

McGill Town Council

P.O. Box 1334 McGill, Nevada 89318

The Regular meeting of the McGill Town Council was held on April 16, 2019 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
- Chris Maestes, Member
- Ernie Rivera, Member

Absent Council Member:

Andy McVicars, Chairman

Also in attendance:

- Delores Manchester, Secretary
- Richard Howe, White Pine County Commissioner
- Anne M. Schroeder
- Cheryl Noriega
- Ralene Makley
- James Park
- Geri Wapshahall
- Mark Drain
- Raymond Maestes
- Hal Hollingsworth
- Eve Pinneo
- Bob Pinneo
- Ron Blackham
- Elinor Blackham
- Brian Pay
- Michael Bongard
- Ricky Garcia
- Jesse Ciscar

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

Anne M. Schroeder addressed the Council requesting that the letter she read this evening be placed in the minutes in its entirety. Letter was read as follows:

My name is Anne Schroeder,

I am requesting that this letter be placed in the McGill Town Council minutes.

My question is what can the McGill Town Council and the citizens of McGill do to stop the agreement for Ely taking over the County Fire and Emergency Services?

When the agreement is implemented on July 1, 2019, will the City of Ely be able to guarantee the emergency response time to protect the County citizens in case of a fire or a medical emergency? Will they have adequate trained personnel for both fire and emergency medical technicians to roll out to a county fire or to a citizen who is critically wounded or ill? Will the County Commissioners be trained to respond to emergency calls?

I feel that the State of Nevada, Attorney General, or Nevada Dept. of Taxation be made aware of what the City of Ely is doing to the County citizens. We all pay our taxes for our fire and emergency protection. Ely will be getting the money for these services, not the towns. Where will all the ambulance collection money go????

Why do we have to pay for the sins of Ely?

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Howe, White Pine County Commissioner, addressed the Town Council explaining that he is here to address everybody. Noting that there had been a town hall meeting scheduled; however, that meeting had been cancelled. There is now a special meeting of the BOCC and the first agenda item he is asking to have the previous motion to approve the Interlocal Agreement between White Pine County and the City of Ely rescinded. All revenues derived from the agreement will be going to the City of Ely. The Council will still be obligated to maintain all the rural fire departments. The revenues coming in will not cover all of those costs. There has been several feelings hurt and many volunteers have stepped down. WPC needs their volunteers. The Interlocal agreement does not take effect until July 1st, but the County is already looking at skeleton crews. After reading the agreement, he feels that the County will be paying more money. They will not be sending equipment for firefighting out of the area. After paying the City, as stated in the agreement, he questions where will the County get the money to support the outlying areas. The vote was 4 – 1. He is very pro White Pine Fire. He feels that this agreement will change the ISO rating, and that will affect every man, woman, and child in WPC. The County is larger than the City. Volunteers have been resigning and dropping like flies. He values the volunteers, they are our neighbors and the volunteers are here to help. He has questioned the response time to the rural areas and the City says they can do it. He obtained information from the WPC HR Director, that there is only 1 volunteer fireman registered in his office. How would one volunteer respond to an emergency? The County is obligated to maintain the fire/EMS building. The City will be taking over everything. With this agreement, the City will have a fund balance.

Cheryl Noriega asked if that was why the City of Ely pushed for this agreement, was to get the money to balance their budget. Noting that she has already heard people talking about disincorporation.

Commissioner Howe stated that he was unable to answer that question.

Raymond Maestes addressed the assemblage and encouraged everyone to attend the next BOCC meeting to voice their concerns.

Ralene Makley addressed the assemblage explaining that she was at the last Commission meeting. She has spoken to several of the volunteers, she was one of the Commissioners who helped start the Fire District. She would encourage everyone to stand together and voice their opinions.

Commissioner Howe emphasized, everyone has a right to speak under public comment. He pointed out, after reading the agreement; that he feels that this agreement will be difficult to back out of.

Elinor Blackham expressed her concerns about all the equipment in the McGill Fire/EMS Station. Noting that she has heard that possibly some of that equipment could be removed.

