

The Regular meeting of the McGill Town Council was held on October 20, 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
Mike Borovansky, Member
Ed Dubrutz, Member
Andy McVicars, Member

Absent Council Member: Roxane Ballandby, Vice-Chairperson

Also in attendance:

Delores Manchester, Secretary/Town Clerk
Brenda McConaha, McGill Volunteer Fire Department Women's Auxiliary
Cynthia Angelopoulos, McGill Revitalization Assoc.
Elaine Blackham, EDC Office Manager
Brett Waters, WPC Fire Chief
Stacy Laird, McGill Revitalization Assoc.
April Witter, Kinnear Library/Cultural Center
Burton Hilton, WPC Assessor
Lee Garcia, McGill Volunteer Fire Chief
Kay Sundberg
John Sundberg
Megan Brown, WPC Aquatics Director

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

Andy McVicars led the Council and audience in the pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Council Chairman Winder called for comments from the public.

Elaine Blackham, EDC Office Manager, addressed the Board explaining that her office, beginning next week, will be mailing out the survey for McGill. She would encourage the Town Council to support this survey by asking the residents to respond, as CDBG grant funding and USDA funding depends on the results of this survey. The previous survey resulted in much lower response by McGill, Ruth, and Lund. If the EDC Office does not receive the surveys back, then she may have to enlist the services of the volunteer fire departments by going door to door.

Burton Hilton, WPC Assessor, addressed the Board to make comment on the proposed cell tower, which is listed as the next agenda item. He feels that the cell tower is necessary for this area, he has seen some cell towers disguised as flagpoles that actually look like real flagpoles. By disguising the cell towers it can make the structure more pleasing than just a tower. Also, he received a phone call from the McGill secretary informing him that the Veterans Initiative would be contacting him about the Safety Industries building. He later received a call from the Veterans Initiative (501 C-19 status) and was able to provide them with information on the status of taxes and so forth.

Council Chairman Winder assured Assessor Burton that the McGill Town Council will be mailing out a letter of support regarding the possibility of placing a manufacturing plant run by Veterans in McGill.

Megan Brown addressed the Board explaining that her department circulated a letter soliciting donations to help pay for the prizes during the annual McGill Big Splash. She received toys for prizes and cash donations. There were 12 persons on staff to handle services at the pool and there was about 120 persons who used the pool. She heard there was a sign posted stating there were only 2 guards on duty, but she did not see any such sign and it was not posted by her.

COMMENTS TO EBI CONSULTING REGARDING INSTALLATION OF A 104-FOOT MONOPOLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS TOWER IN MCGILL AT THE CORNER OF AVENUE K AND FIRST STREET:

Council Chairman Winder referred to correspondence from EBI Consulting (representing Verizon) soliciting comments from the residents from McGill regarding the placement of a cell tower at the corner of Avenue K and First Street.

Elaine Blackham reported that EBI has also placed this matter on the Planning Commission agenda, as they have applied for a special use permit for a variance. If the Council supports this, then she would ask for a copy of that letter go to the Planning Commission.

Council Chairman Winder pointed out that in some states they have disguised the cell tower as palm trees, referring to the comment earlier about disguising the tower as a flag pole.

It was the consensus of the Council to respond to EBI, with a copy to the Planning Commission, in support of the cell tower, as cell access is needed in McGill. In the letter to encourage the disguise as appropriate to this area.

ESTABLISHING A SUB COMMITTEE TO WORK ON THE RENOVATIONS TO THE KINNEAR LIBRARY BUILDING AND/OR IDENTIFYING FUNDS OR POSSIBLE AUGMENT OF FUNDS TO COVER COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE RENOVATION OF THE KINNEAR LIBRARY BUILDING:

The secretary recalled this matter was brought up during the previous meeting. Her suggestion was to create a separate line item so McGill could track the expenses to renovate this building.

In a previous meeting WPC Maintenance Superintendent, Bill Calderwood, had indicated that his work crew, as time permitted, could remove all the nonessential materials from the interior of the Kinnear Library Building before conducting the mold testing. Once the mold testing is in compliance with the clean air requirements, his crew could begin framing the inside walls, and do other work.

April Witter, Kinnear Library/Cultural Center, addressed the Board explaining that she is the President of that organization, and she would be willing to serve on the Kinnear Library sub-committee.

Council Member McVicars motioned to create a line item for the Kinnear Library Building renovations and transfer funds in the amount of \$2,000 from line item #280-504-52210 into the newly created line item.

Council Member Borovansky seconded the motion.

