

The Regular meeting of the McGill Town Council was held September 15, 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:

Roxane Ballandby, Chairperson
Cynthia Angelopoulos, Member
Chris Maestes, Member

Absent Council Member:

Joshua Miller, Vice-Chairman
Danielle Jensen, Member

Also in attendance:

Delores Manchester, secretary/Town Clerk
John Fitzgerald, VeteransInitiatives.Org
Elizabeth Francis, WPC Finance Director
Stacy Laird, McGill Business Rep/MRA
Rudy Herndon, Middle of Everywhere
Lynette Wyler
Gerald Wyler
JoAnne Stratton
Raymond Maestes

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Council Chairperson Ballandby called for comments from the public.

Lynette Wyler addressed the Council reporting that she attended the White Pine Board of County Commission meeting on the previous week because there were a few agenda items concerning McGill that she wanted to follow up on. She reported that she has been a resident of McGill for the past 5 years. She spoke about the slag ditch that runs through McGill, maintenance of the slag ditch, and the ownership of the slag ditch; of which, she informed the Council that she learned half of the slag ditch is owned by the County and the other half is owned by the Water District. She also addressed the McGill Ball Park, asking if the Town Council has the necessary equipment to maintain the Ball Park, if the Council knew how often the Ball Park is being used, and once the construction is completed, can the people go into the Ball Park and use it. She spoke in regards to the increased water bill for the McGill parks, why the McGill Town Council does not sell their Fire Department equipment instead of giving it away, and how the McGill Club honors the local veterans. She also reported that she has been speaking with Bill Calderwood and he has become her new best friend; she also turned in the 3 vehicles to the Sheriff that are parked in the lot adjacent to the Post Office parking lot.

Council Member Maestes explained that Public Comment is placed on the agenda to allow citizens to briefly bring up matters for comment, it is not a time to make long speeches.

Raymond Maestes explained that he has been a resident of McGill for 75 years. This was once a company town where Kennecott maintained the parks, roads, etc. The slag ditch was once for the waste coming from KCC. McGill is no longer a company town and many things have changed.

JoAnne Stratton addressed the Council noting that McGill has a beautiful Ball Park, but it is difficult to see the park because of the tall weeds on the outside of the park. She spoke with the Sheriff about some of the unsightly yards in McGill, the Sheriff explained that McGill Town Council usually provides a list of addresses that may fall under the unsightly yard ordinance, and the Sheriff then sends out an officer to inspect and proceed accordingly.

Council Chairperson Ballandby explained that the gates at the Ball Park have been locked because it is a construction zone and the contractor does not want anybody to get hurt. As soon as construction is completed, the park will be open for the public again. She, and her family, has personally volunteered work cleaning up in and around the Ball Park this past weekend.

John Fitzgerald, Veterans Initiative. Org, addressed the Council to update them on the progress of the Veterans Initiative located at the Old Safety Industries Building at the top of Avenue K. Stating that their mission is to save lives. The Veterans Initiative has a 501-C non-profit status. He handed out literature on what their organization is doing, how they will employ veterans, building parts for various machines, and their newest venture on making ceramics. Their goal is to give disabled veterans business experience. They presently are subcontracting out their ceramic contracts, but eventually they will be doing all their work here. The Veterans want to give back to their community.

REQUEST LETTER OF SUPPORT TO WPC BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REQUESTING TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE THE MCGILL SWIMMING POOL DURING AFTERNOON HOURS FROM THURSDAY, JUNE 3, THROUGH SUNDAY, JUNE 6, 2021 DURING THE MUSIC FESTIVAL PLANNED TO BE HELD AT THE MCGILL SWIMMING POOL PARK:

Rudy Herndon, Middle of Everywhere/IOOF Hall, addressed the Council explaining that he is organizing an outdoor music festival next summer. He originally planned the music festival this September; however, due to the Covid-19, he had to postpone the event. There will be alcohol served at the music festival and his insurance carrier does not wish attendees at the music festival to go back and forth from the park to the swimming pool. His insurance carrier has requested him to see if the pool could be temporarily closed during the hours of the festival. He will provide his own security during the event. He is just asking for the McGill Town Council's support in closing the McGill Swimming Pool in the afternoon from Thursday, June 3, 2021 through Sunday, June 6, 2021. Event hours will be noon to 1:00 A.M. when they are scheduled to close. He already has 14 confirmed bands planning on performing at the festival, and the list of bands is growing. He is hoping to bring 2700 attendees to this music festival. He has also been working with Mark Basset at the Railroad. They are applying for grants for the Railroad in McGill and are hopeful they can tie some of their events in with this music festival. He wants to do what he can to help the Railroad.

JoAnne Stratton noted that the McGill Swimming Pool opens the gates at 11:30 A.M. If the music festival is planned to open at noon, he might want to request closure for the full days of the event.

Council Member Angelopoulos motioned to send a letter of support for the closure of the McGill Swimming Pool starting Thursday, June 3, 2021 through Sunday, June 6, 2021.