The secretary explained that McGill is a governing body, and was formed under NRS 269; and there is a copy of McGill's Town Charter hanging on the wall. McGill Town Council has documents showing that they purchased every one of the Fire Dept. vehicles housed at the McGill Fire/EMS station. Some were paid for through loans, one was purchased (paid in full) with funds from the McGill's fund balance (savings), and presently McGill is paying for the brush truck. Those fire trucks belong to the McGill Town Council, not the Fire District.

Council Member Maestes referred to the recent home fire in McGill. There was a 3 minute response time from the McGill Volunteer Fire Department. If dispatch were to go to the City, could they respond within 3 minutes?

The McGill Volunteer Firemen received a round of applause, from the audience, for all their efforts in serving this community.

Hal Hollinsworth noted that the Volunteer Firemen brought this issue up to the Town Council 2 months ago. They knew this was coming. He would like to inquire why only 2 Town Council Members would attend the next BOCC meeting.

Council Member Angelopoulos explained that McGill Town Council must comply with the Nevada Open Meeting Law. Only 2 Council Members would be able to attend any open meeting unless there is a posted McGill agenda.

Jessie Ciscar stood, stating that he is a McGill Volunteer Fireman. He has been a firefighter for about 15 years, he took a short break to serve his Country fighting on foreign soil, and then he returned home, and he began serving his community again. He came home from the war only to see his family torn apart over this issue. He has seen some of the volunteer firemen with tears in their eyes because of this issue, because they do not know where this is headed. During his career as a volunteer fireman, he has seen the gift of life given, and he has seen the gift of life taken. McGill Firemen do not just protect McGill, they go to other areas, as well. They are not paid a dime for their efforts, they became Volunteer Firemen to help their community.

Again, everyone was encouraged to attend the next Fire Commission meeting to voice their opinion.

ESTABLISHING A COMPENSATION PLAN/BONUS PLAN FOR THE TRAINING OF LIFEGUARDS TO WORK AT THE MCGILL SWIMMING POOL:

The secretary explained that she spoke with the Aquatics Director again about McGill Lifeguards. She learned that many of the lifeguards are opting to work at a fast food restaurant because they can make more money. Many are saving for college, so they need to go where they can make the most during the summer months. The Aquatics Director explained to her that, if McGill does not have enough lifeguards, she may be forced to reduce the days and hours of operation at the McGill Swimming Pool.

Council Member Angelopoulos motioned for the McGill Town Council to offer to pay the tuition for any lifeguards who apply, train and work at the McGill Swimming Pool. If the lifeguards work until the Labor Day weekend in McGill, then the McGill Town Council will pay them a \$100.00 bonus.

Council Member Maestes seconded the motion.

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

The Council directed the secretary to get this correspondence to the White Pine Aquatics Director as soon as possible to enable her to seek McGill lifeguards.

IDENTIFICATION FOR THE ABATEMENT OF DANGEROUS BUILDINGS/HOMES WITHIN THE TOWN BOUNDARIES OF MCGILL AND PLACING THE LIST OF DANGEROUS BUILDINGS/HOMES IN PRIORITY ORDER:

Council Vice-Chairperson Ballandby recalled that this item was placed on the agenda because some of the Council Members had been requested to provide a list (in priority order) of homes that the Council feels pose a danger to the public.

A list of recommended homes that fall under the abatement of dangerous buildings was provided as follows:

1. #1 South Fifth Street – abandoned for over 50 years, windows broken, etc.
2. #19 Avenue C – partially burned & abandoned
3. #21 Avenue C – partially burned & abandoned
4. #6 Avenue J – partially burned & abandoned
5. #4 Sixth Street – abandoned home, roof half gone, windows broken, etc.
6. # 6 Avenue A – recently burned but not marked

Council Member Angelopoulos motioned to provide this list of homes that fall under the abatement of dangerous buildings to the Board of County Commissioners.

Council Member Maestes seconded the motion.

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

RESCIND THE PREVIOUS MOTION TO SELECT ALL AREAS WITHIN MCGILL TOWN TO BEGIN CONVERTING STREET LIGHTS TO LED LIGHTS:

Council Vice-Chairperson Ballandby referred to the previous motion where McGill Town Council decided to convert all 180 of their street lights to LED. She now understands that both the Finance Director and the Public Works Director is recommending that the project needs to go out for public bidding process because of the total costs. They are recommending that the McGill Town Council return to their first idea of working on 1/3 of the street lights in town for the next 3 years.

