

The Regular meeting of the McGill Town Council was held on October 15, 2019 at the McGill Community/Senior Center located at the top of Avenue K at 7:00 P.M.

The following McGill Town Council Members were in attendance:

Joshua Miller, Vice-Chairman
Cynthia Angelopoulos, Member
Chris Maestes, Member
Vacant Seat

Absent Council Member: Roxane Ballandby, Chairperson

Also in attendance:

Delores Manchester, Secretary
Stacy Laird, Business Rep/MRA
Richard Howe, WPC Commissioner
Raymond Maestes
David R. Miller
Mathew Symes
Sue Chilson
Roberta Stein
Hal Hollingsworth
Ricky Garcia, McGill Fire Chief
Mark Boyd
Mike Nass, Nass Lock & Key
Matthew Noriega
Victoria Perez
Rudy Herdon, IOOF Hall
John Countryman

Council Vice-Chairman Miller called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Council Member Angelopoulos led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Council Vice-Chairman Miller called for any comments from the audience, making note that this is a time for public comment and it is not a time for a debate.

Sue Chilson addressed the Council reading from a prepared statement in regards to the new stop signs that had been placed in McGill. Stating that, as she understands it, the matter was brought forward by only one of the Town Council Members, and not questioned by the other Council Members. She referred to the 4-way stop sign at the corner of Avenue B and Smelter. She could not see any reason for that 4-way stop sign. She has also noticed that the only new stop signs were placed in upper Town Site from Avenue B to Avenue D and down from Smelter to Second Street; and nowhere else in McGill. There were about 20 requested signs, but only 8 signs were finally approved.

Sue Chilson referred to the stop sign at the corner of Second Street and Avenue C. There is a trailer parked near the street sign and is obstructing the view of the sign.

Another person in the audience stated that he lives at the corner of Avenue B and Smelter, and he cannot see any reason to place that 4-way stop signs at that intersection.

Raymond Maestes asked how long the Town Council Members have lived in McGill. He is the person who had asked to have the stop signs placed in the area with the hopes of slowing some of the traffic down. He has spoken to the Sheriff and learned that his horse trailer is legally parked. People keep referring to the weeds alongside his property. That is county property and not his responsibility.

Rudy Herdon, owner of the old IOOF Hall, addressed the Council explaining that he is still planning on opening the coffee shop. He has found a company that can remove the asbestos from the building, and they will begin work soon. They will have to seal off the building and the work will take about 5 weeks to complete. As soon as the asbestos has been removed, then construction can begin. It is his plan to name his coffee shop “**Middle of Everywhere**” and he is currently seeking a person who can manage this coffee shop.

Richard Howe, WPC Commissioner, addressed the Council explaining that part of the Slag Ditch belongs to the Water District and the other part belongs to White Pine County. They have received a \$35,000 grant to rework the Ditch. This past summer season was a success for the McGill Swimming Pool. He signed the final plans for the (SNPLMA grant) McGill Ball Park this week. The BOCC has identified the Railroad Depot in McGill as a priority for the next SNPLMA granting cycle. Outside the City of Ely, McGill is the largest community in White Pine County, and he feels that the McGill Fire Department is doing fine and the Fire District are ordering T-Shirts for all the Volunteer Firemen.

SETTING DATE AND TIME FOR GRAND OPENINGS OF NASS LOCK & KEY AND FOR D ZINE:

Michael Nass addressed the Council introducing himself as the owner of the new “Nass Locke and Key” business in town. Their operating hours are from 1 to 6 during the week, and they are open on the weekends. In addition to operating a locksmith business, they will take in consignment items for sale, and they have now signed up to be a dealership to rent U-Haul trucks and trailers.

It was the consensus of the Town Council to schedule the grand opening-ribbon cutting ceremony for Friday, October 25, 2019 at 5:00 P.M.

The secretary reported that she has received communication from Wayne Cameron, President of the White Pine Chamber. Wayne Cameron has expressed an interest in being on hand for the grand opening. She will forward this information to him.

Michael Nass referred to the gutter at the North side of his building. Stating that the gutter is washed out and there is a sink hole there. Also, he would like to know why the curb is painted red. There is no fire hydrant or any reason he can see why it would be painted red. He is asking if the McGill Town Council could research this matter and see if he can have the curb painted yellow, or have the red removed.

