

The Regular meeting of the McGill Town Council was held on August 18, 2020 at the Kinnear Library/Town Hall Building located at #4 North Fourth (Main) Street at 7:00 P.M.

The following McGill Town Council Members were in attendance:

Cynthia Angelopoulos, Member/Acting Chair
Danielle Jensen, Member
Chris Maestes, Member

Absent Council Members:

Roxane Ballandby, Chairperson
Joshua Miller, Vice-Chairman

Also in attendance:

Delores Manchester, secretary/Town Clerk
Richard Howe, WPC Commissioner
Laurie Carson, WPC Commissioner
Mike Wheable, WPC District Attorney
Raymond Maestes, Sr.
Brenda McConaha
Kristi Rozich
Jesse Ciscar, McGill Volunteer Fire Dept.
Brett Chrestman, McGill Volunteer Fire Dept.
Amber Smith, McGill Volunteer Fire Dept.
Tracie Love
Ricky Garcia
Hal Hollingsworth
Alfred Heatherly, McGill Volunteer Fire Dept.
Linette Wyler

Council Chairperson Ballandby called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Council Member Angelopoulos called for comments from the audience.

Kristi Rozich, WPC Aquatics Director, addressed the Council explaining that due to the Covid-19 her department must follow Covid-19 guidelines. Unfortunately, the McGill Swimming Pool cannot hold their annual Big Splash along with McGill Town Council's Labor Day Festivities this year.

The Council thanked her for her report.

Brenda McConaha addressed the Council explaining that most of the McGill Labor Day festivities have been cancelled due to the Covid-19. However, the fireworks are still on schedule, and the band had already been paid for, so they will appear and may play some music at the parks. She would assume people will come by, so she would ask if the Town Council could pay for some hand washing stations.

It was explained that due to budget cuts and high increase in water billings, the Council does not have extra funds at this time to pay for hand washing stations.

WPC Commissioner, Richard Howe, noted that it is very unfortunate about the Big Splash being cancelled. All other events throughout the Nation has had to be cancelled, as well. He appreciates McGill Town Council cancelling their events in the name of safety. Brett North is the WPC Fire Chief. The Board of County Commissioners is 100% behind him. Mr. North was not able to attend the McGill Town Council meeting this evening because he is at the fire in Lund. As far as the agenda item regarding the McGill roster, Brett North is working on making the roster whole.

SELECTION OF FIRE CHIEF FOR MCGILL VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Acting Chairperson Angelopoulos explained that, because of recent events, the Council had sent correspondence to Brett North asking if he would attend this meeting with the hopes that he could answer some questions. McGill Town Council was not made aware of why both McGill Volunteer Fire Chiefs had been terminated. Both terminated fire chiefs are of the same family, nobody has come to the Town Council to provide any information why their volunteer services were no longer required. The Town Council is sitting here in the dark with no information, she is not sure how volunteers can be fired or if there had been any investigation. She does feel that this matter needs to be looked at. Before another fire chief is selected, the Town Council needs to discuss this further.

WPC District Attorney, Mike Wheable, addressed the Council explained that the NRS governing unincorporated town's fire departments does not apply because there is a County Fire District in place at this time. He agrees there is a long record of volunteers, but he does not feel the McGill Town Council has the authority to appoint their fire chief anymore.

Acting Chairperson Angelopoulos asked if McGill Town Council could get a legal opinion regarding this matter.

A question was asked regarding the ownership of the land the fire station sits on. The secretary explained that the McGill Town Council purchased the land from the Ingle Family Trust; however, pursuant to NRS the Town cannot own property, so the deed needed to be placed in White Pine County ownership. McGill Town Council has also purchased all their fire trucks, but they also had to place the titles in the name of White Pine County.

Hal Hollingsworth stated that he did not feel that proper protocol was followed when the fire chiefs had been terminated. He feels that the WPC Fire Chief is biased and he would ask if he had conducted an investigation.

District Attorney Wheable noted, that, yes, all property McGill has purchased became the property of WPC. He further explained that there was a personnel investigation conducted, a decision was reached. Employees are different from volunteers.

Jesse Ciscar, former McGill Volunteer Fireman, addressed the Council noting that he has been a volunteer fireman for the past 17 years, with a short break in service while he served his country. Jesse Ciscar read his termination letter into the record.