Council Member Rivera reported that he has spoken with the State Contractors Board and learned that we do not have to follow the prevailing wage rate. He favors the 180 replacement of street lights to LED because it will save on total maintenance. He does not agree that McGill would have to go out to bid.

Council Vice-Chairperson Ballandby motioned to rescind her previous motion to select all areas within McGill Town to begin converting street lights to LED lighting, project cost to be \$76,500.

Council Member Angelopoulos seconded the motion to rescind.

Vote was carried by a 3 to 1 vote of the quorum present. Council Member Rivera voting Nay.

Council Member Rivera requested an item to appear on the next agenda to select all 180 street lights in McGill Town to be converted to LED lighting.

SELECTION OF AREAS WITHIN MCGILL TOWN TO BEGIN CONVERTING STREET LIGHTS TO LED LIGHTING:

Council Vice-Chairperson Ballandby recalled the original idea was to convert 1/3 of the street lights in McGill Town and then use all old the lights removed for the purpose of repairing lights that go out until all the lights have been converted to LED. She would like to see this matter carried on the next agenda, along with the other agenda item as requested by Council Member Rivera.

STATUS REPORT ON MEETING WITH WPC SHERIFF REGARDING PLACEMENT OF ADDITIONAL STOP/YIELD/SCHOOL ZONE SIGNS IN MCGILL:

Council Member Maestes reported that she met with the Sheriff. The Sheriff suggested more Yield than Stop signs. They made the suggested revisions to the list and a copy was provided to the Public Works Director for his review.

The Council directed the secretary to carry this matter on the next agenda and invite both Sheriff Henriod and Public Works Director Calderwood to the next meeting.

ADDITIONAL INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR STREET LIGHTS LOCATED ON MAIN STREET IN MCGILL:

The secretary referred to the e-mail that she received from WPC Finance Director Elizabeth Francis explaining that insurance on street lights would be \$2 to \$2.50 per \$1,000 of coverage. Replacement of the hit poles has been between \$5,000 and \$6,000. She cautioned that because McGill has had 5 claims for poles that have been hit, the insurance could increase. There would be \$1,000 deductible if McGill obtains insurance for their street lights. The other incidences were negotiated by the County Insurance Pool with the various insurance companies as a courtesy.

Council Member Rivera stated that he felt the other insurance companies should have paid the full amount because their insured drivers hit McGill light poles. He would still request that the County pursue insurance collections for all the poles that had been it.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Council Member Angelopoulos motioned to approve the McGill Town Council minutes dated March 19, 2019.

Council Member Rivera seconded the motion.

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

The following is a list of correspondence sent or received since the previous meeting:

1. Secretary monthly report and addendum to monthly report.
2. Memo to WPC Sheriff regarding unsightly yards.
3. Letter from and to Mr. Little regarding the purchase of McGill book.
4. Deposit in the amount of \$20.00 for rental of the Center.
5. Letter from Mt. Wheeler Power regarding street light and Ball Park projects.
6. Copy of WPC counter offer for Fire/EMS services.
7. E-mail from Public Works Director regarding sign in front of Legion Hall.
8. Letter to WPC DA regarding street lights hit by passing motorists.
9. Letter to Silver Lion Farms, LLC welcoming their business to the community.
10. Letter to Michael Nass, Locksmith, welcoming his business to McGill.
11. Draft form to list abatement of dangerous buildings.
12. E-mail from WPC Finance Director regarding street light insurance premiums with \$1,000 deductible.
13. Copy of Chapter 11.48 of WPC Code (abandoned vehicles).
14. Copy of 6.29.108 fir public nuisances.
15. McGill-Ruth Sewer & Water agenda.
16. E-mail from WP Little League listing Ball Park game schedule.

17. Copy of a notice from the WPC Building Department changing addresses in McGill.

The Council referred to the correspondence from the WP Building Department, noting that he changed addresses without notifying the governing body. McGill had paid to have their addresses verified a few years back, and once completed, the McGill map had been placed on several computer sites to enable law enforcement agencies to access McGill addresses.