The secretary explained that she is not aware why that curb is painted red. If it was painted red because it is written in the County Ordinance, then it will take several months for the Public Works Director to research and schedule the ordinance change. This process will be lengthy, most likely to take several months, and will be similar to when the Town Council requested that the additional stop signs be placed in town.

The Council directed the secretary to prepare correspondence to the Public Works Director inquiring if he knows the history of why the curb is painted red at the corner of Fourth Street and Avenue K.

OFFERING A REWARD FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO THE ARREST AND PROSECUTION OF PERSON (S) RESPONSIBLE FOR VANDALIZING PARKS IN MCGILL:

Council Vice-Chairman Miller recalled that this matter had been carried forward from the previous meeting.

The secretary explained that McGill Town Council has previously had a budgeted line item offering a reward for vandalism. They opened that budget line item about 4 years ago when vandals were digging up trees, tearing up sprinkling systems, and spray painting graffiti around town. There was a \$500 anonymous donation and the Town Council matched that amount by adding \$500 – making a total of \$1,000.00 reward offered for information leading to the arrest of person(s) responsible for the vandalism. To this date, nobody has come forward with any information. That line item remained in the McGill budget, but due to an oversight, it was dropped this year.

Council Member Angelopoulos motioned to offer a \$500 reward for information leading to the arrest and prosecution of the person(s) responsible for destroying the sprinkling system in the McGill Ball Park and the McGill Circle Parks. Her motion includes to reopen the budgeted line item.

Council Member Maestes seconded the motion.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Council Member Angelopoulos motioned to approve the McGill Town Council minutes dated September 17, 2019. Council Member Maestes seconded the motion. Motion was carried by a unanimous vote of the quorum present.

CORRESPONDENCE:

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

1. McGill Neighborhood Watch meeting notice, report, and tip of the month.
2. 3 Deposit in the amount of \$30 for the sale of a McGill Book.
3. Deposit of funds in the amount of \$20 for rental of Community Center.
4. Memo to BOCC notifying them of the resignation of a Town Council Member.
5. Memo to WPC Sheriff listing nuisance complaints.
6. Memo to Road Dept. listing vandalized street signs.
7. Memo to WPC Finance Director requesting insurance claim.
8. Deposit in the amount of \$132.00 from Kinnear Library Center, Inc for internet in lieu of rent.
9. McGill-Ruth Sewer & Water agenda.
10. Letter from Laura Hollon inquiring about McGill and response.
11. Secretary monthly report.
12. Memo to Parks Manager requesting he secure the windows at the Senior Center.

APPROVAL OF BILLS/AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE:

The following bills were read into the record for payment:

White Pine Aquatics	\$1,500.00
(end of summer bonus)	
Bradleys Bestway Market	\$ 9.87
(cleaning supplies)	
Bath Lumber	\$ 155.23
(park operating supplies)	
Sanitary Septic Service	\$ 107.60
(porta potty for Ball Park)	
OPI	\$ 29.99
(monthly copy machine contract)	
White Pine County Road Dept.	\$ 118.09
(parks gasoline)	
Bradleys Bestway Market	\$ 2.99
(Neighborhood Watch refreshments)	

Council Member Angelopoulos motioned to approve the bills for payment as read. Council Member Maestes seconded the motion. Motion was carried by a unanimous vote of the quorum present.

NUISANCE ABATEMENTS:

There were no nuisances reported.

ANIMALS AT LARGE/VICIOUS DOGS?

It was reported there has been a red fox running around town.

It was also reported that there is a young mountain lion that has been spotted walking along Avenue O and another sitting along the railroad tracks in townsite.

The Council directed their secretary to notify the Nevada Department of Wildlife regarding those concerns.

PARK MAINTENANCE:

Dave Miller, Basin Engineering, addressed the Council explaining that the County has gone out for bid for the SNPLMA Ball Park grant. They were short on the funding, so they removed the restrooms from this project. They will put in playground equipment if there is enough funding. They have been working with the White Pine Finance Department regarding the restrooms. If they cannot find sufficient funding, then they will need to look at another SNPLMA grant application. They have a pre-construction meeting with the contractor at the end of the week. The bleachers will be metal, but the dirt behind the bleachers will have to be redone. There will be new fencing. They are hoping to begin construction soon. But depending on whether conditions some of the work will most likely be in the spring.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The secretary reported that the County is presently working on a new computer program and the financial printout has been a challenge to read. All the departments are in one column, so she has marked off the different department

for easier reading. Reading from the Fiscal Activity column, it shows that revenues are at \$10,909.51 with a total of spending at \$31,882.44. It is not uncommon to be overspent this time of the year, which is why McGill always carries backup funds in their “Fund Balance” (savings).

