeps accumulating.

#16 Third Street has a lot of tall dry weeds that are posing a fire danger.

#29 Avenue B has a lot of tall dry weeds that are posing a fire danger.

#13 Avenue J has a lot of tall dry weeds that are posing a fire danger.

At the corner of #2 Avenue G and First Street there is a tree that has a lot of branches obstructing traffic (Council Member Dubrutz assured the Council he would refer this to the Road Dept.)

It was previously reported that the dumping of tree branches by the Archery Barn – now the swimming pool cleaned the pool and dumped all the moss and seaweed by the Archery Barn (Commissioner Coster assured the Board he would bring this to the attention of the pool director).

There was discussion about campers parking down by the swimming pool area. It thought it was posted there was no camping in that area. (Council Member Dubrutz stated that he would speak with the Road Supervisor to make sure this was properly posted for no camping).

#### ANIMALS AT LARGE/VICIOUS DOGS:

No reports given.

#### PARK MAINTENANCE:

Council Member Borovansky reported that the park employees have been working. The parks are looking good.

Council Vice-Chairperson Ballandby noted that it appears that the sprinklers at the top of the Avenue K Park are broken.

Council Member Borovansky explained that the park crew has been working on it.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

No report given.

FIRE/EMT REPORTS:

McGill Fire Chief Garcia reported that they responded to 16 calls. Many of the McGill Volunteer Firefighters have been sent out to help with BLM fires.

STREET LIGHTS:

Council Chairman Winder and a few in the audience listed a few of the lights that are out – Avenue I and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street – middle of the block on Avenue I - #30 1<sup>st</sup> Street – Avenue K by the park – Avenue J and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street - #16 Avenue I - #39 7<sup>th</sup> Street – Avenue K and 1<sup>st</sup> Street stays on all day.

STREETS & STREET SIGNS:

Nothing new to report.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM:

Council Member Borovansky reported that there was 11 persons in attendance at the last McGill Neighborhood Watch meeting. There was a power point presentation on how to properly operate fire extinguishers for both the home and/or office. Next meeting will be September 9<sup>th</sup>, which may be held an hour earlier (6:00 pm), and it is hoped there will be a refresher course on CPR. They discussed the possibility of certificates being issued, but opted not to have the full length course.

YOUTH/COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

Nothing new to report.

BUSINESS PLAN/McGILL MERCHANTS REPORTS:

Stacy Laird, Business Rep., reported that the apartment above Big Al's has been rented so there will be someone residing above the empty store now.

KINNEAR LIBRARY/CULTURAL CENTER REPORT:

Eva Trimble, Kinnear Library/Cultural Center, reported that their organization held a very successful music night. The presentation was not very long, but they had between 25 and 30 people attend. Because this was so successful, they will schedule another music night.

McGILL REVITALIZATION ASSOCIATION:

Cynthia Agelopoulos, MRA, reported that they are about ready for the annual Labor Day activities. They will sell ice cream and sell raffle tickets for a bird bath and engraved marble welcome stone.

McGILL VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT WOMEN'S AUXILIARY:

McGill Fire Chief Garcia noted that the fireworks have been ordered.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Council Chairman Winder called for any additional comments from the public.

There was no further comments.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

There being no further business or questions to be brought before the McGill Town Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 P.M.