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

It was the consensus of the Council to have Council Chairman Winder, Kinnear Library President April Witter, McGill secretary Delores Manchester, and WPC Maintenance Super Bill Calderwood.

DISTRIBUTION/SELLING OF THE BOOK “100 YEARS OF HISTORY OF MCGILL:

The secretary reported that the books have arrived and she would like to know what the Council wants to sell the books for.

Council Member McVicars motioned to sell the books titled “100 Years of McGill History” for \$30.00 each (plus the cost of shipping if mailed) and the CD’s for \$10.00 each (plus the cost of shipping).

Council Member Borovansky seconded the motion.

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

PLANNING FOR MCGILL CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES:

The secretary was directed to carry this matter on the agenda.

ASSIGNMENT OF DUTIES FOR EACH TOWN COUNCIL MEMBER:

Council Member McVicars stated that he will assume all the duties of the council person who vacated the seat before him.

DISCUSSION REGARDIGN “COMMON GROUND” SCATTERED IN AND AROUND
McGILL (NOTE: some “common ground” have shed/garages on them):

Assessor Hilton reported that he has spoken with the Chairman and the Council Secretary about what he had learned while meeting with the other Assessors in the state. The other Assessors pretty much echoed what he had previously explained to the Council about possible solutions. The sheds at the North and South ends of McGill are on separate lots, they are being assessed and the owners are paying taxes. If there are any problems regarding the condition of those sheds, the matter can be brought before the Planning Commission to begin the process of abatement. The people who have garages alongside the alleys, the same applies, they are being assessed and people are paying taxes – if those garages are not being maintained, then there is the abatement process that could apply. There are some instances where people have moved garages in the middle of alleys (case in point – behind the McGill-Ruth Water District Office), those sheds are actually blocking access to the handicapped ramp leading to the back side of the Water District Office. He previously learned that McGill has experienced alley/road abandonment as problems, and this maybe should not be an option as it, in the past, blocked access by emergency equipment.

Council Chairman Winder pointed out that if some of the garages reverted to private ownership, there could also be right of way issues. If the garages are sitting on county property, then McGill cannot do much about it.

Assessor Hilton indicated in the affirmative for the right of way issues. He does feel that the Town Council can approach the BOCC regarding any unsightly garages that may sit on county property.

Elaine Blackham explained a situation alongside her yard. Her yard is fenced, but there is a long strip of property that goes the length of her yard. That strip of land between her yard and the street was never surveyed. It has been referred to as “Common Ground”. When she complained about the un-kept condition of that strip of land, she was informed that she needed to maintain it and keep the weeds down. Her question is, who’s responsibility is it to maintain “Common Ground”.

Assessor Hilton answered that he felt it was the responsibility of the County.

Council Member McVicars asked in regarding to the safety hazard of some of the un-kept sheds.

Assessor Hilton answered that the matter could be taken to the BOCC and go through the abatement process. He feels that the health and safety should be the main issue.

Kay Sandburg addressed the Board stating that she was the person who first brought this matter to the attention of the McGill Town Council. She spoke to the one person who had stuff stored in one of the rusted tin sheds and he told he had been paying taxes on the sheds. Those sheds face her front door. She would like the sheds removed and the Water District would like the sheds removed because they are blocking handicapped access to the public building.

Assessor Hilton explained, as best to his knowledge, taxes are being paid on the sheds behind the Water District. If those rusted sheds are blocking handicapped access, then he would think the Water District, Town Council, or Sandburgs could send correspondence.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Council Member Dubrutz motioned to approve the McGill Town Council minutes dated September 15, 2015.

Council Member Borovansky seconded the motion.

Council Member McVicars abstained from voting due to being absent from that meeting.

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence received and/or mailed since the previous meeting as follows:

1. E-mail from Veterans Initiative registered as 501, C-19 expressing an interest in setting up a machine shop in McGill.
2. Secretary monthly report.
3. Letter from WPC Clerk regarding open meeting law training.
4. Deposit in the amount of \$40 for rental of the Center.
5. Letter from EBI Consulting regarding the installation of a cell tower in McGill.
6. Letter to the editor regarding \$1,000 reward.
7. Police report for damage to light pole.
8. Memo regarding USDA Lending and e-mail from USDA.
9. Financial report from WPC Aquatics Director for the McGill Swimming Pool.

APPROVAL OF BILLS/AUTHORIZAATION TO PURCHASE:

The following bills were read into the record:

R & R Roofing (Kinneer Library additional roofing)	\$720.00
Silver State Industries (100 Year History Books)	\$4,725.00
OPI (monthly contract)	\$ 29.99
Aloha Express (parks gasoline)	\$ 44.04
Alert All (fire prevention materials)	\$ 456.97
Bradleys Bestway Market (Neighborhood Watch refreshments)	\$ 10.99

Council Member Dubrutz motioned to approve the bills as read.