Tracy Love addressed the Council explaining that she has heard nothing but outstanding comments about Jesse Ciscar and his performance as a McGill Volunteer Fireman. She feels there has been a dis-service done to this little town.

Brenda McConaha explained that Ricky Garcia was fired because he did not attend a training, but there has been no training sessions offered because of the Covid-19.

Laurie Carson, White Pine County Commissioner, addressed the Council noting that Mr. North did not arbitrarily fire volunteers. Stating that this action was not personal.

Hal Hollingsworth pointed out that first Ricky, then Lee, and now Jesse. Firing these people is only going to get the community down. People want answers.

Brett Chrestman, McGill Volunteer Fireman, addressed the Council noting that the former fire chiefs have given many years of volunteer service to this community and now they are being let go. There are not many senior fire fighters left anymore.

Acting Chairperson Angelopoulos stressed that the McGill Town Council values all their volunteers. This community is nothing without their volunteers. She would like to see some of the investigation information.

District Attorney Wheable noted that there is something else going on here. They cannot discuss personnel issues in a public meeting.

Acting Chairperson Angelopoulos asked Mr. Garcia if he had a meeting with Brett North.

Ricky Garcia answered that he met with him. Two days later he receive a phone call demanding his resignation.

Council Member Jensen asked Mr. Garcia how long he was Fire Chief, and who had appointed him as the McGill Fire Chief. Also, when did NRS 269.250 change.

Ricky Garcia answered he was fire chief for 2 years. It was the McGill Town Council who appointed him as the McGill Fire Chief. Everything changed when the Fire District was formed.

District Attorney Wheable explained that they used to select from within. All bills are being paid by the Fire District now. There has to be a change in command.

Council Member Jensen stated that the McGill Town Council just wants answers, they have been sitting in the dark with no answers to their questions. Why have people been fired after so many years of volunteer service? She would also like to see the information on the terminations. If the information is available in closed session, then she would like to attend the closed session. She would also like to have a copy of the policies for fire chief and for volunteers. She would also like to know if McGill Town Council should proceed with selecting another fire chief tonight.

District Attorney Wheable stated that he could get her a copy of their code of conduct and he will follow up on closed personnel session in McGill. He would suggest not making any selection tonight. If the McGill Town Council wants another opinion, they can hire their own attorney.

It was the consensus of the Council to carry this matter on the agenda.

REVIEW OF MCGILL VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT ROSTER AND/OR SELECTION OF VOLUNTEER FIREMEN:

It was the consensus of the Council to carry this matter on the agenda.

PURCHASE OF STORAGE SHED TO BE LOCATED AT THE KINNEAR LIBRARY/TOWN HALL BUILDING:

The Council was provided with a cost estimate from Bath Lumber as follows:

- Dura-Shop 8 X 16 - \$3,149.19
- Dura-Shop 8 X 12 - \$2,750.72
- Dura-Shop 10 X 16 - \$3,435.84
- Dura-Shop 10 X 12 - \$2,909.64
- Double door with window - \$950.00

It was the consensus of the Council to carry this matter on the agenda.

STUDY/REVIEW OF PREVIOUS ATV ROUTE AND RULES THAT WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1993 AND/OR POSSIBLE APPROVAL AND REQUEST FOR AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING NEW OFF HIGHWAY VEHICLES (OHV) ROUTE AND RULES FOR THE TOWN OF MCGILL:

Council Member Jensen reported that the McGill Neighborhood Watch has held numerous meetings to review/establish the proposed route and rules for ATV/OHV to travel on McGill streets. She has provided each Council Member with a copy of the proposed route and the proposed rules. Neighborhood Watch is working on this project with the hopes that Law Enforcement will have these laws on the books to help them enforce violators. McGill Town Council first proposed the ATV Route and Rules back in 1993. They had requested an ordinance be written; however, McGill was a bit ahead of their time in supporting this project. After a few years, the Board of County Commissioners requested to cancel the Route and Rules. It sat idle for many years, then the City of Ely proposed an ordinance for OHV Route and Rules in 2018. They now have specific streets marked so ATV riders will be able to drive out of town. The City's ordinance (on line version) is still showing that it is still pending.