FIRE/EMT REPORTS:

Ricky Garcia, McGill Fire Chief, addressed the Council explaining that the bathrooms that had been previously promised to be put in the McGill Fire Station has been pushed to next year. The internet that was promised and not been put in the building yet.

Council Vice-Chairman Miller referred to the list of promises the Fire Commission made during the Joint Meeting, noting that some of the work promised has not been granted. They are presently drafting a letter to the BOCC regarding those promises.

McGill Fire Chief Garcia informed the Council that the McGill Volunteer Fire Department is now 20 volunteers strong. Most of the volunteers work full time jobs, so it still limits the number of volunteers in town.

Hal Hollingsworth addressed the Council expressing concern about some of the response time from Ely to McGill.

STREET LIGHTS:

It was reported that JW Electric had finally received their LED order for 60 new lights. They have replaced 25 of the broken street lights that had been on the first repair list for the past several months. They will be moving on to subsequent repair lists, then they will be replacing lights along Main Street with new LED lights. Removed lights that are in working condition will be placed in storage to repair street lights as they go out during the remainder of the year. Next year, the Town Council will select 60 other lights that will be replaced.

STREETS & STREET SIGNS:

Council Member Maestes explained that the Public Works Director and Sheriff Henriod were the ones who drove around McGill verifying the locations for new stop/yield signs. Once they verified the location of those signs, it was then taken to the Road Commission meeting for the BOCC to formally approve.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM:

Council Member Maestes reported that the Neighborhood Watch meeting was held on the 9th of October. There were 7 persons in attendance including Officer Peterson. Officer Peterson provided training for the newer Neighborhood Watch members, noting that NW members need to document everything when they witness a crime. Officer Peterson also provided a list of things people can do to help protect their home from getting broken into.

YOUTH/COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

Just waiting for December and the arrival of Santa.

BUSINESS PLAN/McGILL MERCHANTS REPORTS:

Stacy Laird, McGill Business Rep, addressed the Council noting the planned grand opening for Nass Lock and Key. However, she has been unable to contact the proprietor of D-Zine to get an opening date for her salon.

CULTURAL CENTER/LIBRARY REPORT:

The secretary reported that the McGill Community/Senior Center/Library had been broken into on a few occasions this past month. It appears that someone has been getting into the back side of the library to use their computers and the internet. A picnic table had been placed on the front porch and several youth and adults have been sitting at the table with their own hand held devices accessing the free internet, but it is cold outside at night now. It would appear that whoever is breaking into the building may not have their own computer. The last time the building had been broken into, the janitor had found all the lights in the building on and the door leading into the library part of the building was been jimmed open. He checked all the outside access points and found that the window on the front porch had been rigged to be opened from the outside. The janitor secured the window and then locked up the library. There are a lot of keys that have been checked out, but if the building continues to be broken into, then the Council may need to consider changing the locks again.

The Council requested that the Parks Manager place wood in all the window wells, and for the secretary to place changing of the locks on the next agenda.

McGILL REVITALIZATION ASSOCIATION:

Stacy Laird, MRA, stated their volunteer group is gearing toward Christmas activities.

RENOVATIONS TO KINNEAR LIBRARY BUILDING:

No report given.

McGILL HISTORICAL DRUG STORE MUSEUM:

No report given.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Council Vice-Chairman Miller called for any further comments from the audience.

Raymond Maestes addressed the Council explaining that when they first worked on acquiring new stop/yield signs, they followed all the steps required. They provided a list to the Sheriff, he eliminated many of the requested signs, then the Sheriff and the Public Works Director drove around McGill to verify the final selection. Then the list was delivered to the Road Commission to go through the ordinance process. From start to finish, it took 6 to 8 months before the final list was adopted.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

There being no further comments or business to be brought before the McGill Town Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 P.M.