Council Member McVicars seconded the motion.

Motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

NUISANCE ABATEMENTS:

Nothing new to report.

ANIMALS AT LARGE/VICIOUS DOGS:

Elaine Blackham reported that dogs are running at large in the area of Avenue A, one is a small white dog, and they run mostly in the early morning hours. Also, she has seen a few dogs running at large at the Circle Parks.

PARK MAINTENANCE:

Council Member Borovansky reported that the parks are currently being shut down for the winter months. The parks manager's last day to work this year is October 31st.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The secretary reported that McGill is 25% into their budget year, with only 9% of their revenues coming in as of this date, and the budget shows 50% spent. Because revenues come in slower than expenses this time of the year, she would like to request that the payments for the new brush truck be set for later during the year.

FIRE/EMT REPORTS:

Lee Garcia, McGill Fire Chief, reported that they responded to 13 calls this past month, they also assisted with several medical calls, the volunteers have completed numerous training sessions, and they have additional training sessions coming up.

Brett Waters, WPC Fire Chief, reported that the Board of County Commissioners approved the purchase of the brush truck. Approval was also given to go forward with the financing and the BOCC has approved the deposit of funds to hold the vehicle. The Finance Director will be mailing out correspondence to various lending institutions soliciting financing proposals. He has spoken with the seller of the brush truck and they are in the process of cleaning up the vehicle with the hopes of it coming to McGill near Thanks Giving.

Council Member Dubrutz inquired when would the new brush truck be ready for service.

WPC Fire Chief Waters answered that the brush truck should be fully equipped and ready for service by Christmas. Also the old truck that is being replaced by the new brush truck, will be going to Lakawana Fire Department.

Council Chairman Winder inquired about the 1945 ambulance that McGill purchased several years ago.

WPC Fire Chief Waters explained that the 1945 ambulance is on the County Road Department list to be fully serviced and repaired.

STREET LIGHTS:

Several street light issues were reported as follows:

32 Fourth Street – 12 N. third Street – 11 Second Street – 32 Second Street – top of Avenue K – 5 Avenue K – 4th North – light on 7th Street stays on – alley between A & B at the top is out.

STREETS & STREET SIGNS:

Council Member Dubrutz reported that following the most recent heavy rains, the runoff was high, but the present drainage handled it.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM:

Council Member Borovansky reported there were 7 persons in attendance at the last McGill Neighborhood Watch meeting. Officer Pederson provided the membership with Halloween safety materials. They are continuing to serve refreshments at the Neighborhood Watch meetings. He would also like to point out that the McGill Neighborhood Watch is one of the longest lasting Neighborhood Watch Programs in the State of Nevada.

YOUTH/COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

Nothing to report.

BUSINESS PLAN/McGILL MERCHANTS REPORTS:

No report given.

KINNEAR LIBRARY/CULTURAL CENTER REPORT:

Kinnear Library President Witter reported that the Library held their annual Fall Fair and had a very good turnout. They appreciate the assistance of the MRA in helping with the event.

McGILL REVITALIZATION ASSOCIATION:

Nothing new to report this month.

McGILL VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT WOMEN'S AUXILIARY:

Brenda McConaha reported that their organization will begin working on Christmas activities. They were hoping to obtain Council assistance for the purchase of turkeys.

Council Chairman Winder suggested she obtain prices on turkeys and how many they may need this year.

Council Member Dubrutz noted that he donated \$100 last year, and he would like to donate \$100 again this year.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

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

Council Member Borovansky referred to when the contractor was in town replacing light/telephone poles in McGill. When the company removed power poles from the alley behind Avenue A, they left poles laying there, in some cases the poles were placed alongside old poles, leaving 2 power poles side by side.

Another person pointed that one of the new power poles were placed in the middle of a driveway.

Council Chairman Winder noted, that if there are pole still standing without any power lines, then possibly McGill Town Council can send correspondence to Mt. Wheeler Power, or AT & T, as it is undetermined who has the responsibility for this project.

Council Member McVicars pointed out that he has been hearing stories about all the vandalism in McGill. He would like to know if there has been a resolution. He was given the answer that McGill has offered \$1,000 reward (\$500 anonymous donation & McGill contribution), the matter is currently under investigation through the Sheriff's Office.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

There being no further comments or business to be brought before the McGill Town Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:06 P.M.