After reviewing the route with the audience, Council Member Jensen asked for comments/suggestions from the audience.

Raymond Maestes addressed the Council noting that he has lived here for 75 years. Explaining that he is against this proposed route and rules. New people moving into this community do not have respect for McGill, or the community. People are speeding out of control on their off road vehicles.

Brenda McConaha suggested that people take pictures of the young kids speeding on their 4-wheelers. Then when a person calls for law enforcement, they will be able to show a picture of the speeder, or small child driving without a license; that gives the officer something to go on. Many people do exceed the speed limit, but there are still those who obey the laws.

After further discussion, Council Member Jensen motioned to approve the ATV/OHV Route and Rules as it had been drafted by the McGill Neighborhood Watch.
Council Member Angelopoulos seconded the motion.
Motion was carried by a 2 to 1 vote of the quorum present.

PURCHASE OF A NEW BASKETBALL POLE AND NEW BASKETBALL HOOP:

It was recalled that a request in the previous meeting to purchase a new basketball hoop to be stationed at the top of the Avenue K Park. Some suggested cost estimates were submitted at that time. The Town Council also received an e-mail from WPC Maintenance noting that BSN is the main company the County uses for park equipment, and the County already has that company set up in their system as being an authorized vendor. Their e-mail also provided cost estimates.

The secretary apologized for being the bad guy; however, there was a huge budget cut due to the Covid-19 and McGill does not have funds at the present time to purchase this basketball hoop.

It was the consensus of the Council to carry this matter on the next agenda.

PURCHASE OF PLAQUES FOR MEMORIAL TREES:

This matter had been carried forward from a previous meeting. It was the consensus of the Council to carry this matter on the agenda.

PUBLIC ART IDEAS-POTENTIAL MURALS AND OTHER ITEMS FOR THE TOWN OF MCGILL:

It was the consensus of the Council to carry this matter on the agenda.

PURCHASE OF FLAG/REPAIR OF FLAGPOLE LOCATED AT VETERANS FOUNTAIN PARK:

It was explained that McGill Town Council had a request to repair the flagpole at the top of the Circle. This is an 80 flagpole. Cost estimate for a 5 X 8 foot outdoor flag was \$150.00. Mr. Fitzgerald of the Veterans Initiative explained that he could have the flag reinforced with stitching, and he offered to obtain a certain heavy duty rope from a supplier he is accustomed working with.

The secretary again apologized for being the bad guy; however, McGill does not have sufficient funds at the present time. The Council will need to monitor their spending very closely for the next several months.

Linnette Wyler asked if she could solicit donations to help purchase the outdoor 5 X 8 flag.

It was the consensus of the Town Council to carry this matter on the next agenda.

PLANNING FOR ANNUAL LABOR DAY FESTIVITIES:

Acting Chairperson Angelopoulos noted that most of the annual Labor Day festivities have been cancelled. Food order has been cancelled and all the vendor booths have been cancelled. Fireworks are still on schedule as it will not pose a problem because it will be located out on the tailings.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Council Member Jensen motioned to approve the McGill Town Council minutes dated July 21, 2020.

Council Member Maestes seconded the motion.

Motion was carried by unanimous vote of the quorum present.

PAYMENT OF BILLS/AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE:

The following bills were submitted for payment were listed as follows:

Bradley's Bestway Market	\$ 30.84
(Neighborhood Watch refreshments)	
CAL Ranch	\$ 155.70
(park operating)	
C&B Auto	\$ 50.12
(park operating/Auto maint)	
Bath Lumber	\$1,241.92
(park operating)	
Bradley's Bestway Market	\$ 21.35
(cleaning supplies)	
OPI	\$ 41.76
(monthly copy machine maint)	

Cynthia Angelopoulos (reimbursement kitchen supplies)	\$ 11.16
Garden State Fireworks, Inc. (fireworks)	\$6,000.00
Cynthia Angelopoulos (reimbursement for kitchen supplies)	\$ 11.16
WPC Road Department (parks gasoline)	\$ 172.24

Council Member Maestes motioned to approve the bills as read.

Council Member Jensen seconded the motion.

Council Member Angelopoulos abstained from voting on the voucher made out to her.

