

McGill Town Council

P.O. Box 1334 McGill, Nevada 89318

McGILL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

DATE: May 16, 2023
TIME: 7:00 PM-McGill Town Council Meeting
LOCATION: McGill Elementary School Gymnasium
25 Avenue F, McGill, NV

The following Town Council Members were in attendance:

Cynthia Angelopoulos, Chairperson
Roxane Ballandby, Member
Danielle Jensen
Rudy Herndon, Member

Absent Council Member: Evie Pinneo

Also in attendance:
Elaine Blackham, Secretary
Stacy Laird, McGill Business Rep/MRA
Darrel Asay
John Bell
Nancy Bell
Duane Keys
Dave Miller, Basin Engineering
Martin Troutt, W.P. County Road Department

Council Chairperson Angelopoulos called the May 16, 2023 meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. The Council members led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Rudy Herndon spoke as a private resident and organizer of the Schell Raiser Music Festival. He spoke to those present and gave a brief update. The festival is set to begin on June 1-3, 2023 at the McGill Swimming Pool Park. He stated that unfortunately the pool would not be opened during the festival. He stated they will be setting up on Wednesday, May 31st and will have around the clock security beginning May 31st. There are 35 bands booked this year and two (2) stages, bands from Wales, UK, and artist doing a live work show as well as 11 food trucks. He noted he is still working on an area map for the festival and the plan is to have the food vendors

in an area to themselves so anyone can access the food trucks. He said he has scheduled a meeting with White Pine County Sheriff Henriod to make sure he is comfortable with his plans. The curfew will be set at 11:00 pm each night to allow the participants to exit the park. He is preparing for another fun community event!

NEW BUSINESS –

Presentation:

White Pine Pumped Storage Project, Greg Copeland-Program Manager, rPlus Hydro Chairperson Angelopoulos introduced Mr. Greg Copeland from rPlus Hydro. He introduced Jessica Brooks, Rhiannon Scanlan and Michael Couch. He thanked everyone for be in attendance and for having an interest in the pumped storage project.

Mr. Copeland gave a brief back ground of his experience in the past and since becoming employed at rPlus Hydro. He continued to give a background of the proposed White Pine Pumped Storage project. After his presentation, he opened the meeting up for questions.

Question 1: What is the intention of rPlus Hydro to seek a tax abatement from the Nevada Governor’s Office on Economic development? Mr. Copeland stated that that the number he has stated in his presentation was after the tax abatement the company requested for a period of 20 years. He reported when the tax abatement period has passed the White Pine Pumped Storage project will be the number one tax payer in White Pine County. **Question 2:** Since the Duck Creek highway is officially on BLM land but shows up as State Route 486, was permission obtained from the feds (get more funds to maintain) or the State of Nevada? Mr. Copeland noted there is a process they have to go through in order to access the single lane road. **Question 3:** As the project will directly deliver \$12 million per year to White Pine County-how will this money be allocated? Will it go directly to the County Assessor who can use the money to decrease our property taxes because as it appears White Pine County has one of the highest property taxes than any other County in the state of Nevada? Mr. Copeland reiterated the importance of contacting the White Pine County Commission for answers to the questions. **Question 4:** Is there any way to put a clause in that states the property taxes will decrease due to the project? Mr. Copeland stated that would be a question to the County Commission. McGill needs to be directly involved in order to keep on top of the process.

Mr. Copeland went on to explain the Nevada Water Law & White Pine County Water Rights. Anyone wanting to use groundwater must first obtain a permit from the State Engineer. The process begins with filing of an application with the State Engineer that provides information such as where a proposed groundwater well is to be drilled, how and where the groundwater will be put to use, and what volume of groundwater is requested. He told those present to feel free to contact him with further questions.

Mr. Copeland explained the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) process. He said to provide feedback on the process and to be able to benefit from the development agreement established with White Pine County regarding the following items: Transportation corridors/requirements, emergency medical services, train crossings, along with multiple other things, McGill should make sure they have a seat at the table as a part of the discussions.

In closing, it was noted that rPlus Hydro envisions a partnership with McGill. They would like to come back to give an update to the town council periodically. They will keep in touch with the secretary.

***Discussion/Action/Possible Approval:** The Need for Traffic Control Beginning from Avenue A Through McGill to Avenue R on Highway 93/McGill Main Street and to Request More Law Enforcement Patrol and/or Possible Rumble Strips at Each End of Town, Duane Bays
Mr. Duane Bays spoke to the McGill Town Council members regarding the importance of slowing down the traffic that comes through McGill via Highway 93 (4th Street-Main Street). He stated that his vehicle was hit by a driver driving through McGill and he has witnessed the 18-wheelers as well as other vehicles going through town at high rates of speed. Mr. Bays noted this has happened during the evening as well as during the day.

Chairperson Angelopoulos noted that Highway 93 is a state highway and there isn't much the town council can do to correct the problem. She suggested that Mr. Bays contact the Nevada Department of Transportation to see what can be done. He stated he had circulated a petition regarding placing rumble strips at each end of McGill. Various residents who reside on 4th street stated they didn't want rumble strips because they are so noisy and probably would only slow people down to go over the rumble strips.

Mr. Bays stated that he was just going to have to put his property up for sale if he couldn't get help from the town council. It was explained that the town council has no jurisdiction over the state highway and Mr. Bays would need to contact NDoT.