The Council directed their secretary to prepare correspondence to the Board of County Commissioners inquiring why the Building Department would change addresses without notifying the governing body.

APPROVAL OF BILLS/AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE:

The following bills were read into the record:

Bath Lumber	\$170.73
(park operating)	
White Pine Chamber of Commerce	\$ 95.00
(Annual dues)	
OPI	\$ 29.99
(monthly copy machine maintenance)	
Bradley's Bestway Market	\$ 12.75
(Neighborhood Watch refreshments)	
Delores Manchester	\$ 6.38
(Postage reimbursement)	

Council Member Rivera motioned to approve the bills as read.

Council Member Maestes seconded the motion.

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

NUISANCE ABATEMENTS:

The following nuisances were reported:

1. #12 Avenue C – lots of dry branches piled up causing a fire hazard.
2. #36 Avenue A – lots of trash in the yard and the trash is falling into the street.
3. #16 Avenue A – abandoned vehicles that have been red tagged but not moved.
4. Top of McGill there are several cars that have been red tagged but not moved.
5. #34 Fourth Street – lot of trash piled in the yard causing an unsightly nuisance.
6. #10 Fourth Street – 4 unlicensed vehicles parked in the back.
7. It was noted there is a lot of weeds growing on the railroad tracks, but it is unknown who is responsible for clearing the weeds.

ANIMALS AT LARGE/VICIOUS DOGS:

It was reported there are some goats at #12 Avenue D.

PARK MAINTENANCE:

It was reported that the McGill Parks groundskeeper has received considerable help from a young volunteer in gopher control.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The secretary reported that McGill is presently 75% into their budget year, with 56% of their revenues coming in. Presently McGill is 48% spent.

FIRE/EMT REPORTS:

McGill Fire Chief, Ricky Garcia, reported that there has been several volunteers resigning recently. They cited their reason for resigning is because they feel they have been "kicked in the teeth". Presently

there is only one EMT remaining in McGill. There have been many changes with the White Pine Fire District, and the volunteers feel they have been left out.

Cheryl Noriega agreed. Stating that White Pine County did not talk to any of the County residents before making changes in the Fire District and contracting with the City of Ely.

Hal Hollingsworth suggested that people go to transparentnevada.com. It is an eye opener to see what the wages are throughout the State for public employees. There are even volunteers who earn up to \$23,000 per year at the City.

STREET LIGHTS:

It was noted that McGill is waiting for their new budget year before purchasing new equipment.

STREETS & STREET SIGNS:

Council Member Rivera noted there are several pot holes on Third Street and Sixth Street. Many of the drainage areas had had domes placed by them by the Road Department, but he can see that many of the domes have been stolen.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM:

Council Member Maestes reported that there was only 5 persons at the last Neighborhood Watch meeting. She was not aware that the former Neighborhood Watch Coordinator had been calling and reminding the members of the meeting. She will also be meeting with Sheriff Henriod to find out who the new Neighborhood Watch officer will be.

YOUTH/COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

Council Member Angelopoulos reported that the Easter Bunny is on schedule to appear at the Avenue K Park this year. Mr. E. Bunny was hoping that the many gopher traps could be removed before his arrival. Also, the Easter Bunny has received several donations of eggs and prizes this year. They are hoping for a big turnout.

BUSINESS PLAN/McGILL MERCHANTS REPORTS:

No report given.

CULTURAL CENTER/LIBRARY REPORT:

No report given.

McGILL REVITALIZATION ASSOCIATION:

Council Member Angelopoulos reported that the MRA will be providing assistance to the Easter Bunny at his annual Easter Egg Hunt.

RENOVATIONS TO KINNEAR LIBRARY BUILDING:

No report given.

McGILL HISTORICAL DRUG STORE MUSEUM:

The secretary reported that the McGill Drug Store Museum recently requested the e-mail address for Ian Bulloch Incorporated so they could update their info on the web page.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

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

It was agreed between the Council Members that Council Member Angelopoulos and Council Member Maestes will attend the next Fire Commission meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

There being no further comments or business to be brought before the McGill Town Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:40 P.M.