Council Member Maestes seconded the motion.

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

PURCHASE OF NO LITTERING SIGNS TO BE PLACED WITHIN MCGILL TOWN:

Council Member Maestes explained that this was her agenda item. After inquiring with the Road Department, she learned there will be a charge of \$200 for 3 signs, and the Road Department would have to charge \$200 to install the signs.

Council Member Angelopoulos suggested holding off on this agenda item until some revenues come into the McGill budget so the Council could see where to pull funds for the purchase.

PURCHASE OF COVID-19 RELATED MERCHANDISE:

WPC Finance Director, Elizabeth Francis, explained there is not a clear list of items to prevent the spread of Covid-19. The Cares Act funds cannot be used to replace lost revenues. It can be used to help businesses that have been impacted by the Covid-19.

Council Member Angelopoulos explained that she is the person who requested this agenda item. McGill Town Council has always stood ready to help the businesses in McGill. The Town Council has recently moved into their new Town Hall Building and the Volunteer Library has moved with them. The Kinnear Library/Town Hall Building is visited by many people since their opening. The Council is in need of cleaning supplies, sanitizers, masks, gloves, wipes, etc. The supplies will be for the Kinnear Library/Town Hall Building, and for any of the McGill businesses who are in need. She will be putting together a more complete list, and she is asking for the support of the McGill Town Council in this endeavor.

Council Member Angelopoulos motioned to submit a list of cleaning supplies, sanitizers, masks, gloves, wipes, bleach, disinfectant sprays, hand sanitizer dispenser w/refills, etc. for the Kinnear Library/Town Hall Building. The list is to be presented to the White Pine County Finance Office to be forwarded to the appropriate office handling the Cares Act funds.

Council Member Maestes seconded the motion.

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

DECORATING MCGILL COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TREE LOCATED IN FRONT OF THE KINNEAR LIBRARY/TOWN HALL BUILDING:

Council Member Angelopoulos explained that she had been approached by Brenda Garcia asking if the Town Council would allow them to decorate the community Christmas Tree this coming Holiday Season. It is a little early in the year for this topic, but she wanted to bring the matter forward now.

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

WPC FINANCE DIRECTOR, ELIZABETH FRANCIS – AUGMENT OF FUNDS TO FINANCE THE PROPER MAINTENANCE OF THE MCGILL BALL PARK, AND TO OPERATE MCGILL TOWN BUDGET FOR FY 2020/2021:

WPC Finance Director Francis referred to discussions in previous meetings about unplanned for expenses for the McGill Ball Park grant and parks. She explained that she has presented Resolution 2020-55 to the WP Board of County Commissioners for the approval to augment McGill Town Council budget for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 in the amount of \$14,733.00 from the McGill Town Council Fund Balance. She explained that those funds will be transferred into the line item for the payment of the increased water charges. She would note that the Town Council still needs to look at acquiring equipment that will handle maintaining the renovations to the McGill Ball Park.

Council Member Angelopoulos recalled that the Council has been looking at purchasing a new lawn mower, as the old mower is over 12 years old. Instead of purchasing a 4-wheeler that could haul the dragger, spreader, sprayer, etc. she thought maybe the Council could look at obtaining cost estimates for a larger mower/tractor that could handle the job. The County Public Works Director had requested this agenda item, along with the purchase of a storage shed, but she feels the Council needs to study their budget and do more research before making a decision.

Council Chairperson Ballandby recalled when the Town Council purchased their older mower. Attachments were available; however, the Council opted not to purchase any of the attachments at that time. She feels this matter needs to be discussed further. She does not know if those attachments for the older mower are still available.

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

PURCHASE OF STORAGE SHED TO HOUSE BALL PARK EQUIPMENT:

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

SELECTION OF FIRE CHIEF FOR MCGILL VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Council Member Angelopoulos reported that she had spoken with several of the McGill Volunteer Firemen. They were planning on attending this meeting; however, she understood there was training sessions planned for this evening.

The secretary reported that she received a phone call from the District Attorney. He requested that she document all the equipment that the McGill Town Council has purchased for the McGill Volunteer Fire Department. She did as requested and has provided a copy of the list (along with documentation) to the District Attorney, the County Fire Chief, the McGill Volunteer Fire Department, and a copy to each McGill Town Council member. Purchases exceeded ½ million dollars, including the donation of a fire truck to Cherry Creek, another donated fire truck to Lackawana Fire Dept., and an old ambulance donated to the Ely State Prison.

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 next agenda.

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

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

PURCHASE OF A NEW BASKETBALL POLE AND NEW BASKETBALL HOOP:

Council Chairperson Ballandby noted that the old basketball pole is alright, all that is needed is a new net hoop.

Council Member Angelopoulos motioned to allow for the purchase of a new basketball hoop net.

Council Member Maestes seconded the motion.

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

PURCHASE OF PLAQUES FOR MEMORIAL TREES:

Stacy Laird, McGill Business Rep., explained that she has a frame where you could pour cement and put a plaque inside.

