

The Regular meeting of the McGill Town Council was held on February 18, 2020 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, Chairperson
Joshua Miller, Vice-Chairman
Cynthia Angelopoulos, Member
Danielle Jensen, Member
Chris Maestes, Member

Also in attendance:

Delores Manchester, secretary
Raymond Maestes
Christine Ronewicz
Samantha Elliott
Kyle Horvath, Tourism & Rec Board
Rudy Herndon
Stacy Laird, Business Rep/MRA
Cheyenne Gibson, US Census Rural Rep.

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 Chairperson Ballandby called for comments from the audience.

Cheyenne Gibson, US Census Rural Rep., addressed the Council reporting that March 12 is the first day for the Census to begin. She will be placing posters around town to educate the people about the importance of the US Census being taken accurately.

Rudy Herndon, IOOF Hall/Theatre, addressed the Council reporting that the State Fire Marshal has reviewed and approved his plans for the IOOF Hall/Middle of Everywhere. He received the copper gutters today. The contractor who worked on the roof of the Theatre did not do the job he expected, so he will be having the roof worked on again. They are presently abating materials from the Theatre. The architect has submitted the plans to the Building Inspector. He is planning a Music Festival at the Swimming Pool Park in September. He will be advertising this to the public in the near future.

RENTAL OF TEMPORARY PORTABLE WASHING STATION, PORTABLE SHOWER, AND PORTABLE TOILETS FOR MCGILL VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Council Vice-Chairman Miller reported that he has checked into some prices. A porta potty will cost \$150 the first month and all additional months it will cost \$120 to maintain. He is still negotiating the cost for the hand washing station. They gave a quote as \$300 per month, but he is hoping to have that cost lowered. Sanitary Septic Services does not offer portable showers. The current budget has \$600 in Fire Department supplies, but the secretary noted they can also use auto repair & Maintenance budget line item to cover some of those costs. He would like to carry this matter on the agenda so he may have time to gather additional information.

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

SELECTION OF TOWN COUNCIL MEMBER TO SERVE AS MCGILL NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH COORDINATOR:

Council Vice-Chairman Miller motioned to select Council Member Jensen to serve as the McGill Neighborhood Watch Coordinator.

Council Member Angelopoulos seconded the motion.

Motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

SETTING DATE FOR GRAND OPENING OF KINNEAR LIBRARY/TOWN HALL BUILDING:

The secretary noted that she may be a bit premature in placing this matter on the agenda, but everyone is so very anxious to move into the new building.

Council Vice-Chairman Miller asked if the handicapped parking spots have to be in place before we occupy the building. He will contact the Public Works Director about that and a few other questions. He would request that this matter be carried on the agenda.

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

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

Kyle Horvath, Tourism & Rec Board, addressed the Council explaining that Ely uses the murals as an economic tool. There are a lot of exciting things happening in McGill, and the Tour & Rec Board has listed Marie’s Café and the McGill Drug Store Museum on their website already. It is his objective to do a story about McGill, they have new pictures of the McGill Swimming Pool. The secretary provided him with a copy of the walking tour the grade school put together many years ago, they would like to do a new walking tour. He has been working with the railroad about bringing the rails to the McGill Depot, then maybe dropping off bike riders in McGill, then they could peddle their way back to Ely. It is his hope to have some murals placed in McGill, and there are grants available. Most murals cost about \$10,000 and there would be a 25% match by the town. There are grants available, such as: The Tourism Grant coming up very soon, capital improvement grants due in April.

Council Vice-Chairman Miller inquired about billboard grants. Noting that he would like to see signs stating “Welcome to McGill” and “Sorry to see you leaving McGill”.

Kyle Horvath explained that there is a “Gateway” program now.

Council Member Angelopoulos noted that she has spoken with others and they have come up with a few mural ideas, such as: Old Grade School, McGill Logo on the garages at the north end of town, Old Stage Coach on the old depot building, sign above the Sheriff’s Office, old fire truck on the fire station, etc.

Kyle Horvath assured the Council that he would forward all 3 grants information to the secretary. Ending date for the grants are March 6, May 15, and June 12.

It was the consensus of the Council that Council Vice-Chairman Miller and Council Member Angelopoulos will meet with Kyle Horvath on February 26th at the McGill Center at 6:00 P.M.
The Council thanked Kyle Horvath for his assistance in promoting McGill.

SETTING DATE AND TIME FOR GRAND OPENING OF E-ZINE SALON:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Council Vice-Chairman Miller motioned to approve the McGill Town Council minutes dated January 21, 2020 with the requested correction, and with the addendum that was read into the record.

Council Member Maestes seconded the motion.

Council Chairperson Ballandby and Council Member Jensen abstained from voting due to being absent from that meeting.

Motion was carried by majority vote.

CORRESPONDENCE:

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

1. E-mail from Public Works Dept. recommending \$9,500 be placed in the FY2020/2021 budget for handicapped parking spaces.
2. Secretary monthly report.
3. Copy of Ordinance No. 01.08.2020 regulating speed limit within McGill Town limits.
4. Copy of Public Art in WPC.
5. Memo listing transfer of funds.
6. E-mail from Maint. Super noting that the flooring was complete at the Kinnear Library building.
7. McGill Ruth Sewer & Water agenda.