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

NUISANCE ABATEMENTS:

Linette Wyler asked about the many tin garages scattered around town. She is having difficulties trying to find out any information about them.

It was explained that when Kennecott sold some of the land, they also sold the garages. Some of those garages sold with the land, some of the garages were sold to one person and the land to another person. Some of the garages also sit on "Common Ground" (land that belongs to nobody). It has been difficult for the Assessor to determine who the garages belong to.

Linette Wyler asked in reference to the slag ditch going through town. The slag ditch is full of trash and weeds. The weeds are extremely dry and she is worried about the fire danger.

It was explained that McGill is not sure who owns the slag ditch. She was referred to the County Public Works Director.

It was reported there are 3 unlicensed vehicles parked on the vacant lot where the U-Haul Trailers are parked.

It was explained that is private property, and the renter of that proper has temporarily parked the vehicles at that location.

CORRESPONDENCE:

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

1. Cost estimate for storage sheds from Bath Lumber.
2. Cost estimates for basketball hoops from WPC Maintenance.
3. ATV/OHV Suggest Route and Rules.
4. Letter to NDOT requesting flashing speed limit light.
5. Letter of invitation to Brent North.
6. Labor Day fireworks cost estimate.
7. Memo to WPC Maintenance requesting info on basketball hoops.
8. Memo to WPC Public Works listing some street signs in need of repair.
9. Memo to WPC Finance requesting masks.
10. Memo to JW Electric listing street lights in need of repair.
11. Deposit of funds
12. Letter to Mr. Little thanking him for a copy of money issued through McGill National Bank.
13. Letter to CAL Ranch requesting copies of receipts.
14. Letters to McGill Merchants thanking them for doing business in McGill & scheduling a thank you tour.
15. Spreadsheet from WP Finance and from Water district.

ANIMALS AT LARGE/VICIOUS DOGS?

Nothing reported.

PARK MAINTENANCE:

It was reported that McGill received the new water bill. The bill was for more than \$5,000, McGill only budgeted \$8,000 for water for the entire year, so these expenses are going to have to be monitored very closely. The parks employee had explained that there had been a water leak, and the water timers had been out of order, but have since been fixed. It was hoped these issues have resolved the excessive water bills.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The secretary reported on the account summary for period ending 8/31/2020. Noting that no revenues have been received for this budget period so far. Some of the purchase orders that had been approved in the previous meeting have been listed in the encumbrances column. McGill's budget was cut an estimated \$37,000. The budget cuts, and higher water costs, the Town Council is going to have to monitor their expenses very closely this year.

FIRE/EMT REPORTS:

No report given.

STREET LIGHTS:

No report given.

STREETS AND STREET SIGNS:

It was noted that the list of damaged street signs had been delivered to the Public Works Director. His crew usually drives around McGill in the Fall, inventories their signs, and makes repairs/replacements where necessary.

Council Member Maestes inquired about obtaining some “No Littering” signs.

The secretary explained that the County usually obtains a grant to purchase new Stop, Yield, etc. signs. No littering signs might not appear on that list. If that is the case, then there could be a cost associated.

The Council directed the secretary inquire with the Public Works Director about the No Littering signs.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM:

It was noted there was 8 persons at the last Neighborhood Watch meeting, their primary discussion was studying and approving the ATV/OHV Route and Rules. It has been quiet in McGill this past month, but the Neighborhood Watch members are continuing their patrolling.

YOUTH/COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

No report given.

BUSINESS PLAN/McGILL MERCHANTS REPORTS:

It was noted that the Town Council had previously mailed, or hand delivered correspondence to every business proprietor in McGill. On September 4th between the hours of 2:00 and 4:00 P.M. the McGill Town Council will walk door to door with ribbon and their giant scissors to celebrate their THANK YOU FOR DOING BUSINESS IN MCGILL.

It was the consensus of the Council to begin at the top of the list by gathering at the Veterans Initiative building.

CULTURAL CENTER/LIBRARY REPORT:

No report received.

McGILL REVITALIZATION ASSOCIATION:

No report given.

McGILL HISTORICAL DRUG STORE MUSEUM:

No report received.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Acting Chairperson Angelopoulos called for any further comments from the public.

There was no further comments.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

There being no further comments or business to be brought before the McGill Town Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M.