

The Regular meeting of the McGill Town Council was held on April 17, 2018 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:

Roxane Ballandby, Vice-Chairperson
Cynthia Angelopoulos, Member
Ed Dubrutz, Member
Ernie Rivera, Member

Absent Council Member:

Andy McVicars, Chairman

Also in attendance:

Delores Manchester, secretary
Steven Bishop, Justice of the Peace
Steve Baer, NDOT
Ferrel Hansen, Museum
Stacy Laird, Business Rep/MRA

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Council Vice-Chairperson Ballandby called for any comments from the audience.

Steven Bishop, WPC Justice of the Peace, addressed the Council referring to his previous presentation about the "Test Bail Schedule". He wanted to appear today as a follow up. They have had some success with the program, as it appears that they have lowered the failure to appear by 6%, and they have lowered the failure to appear in court down to 12% (previously it was 19%). This test has been ongoing for 2 years and he feels it has been successful. He has been working with the rural county judges on this project and they are all hopeful that it will continue to be a success.

Judge Bishop stated that, if anyone had any questions, they could contact him at the Justice of the Peace Office.

NEVADA DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION – LONG RANGE SHORT RANGE PLANS FOR US 93 TRAVELING THROUGH MCGILL TOWN:

Council Vice-Chairperson Ballandby welcomed Steve Baer, Assistant District Engineer for the Nevada Department of Transportation explaining that the McGill Town Council had invited him to a Council meeting to help answer some questions. Wayne Cameron, WP Chamber, had sent an e-mail inquiring if there were any road construction plans for McGill this coming year.

Assistant District Engineer, Steve Baer, answered that NDOT evaluates all the roads in the entire district each year. Last year NDOT paved US93 (McGill's Main Street), so it will be in good shape for a while.

Council Vice-Chairperson Ballandby noted that a few years ago, NDOT removed the crosswalk leading from the Post Office to the other side of the street. McGill is comprised of many senior residents and it is difficult for them to walk way down to the corner of the block to cross over to go to the grocery store. Residents were hoping to have that crosswalk brought back. She had noticed that recently NDOT marked a crosswalk in the middle of the block leading from Ridley's grocery store to Family Dollar.

Assistant District Engineer Baer explained that crosswalks across a state highway is a safety aspect. The crosswalks in the middle of a block can be dangerous because travelers do not expect crosswalks at that location. US93 is the only corridor going south and it is heavily traveled.

Council Member Rivera noted that the crosswalk, with flashing yellow light, had been at that location for many years until NDOT removed it.

Assistant District Engineer Baer stated that they could re-evaluate this crosswalk; however, he would note that they have to be very careful where they put crosswalks because it gives everyone false safety. Crosswalks at intersections have proven to be much safer. In Ely, they will be installing pedestrian activated lights for crossings.

Council Member Rivera asked who sets the highway speed limits through towns. He would also like to point out that the speed limit sign in McGill is shielded by tree branches.

Assistant District Engineer Baer explained that speed limits are set by a lot of factors. Population, what is along the side of the roads, etc.

Council Member Angelopoulos explained that McGill has been experiencing several accidents within their town limits, due to speeding traffic, and/or extra wide loads trying to squeeze through town. She would like to know if “rumble strips” could be an effective tool to slow the traffic down.

Assistant District Engineer Baer answered that “rumble strips” is not a real viable way to slow down the traffic. When vehicles drive over the “rumble strips” the noises can be extremely loud during the night. Radar, or the presence of law enforcement, is a better way to slow the speeding traffic.

Council Member Angelopoulos recalled that a few years ago, NDOT came to a Town Council meeting asking if the Council would support them in eliminating parking along Main Street (US93) especially during the winter months when snow has been scraped to the middle of the road.

Assistant District Engineer Baer noted that it is difficult to take away parking from homeowners. He can speak with some of the people in the office who has history with this. NDOT has to look to the residents and look to the people traveling through McGill.

The Town Council thanked Assistant District Engineer, Steve Baer, for taking the time to attend a meeting and answering questions.

AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE NEW SANTA CLAUS SUIT:

Council Member Angelopoulos reported that she has been researching Santa suits, but she has not decided on what she would like to purchase yet.

The secretary recalled that the McGill Volunteer Fire Chief had offered to pay for the Santa suit out of his budget. McGill’s budget year ends on June 30th, so the Council will need to spend those funds before that date. Presently there is \$400.00 in that line item, before payment is made, she will need to transfer those funds into the proper line item.

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

ABANDONED, AND/OR DANGEROUS BUILDINGS, IN MCGILL AND SETTING A LIST OF PRIORITIES OF HOMES THAT WOULD FALL UNDER THE ABATEMENT OF DANGEROUS BUILDINGS ACT:

It was recalled that a home at #6 Avenue J had been reported as a dangerous building (damaged in a fire then abandoned) in the previous meeting. WPC Public Works Director, Bill Calderwood, had explained in a previous meeting that it is a lengthy and costly process to abate dangerous/abandoned buildings. He had suggested that McGill list the dangerous buildings in priority order.

Council Member Angelopoulos stated that she would like to list the home located at #1 South Fifth Street (blue house) that had been abandoned over 35 years ago. That home has continued to deteriorate to the point that the building is crumbling and now poses a danger to anyone in the area. She would like that home listed as priority number one, and the home at #6 Avenue J as the second priority. Also, in a meeting several months ago, 2 partially burned homes on Avenue C were also listed as dangerous buildings.

The Council directed the secretary to prepare the necessary correspondence to the Board of County Commissioners.