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

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

The secretary reported that she received a phone call from a McGill resident requesting to purchase and donate a 5 X 8 foot United States Flag planned to be flown from the Flag Pole located at the Top of Circle Parks. She gave him the size requested and provided him with a web page McGill Town Council had previously purchased flags from. Council Member Ballandby noted that the other repairs, and the cementing of the rock base, can be done through donated labor.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Council Member Angelopoulos motioned to approve the Regular McGill Town Council minutes dated August 18, 2020 and the Special meeting minutes dated August 27, 2020 with the requested correction.

Council Member Maestes seconded the motion.

Council Chairperson Ballandby abstained from voting due to being absent from those meetings.

Motion was carried by majority vote of the quorum present.

PAYMENT OF BILLS/AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE:

The following bills requesting payment were listed as follows:

Bradley's Bestway Market	\$ 7.98
(bottled water for Neighborhood Watch)	
CAL Ranch Stores	\$ 43.80
(park operating supplies)	
White Pine County Road Department	\$100.48
(parks gasoline)	
Bath Lumber	\$786.44
(park operating)	
OPI	\$ 36.04
(copy machine monthly contract)	
Party Train Express	\$163.98
(Balloons for "Support Business Day")	

Council Member Maestes motioned to approve the above listed bills for payment.

Council Member Angelopoulos seconded the motion.

Council Chairperson Ballandby abstained from voting on the voucher to CAL Ranch Stores and the Party Train Store.

Motion was carried by majority vote of the quorum present.

NUISANCE ABATEMENTS:

Lynette Wyler reported that she has already provided a list of addresses to the Sheriff.

Stacy Laird reported there is a tree at North Fifth Street that is leaning into the street and blocking the street sign.

It was also reported that the school sign has been hit by passing motorist and now the sign is tilted.

CORRESPONDENCE:

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

1. List of purchases McGill Town Council made for the McGill Volunteer Fire Department (over ½ million dollars purchased since 1988).
2. Secretary monthly report.
3. Memo to Parks Manager requesting repair of meeting bench.
4. Memo from County Maint. Listing purchase of sprinklers.
5. E-mail from Rudy Herndon requesting agenda item for closure of McGill Swimming Pool.
6. McGill-Ruth Sewer and Water Agenda.
7. Deposit of funds for sale of book.
8. Letter to McGill proprietors.
9. September water billing.

ANIMALS AT LARGE/VICIOUS DOGS:

It was reported that the person who lives next to the Methodist Church on Second Street has 5 vicious dogs.

The secretary explained that before she could prepare this correspondence she would require a physical address.

PARK MAINTENANCE:

It was noted that the water bill for the McGill parks was \$8,000 this past month.

It was also reported that there had been 10 broken pipes. Now that the pipes have been repaired, the water bill should go down.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The secretary reported on the account summary for finance period ending 9/30/2020 listing intergovernmental revenues at \$38.00 miscellaneous receipts. No other funding received as of this fiscal year.

FIRE/EMT REPORTS:

No report given.

STREET LIGHTS:

Council Chairperson Ballandby reported that the next 60 LED street lights have been placed on order and should arrive within the next few months.

Lights out were reported as follows:

#3 Fifth Street – light is out

Main Street below Ball Park – light goes on and off

69 ½ Avenue R – light goes on and off

#56 Main Street – light stays on

#7 Avenue K – light is out

Council Chairperson Ballandby explained to the audience that McGill Town Council has a contract with JW Electric. Policy is to have 5 lights out before workers are called out. The above listed lights will be placed on the list and will be replaced when JW Electric replaces the next 60 lights.

STREETS & STREET SIGNS:

No report given.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM:

It was reported there was 8 persons and 1 service dog in attendance at the last McGill Neighborhood Watch meeting. Guest speaker was Maxine Lanz of Victims Services. Ms. Lanz gave a presentation on Adult Protective Services.

YOUTH/COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

It was reported that it was questionable if the Grade School will have their Halloween activities this year due to the Covid-19.

BUSINESS PLAN/McGILL MERCHANTS REPORTS:

It was reported that the McGill Town Council walked from door to door visiting each McGill business to thank them for their service to this community.

CULTURAL CENTER/LIBRARY REPORT:

It was reported that the volunteer Kinnear Library/Cultural Center has now opened their doors in the new location at the Kinnear Library/Town Hall building.

McGILL REVITALIZATION ASSOCIATION:

Stacy Laird, MRA, reported that they are holding a raffle to give away a hand made bench. Their organization is hoping to be able to have some special activity for Christmas in McGill.

McGILL HISTORICAL DRUG STORE MUSEUM:

JoAnne Stratton informed the Town Council that she is currently a volunteer at the McGill Historical Drug Store Museum. She enjoys working there and visiting with the many visitors coming into the museum.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Council Chairperson Ballandby called for any further comments from the audience.

There were no further comments.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

There being no further business or comments to be brought before the McGill Town Council the regular meeting adjourned at 9:32 P.M.