APPROVAL OF BILLS/AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE

Bradley’s Bestway Market	\$ 28.96
(cleaning supplies for Center)	
Bath Lumber	\$ 56.60
(Command strips)	
OPI	\$ 40.33
(monthly charges for copy machine)	

Lets Print

\$491.26

(letterhead for McGill Town Council)

Council Member Jensen motioned to approve the bills as read.

Council Vice-Chairman Miller seconded the motion.

Motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

NUISANCE ABATEMENTS:

It was reported that the home at #36 Second Street has been accumulating trash and the trash is blowing around the neighborhood.

The Council directed the secretary to prepare the necessary correspondence to the Sheriff.

ANIMALS AT LARGE/VICIOUS DOGS:

It was reported there is a small short haired Chihuahua that has been running at large for a long time. It was undetermined where the dogs lives, possibly North 5th or 6th Street. This dog has almost been hit by traffic on Main Street several times the past several weeks.

The Council directed the secretary to prepare the necessary correspondence to the Animal Control Office to be on the watch for this small dog.

PARK MAINTENANCE:

It was noted there is no date yet for turning on the park water. The Parks Manager is planning on planting several trees in memory of persons who have passed this year. Council Member Angelopoulos will be borrowing the rodent machine from the Golf Course before Easter, so the Easter Bunny does not have gopher holes to hop over.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The secretary reported that she picked up the latest account summary this afternoon. McGill presently has 58% of their revenues that have not come in yet. Presently McGill only has 38.20% of their budget remaining. Normally the budget is a little more balanced, however, due to Kinnear Library/Town Hall construction, that has thrown the numbers off a little.

FIRE/EMT REPORTS:

Council Vice-Chairman Miller reported there are still 19 volunteer McGill Firemen. He spoke with the McGill Fire Chief and was informed that the horns on the firetruck is still not repaired. They are presently obtaining quotes.

STREET LIGHTS:

Council Chairperson Ballandby explained to the audience the Town Council's plans to convert all their street lights to LED. This is a 3 year project where 60 lights will be converted each year. McGill contracts with JW Electric for their street light repairs. There were several repairs on the list; however, JW Electric was faced with a few other projects, which delayed converting McGill lights. She understands there are additional lights that have gone out since the Town Council submitted their last list. She would suggest that people call JW Electric directly to notify them of their light that is out. It is hoped this will eliminate further delays.

The Council directed the secretary to place a notice at the Post Office informing people to call JW Electric directly during this conversion to LED project is going on.

STREETS & STREET SIGNS:

It was reported that there is graffiti painted on the "Children at Play" sign that is located at the bottom of Avenue E. There is also graffiti painted on the street sign located at First Street and Avenue G.

The Council directed the secretary to prepare the necessary memo.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM:

It was reported there were 5 persons in attendance at the last McGill Neighborhood Watch meeting. There were questions that came up about security cameras. Questions also came up about a bike (off road vehicles) route so persons who wanted to drive their off road vehicles out of town.

The secretary explained that McGill had worked on the ATV route and rules many years ago. There were so many complaints expressed by the residents, that the Sheriff at the time, cancelled the ATV Route and Rules. This was many years before the laws changed regarding the licensing of off road vehicles.

The Council directed the secretary to make copies of the ATV Route & Rules for the Neighborhood Watch and for the Town Council.

YOUTH/COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

Council Member Angelopoulos reported that they are presently preparing for the Arrival of the Easter Bunny. He is planning to arrive at the Avenue K Park on March 29th at 11:00 A.M. There will also be refreshments available for the participants. Before the Easter Bunny's arrival, they will be cleaning the Avenue K Park and they will be removing the gophers that have taken up residence in that park. She will contact the Public Works Director about borrowing his gopher machine.

BUSINESS PLAN/McGILL MERCHANTS REPORTS:

Stacy Laird, McGill Business Rep, reported that the U-Haul business is now renting the lot across the street from Nass Lock & Key.

CULTURAL CENTER/LIBRARY REPORT:

Nothing new to report.

McGILL REVITALIZATION ASSOCIATION:

Stacy Laird, MRA, reported that the McGill Revitalization Association will be assisting the Easter Bunny this year when he arrives at the Avenue K Park.

RENOVATIONS TO KINNEAR LIBRARY/TOWN HALL BUILDING:

Nothing new to report.

McGILL HISTORICAL DRUG STORE MUKSEUM:

Stacy Laird, McGill Business Rep, reported that the McGill Drug Store is now open 4 days a week. AARP is helping with wages.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

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

Council Member Maestes referred to the discussion brought up by the WPC Finance Director regarding possible rate increases. She spoke with persons at the Water District Office they explained that they will be conducting a survey. She was told that probably the Public Parks might see a slight increase in rates, but households will most likely remain the same, or be lowered.

Samantha Elliot, Boys & Girls Club, addressed the Council explaining that their organization is about 70 members in numbers. They have a bounce house, generator, popcorn machine, cotton candy machine, movies in the parks, and parenting classes. They also are looking at bussing kids to activities to Ely. Parents can reach them at 775-830-8482.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

There being no further comments or business to be brought before the McGill Town Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:28 P.M.