STATUS REPORT ON MCGILL HISTORICAL DRUG STORE MUSEUM:

Ferrel Hansen, McGill Drug Store Museum, addressed the Council referring to the last time they had appeared before the Council. Some of their work had been delayed due to a variety of reasons. They have been experiencing some vandalism, they have replaced the windows, they have re-wired the building, they have installed exit signs, and the front sign has been fixed. They looked at placing wire meshing in the windows, but that turned out to be expensive. Now they are looking at expanded metal over the windows, but they are waiting for approval. They are trying to make the Drug Store Museum as vandalism proof as possible. The entire inside of the building is in need of a good cleaning. They have solicited volunteers to come in and help clean. Cleaning is a process because this is a historical building. Funding to renovate is mostly funded through federal grants. They are looking at an AARP grant with the hopes of receiving funds enough to pay for part time employees during the summer months. If those funds come through, then they hope to be able to have the McGill Drug Store Museum opened most days during the summer months. Once the building has been thoroughly cleaned and everything is updated, then they would like to plan a "Grand Opening".

The Town Council thanked Ferrel Hansen for updating the Council.

The Council directed the secretary to carry this matter on the agenda for future updates.

STATUS REPORT ON RENOVATIONS TO KINNEAR LIBRARY BUILDING:

No report given.

STATUS REPORT ON MCGILL DOWNTOWN BUSINESS DISTRICT BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT:

The secretary reported that she had either hand delivered, or mailed, letters to all the businesses in the Down Town Business District. She has already received one response from the owner of the Old Sheriff's Office Building. She will keep all the responses in the file until the Council is ready to proceed with their project of beautifying McGill Business District.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Council Member Angelopoulos motioned to approve the McGill Town Council minutes dated March 20, 2018.

Council Member Rivera seconded the motion.

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

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

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

1. Letter to BOCC listing SNPLMLA priorities
2. Letter received from WPC Building Official regarding billboards and Finding of Facts.
3. Letters for authorization to charge to various where McGill carries charge accounts.
4. Letter to NDOT inviting Assistant District Engineer to meeting.
5. Memo to WPC Finance Director requesting transfer of funds.
6. Memo to WPC HR regarding custodian vacancy.
7. Open letter to McGill businesses regarding McGill Down Town Beautification Project.
8. E-mail from WP Chamber regarding NDOT schedule and inquire about Unique Treasurers.
9. Secretary monthly report.
10. E-mail from WPC Public Works reminding McGill about lawn fertilizing.
11. Neighborhood Watch monthly report.
12. McGill-Ruth Water District agenda.

APPROVAL OF BILLS/AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE:

The following bills were submitted for approval/payment.

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|---|----------|
| White Pine Chamber of Commerce (annual dues) | \$95.00 |
| OPI (monthly copy machine contract) | \$29.99 |
| Bradley's Bestway Market (Neighborhood Watch & Easter) | \$32.54 |
| Cynthia Angelopoulos (reimbursement for Easter supplies) | \$36.93 |
| Cynthia Angelopoulos (reimbursement for Easter supplies & Easter suit) | \$188.93 |

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

NUISANCE ABATEMENTS:

Council Member Angelopoulos reported that the horse trailer parked in front of #6 Avenue C is beginning to fill up with trash again. It appears that they need a reminder to haul their trash.

It was reported that the lot at #2 Avenue F is full of parked, or disabled, vehicles.

The Council directed the secretary to prepare the necessary correspondence.

ANIMALS AT LARGE/VICIOUS DOGS:

No report given.

PARK MAINTENANCE:

A question was asked when the WPC Maintenance Department was going to turn on the water at the parks.

The Council directed the secretary to contact Bill Calderwood.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The secretary reported that McGill is presently 75% into their budget year, with 53% of their revenues coming in. McGill is now 34% spent.

FIRE/EMT REPORTS:

No report given.

STREET LIGHTS:

Council Vice-Chairperson Ballandby reported that she was not able to report the previous lights that were out because the McGill inventory needed to be restocked. As of this afternoon JW Electric placed an order for McGill's inventory. They will be switching to LED lights in an effort to save money.

It was reported that #5 Second Street – light is out.
Also, at the bottom of Avenue A, the light stays on all the time.

Council Vice-Chairperson Ballandby assured the Council that she would add those to her list.

STREETS & STREET SIGNS:

Council Member Dubrutz recalled that he previously reported a few speed limit signs that the view is blocked because of tree branches.

The secretary reported that she had sent the Public Works Director an e-mail about this and was informed that the Road Department usually drives around town a few times each year to inspect all the street signs. They will repair as necessary.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAAM:

It was reported that there were 11 persons in attendance at the last McGill Neighborhood Watch meeting. They have been coordinating with the WP Chamber to select the best date for the next Bicycle Rodeo, and they selected July 14th. They will be obtaining the swimming pool free passes and will be reserving the Swimming Pool Park for the activity again this year.

Council Vice-Chairperson Ballandby reported that she saw several kids sneaking around near Bradley's and the Museum the other night. She called the Sheriff's Office and by the time she was entering Ely, the Deputy was already heading toward McGill.

YOUTH/COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

Council Member Angelopoulos reported that they held the Easter Egg Hunt. There was an excellent turn out and they received a lot of donations.

BUSINESS PLAN/McGILL MERCHANTS REPORTS:

No report given.

KINNEAR LIBRARY/CULTURAL CENTER REPORT:

No report given.

McGILL REVITALIZATION ASSOCIATION:

Stacy Laird, MRA, reported that their organization helped with the Easter Egg Hunt. Their next project will be the community yard sale in June.

McGILL VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT WOMEN'S AUXILIARY:

No report given.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

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

Stacy Laird reported that the Museum sign was ripped off the pole during this most recent wind storm. The sign is sitting in Bradley's Bestway Market.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

There being no further business or comments to be brought before the McGill Town Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 P.M.