ITEMS CARRIED FORWARD FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

***Discussion/Action/Possible Approval:** Consideration to Coordinate with White Pine County Maintenance Department to Remove and/or Place Certain Traffic Signs throughout McGill. The email received from Mr. Martin Trout was presented to the town council. He reported the following: After consulting with the White Pine County Sheriff's office on your request to remove stop signs and replace with yield signs and also to remove yield signs and replace with stop signs, we have come to the following consensus

- Avenue B & Smelter – Leave 2 stop signs and remove the yield signs
- Avenue B and Second – Remove stop and yield signs
- Avenue C and Second – leave signs as is
- Avenue D and Smelter – Leave signs as is
- Avenue B and First – Replace yield signs with stop signs
- Avenue C and First – Leave signs as is
- Avenue D and First - Replace yield signs with stop signs
- Avenue E and First – Remove yield sign and place stop sign on ave E
- Avenue H and First - Leave signs as is
- Avenue J and First - Leave signs as is
- Avenue K and First – Add a stop sign on First street

The Road Department will proceed with this project as time allows. The Town Council agreed they still need to speak with Sheriff Henriod regarding this. The question is why remove the yield signs.

***Discussion/Action/Possible Approval:** Kyle Horvath – Public Art Ideas – Potential Murals and Other Items for the Town of McGill. Mr. Horvath was not present, it was the consensus of the town council to continue this on future agendas.

***Discussion/Action/Possible Approval:** Purchase of a Used Truck to Be Used for McGill Parks. Chairwoman Angelopoulos stated she has found a 2000 GMC Sierra with approximately 125,000 miles on it that a private individual is offering for sale. It was noted the town council should check with the White Pine County District Attorney to find out what they would need to do to purchase from a private party.

ON-GOING BUSINESS:

***Discussion/Action/Possible Approval:** on the Below Listed On-Going Business Items:

***Approval of Minutes:** March 21, 2023 meeting – next meeting for approval.

April 18, 2023 meeting Member Jensen abstained, Member Ballandby made the motion to approve, member Herndon made the second. The motion passed with a quorum of those present.

***Approval/Ratification of Bills/Authorization to Purchase:**

1. Bradley's Market
2. Bath Lumber
3. OPI
4. Global Flags Unlimited-\$653.91, Purchase order # 3850
5. Outstanding bills received after the posting of the 05-16-2023 meeting agenda needing approval before next meeting agenda (to be noted on next meeting agenda)

Member Jensen made a motion to pay the bills, member Herndon made the second. The motion passed with a quorum of those present.

***Correspondence:**

1. Request from Breonna Hankins to use McGill Ball Park 06-03-2023 for family graduation party/BBQ from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
2. Jessica Brooks, rPlus Hydro regarding a closed-loop pumped storage hydroelectric project to be located in the Duck Creek Range and Steptoe Valley in White Pine County, Nevada, approximately eight miles northeast of the City of Ely, Deficiency of License Application and Additional Information Request attached 48 pages
3. White Pine County Commission meeting, May 10, 2023, Michael Johnson
4. McGill-Ruth Consolidated General Improvement District meeting May 15, 2023 agenda

***Animals at Large/Vicious Dogs:** Although we are entering into the spring/summer months and there is a plethora of uncontrolled dogs all around the community. The town council asked that all stray dogs be reported to the Animal Control officer.

Member Herndon told the council he had conversation with the current building official. He said he should be on board in McGill in the future.

***Nuisance and Abatements:** The secretary stated she did not get the abatement letter off to the sheriff due to her work schedule. Member Ballandby noted #1 Avenue H-Numerous garbage bags in the front yard.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS/UPDATES:***Discussion/Possible Action on the Below Listed Department Reports:**

***Park Maintenance:** It was noted the previous parks maintenance person will not be returning this year. The town council has not received any job applications for the park maintenance position. Due to not being able to fill the position, the town council members discussed they should review the agreement with White Pine County and research where help could be requested. The town council was going to hire someone but he back out in the last minute. They will keep looking for a replacement for My Irby.

***Financial Report:** The secretary noted the town council probably won't see any changes until the end of the fiscal year.

***Fire/EMT Reports:** No representative present.

***Street Lights:** Council member Ballandby noted she has contacted JW Electric to find out why the broken lights have not been repaired. It was decided a new list would be given to her to Ms. Ballandby.

***Streets & Street Signs-**See previous discussion

***Neighborhood Watch Program-**Neighborhood Watch has been patrolling the town of McGill and are finding graffiti in the parks, broken bottles, trash strewn about, etc. Deputy Petersen was able to attend the meeting.

***Youth/Community Activities-**

***Business Plan/McGill Merchants Reports-**Stacy Laird reported the MRA is getting ready to help at the Schellraiser festival and they are gearing up for the community yard sale on June 10th.

VOLUNTEER GROUPS REPORTS/UPDATES:

***Cultural Center/Kinnear Library Report**

***McGill Revitalization Association**

***McGill Historical Drug Store Museum**

***McGill Heritage Center:** Chairperson Angelopoulos reported that Keith Gibson will be scheduling a meeting when he returns from his travels. He is getting ready to begin work at the Senior Center in order to get the Heritage Center up and open.

*** Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm