

The Special meeting of the McGill Town Council was held on September 10, 2018 at the McGill Community/Senior Center located at the top of Avenue K at 7:09 P.M.

The following McGill Town Council Members were in attendance:

Andy McVicars, Chairman
Roxane Ballandby, Vice-Chairperson
Cynthia Angelopoulos, Member

Absent Council Members:

Ed Dubrutz, Member
Ernie Rivera, Member

Also in attendance:

Delores Manchester, Secretary
Kelly Vodopich
John Fitzgerald, Veterans Initiative
Joseph Gonzalez, Commemorative Air Force
Mike Coster
Bonnie Gurr, Kinnear Library/Cultural Center
Eva Trimble, Kinnear Library/Cultural Center
Gracyne Backus
Deborah Mitchell, Kinnear Library/Cultural Center
Stephen Bishop, WPC Justice of the Peace
Henry Bishop
Finley Kosurek
Kristin Kocurek
Dan Mitchell
Ray Sawyer, WPC Deputy Sheriff

Council Chairman McVicars called the meeting to order at 7:09 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Dan Mitchell led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Council Chairman McVicars called for comments from the audience.

There were no public comment at this time.

PRESENTATION FROM COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE (CAF) REGARDING THE HISTORY AND FORMATION OF THE CAF AND/OR THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING AN OFFICE IN THE TOWN OF MCGILL FOR THE THIRD CHAPTER WING OF THE CAF:

Council Chairman McVicars introduced John Fitzgerald, Veterans Initiative.org.

John Fitzgerald, Veterans Initiative, addressed the assemblage explaining that the Veterans Initiative is a non profit organization and their mission is to teach disabled veterans in manufacturing so they can have a career. The Veterans Initiative asked Joseph Gonzalez, CAF, to attend this meeting to talk about the possibility of establishing a Commemorative Air Force third wing, and placing their office in McGill. The CAF has been restoring WWII military aircraft. They are hoping to bring to White Pine County and McGill some technical jobs for disabled American Veterans in the area. They are also looking to train school children the skills necessary to operate their machinery.

Joseph Gonzalez, Commemorative Air Force, addressed the assemblage explaining the history and formation of the CAF. The CAF was formerly the Confederate Air Force when it was first established in 1957. Their base is in Texas and they are a non profit organization dedicated to restoring, preserving and showing historical aircraft at air shows primarily throughout the United States and Canada. The CAF is the world's largest flying museum. Their plains are comprised of more than 165 military aircraft, and their collection is used mainly to educate and inspire young people across the United States. The CAF currently is comprised of over 12,000 members, over 70 regional

groups (called wings) in 27 states, and four other countries. This is, primarily, a volunteer organization, but they do have 23 paid staff members.

Joseph Gonzalez stated that it is their intention for McGill, is to bring technical small businesses and jobs for disabled American Veterans. Work would include milling and casting airplane parts. Also, the possibility of teaching science, technology, and mathematics to school children.

Joseph Gonzalez presented the first video about some of the CAF's 165 Vintage war planes. Noting that, after WW II, almost all the aircrafts were dismantled and melted down as scrap metal. When they organized, they were able to save a few of each type of aircraft. CAF's principal national education program is to expose the youth to the social courage and strength of character of airmen who fought for the right to serve their country. His video also gave a brief honorable mention about WASP (Women Airforce Service Pilots).

The second video was titled "If These Planes Could Talk". Mr. Gonzalez briefly explained when and why they were formed for the purpose of restoring and preserving WW II aircraft. Their first aircraft was purchased in 1951. They opened their museum in 1968 in Dallas, Texas.

The third video introduced Steve Brown as the president of CAF. CAF has 8,000 members, persons do not have to be a Veteran, but they do have to be a Patriot.

Also, presented to the assemblage, were numerous photos of restored planes and some of the restoration facilities.

Joseph Gonzalez explained the main objectives of the CAF are:

1. To acquire, restore and preserve, in flying condition, a complete collection of combat aircraft which were flown by all the military services of the United States and selected aircraft of other nations for the education and enjoyment of present and future generations of American.
2. To provide museum buildings for the permanent protection and display of these aircraft as a tribute to the thousands of men and women who built, services, and flew them.
3. To perpetuate in the memory and in the hearts of all Americans the spirit in which these great planes were flown in the defense of our Nation.
4. To establish an organization having the dedication, enthusiasm necessary to operate/maintain/preserve these aircraft as symbols of our American military aviation heritage.

Joseph Gonzalez explained that they would like to establish a third wing of the CAF in White Pine County, and station their office in McGill in the Veterans Initiative building.

John Fitzgerald, VeteransInitiative.org explained that when many of their aircrafts were constructed, there was not computers. The engineers used pencils and paper to design. STEM is schooling, and they are tasked with the responsibility of instilling the youth to study hard and become Patriots. CAF and Veterans Initiative are hoping to build small businesses in White Pine County and McGill. It is hoped many Veterans will move to this area and bring their families.

The McGill Town Council thanked both John Fitzgerald of the Veterans Initiative and Joseph Gonzalez of the Commemorative Air Force for their presentation.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Council Chairman McVicars called for any further comments.

There were no further comments.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

There being no further business or questions to be brought before the Special McGill Town Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:26 P.M.