

The Regular meeting of the McGill Town Council was held on August 16, 2022 at the McGill Town Hall/Kinnear Library Building located at #4 North Fourth (Main) Street at 7:00 P.M.

The following Town Council Members were in attendance:

- Roxane Ballandby, Chairperson
- Cynthia Angelopoulos, Vice-Chairperson
- Rudy Herndon, Member
- Chris Maestes, Member

Absent Council Member: Danielle Jensen, Member

Also in attendance:

- Delores Manchester, Secretary/Town Clerk
- Raymond Maestes, Sr.
- Matthew Noriega, McGill Volunteer Fire Chief
- Duane Wyatt Bays
- Lori Wines, Granny Lou’s Cookie Company
- Debi Bohnet, Rio Tinto/KCC
- Dan Mumn, Rio Tinto/KCC
- Lucy Pitto, Rio Tinto/KCC
- Lisa Ashby, Aquatics Center
- David Miller, Basin Engineering
- Anne Schroeder
- Michael Couch

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 public.

Duane Bays, McGill resident, addressed the Council to speak regarding the heavy truck traffic speeding through town. He and several other McGill residents will be looking at circulating a petition to be sent to the Nevada Department of Transportation. They will explain the heavy speeding traffic (personal vehicles and semi-trucks) going through McGill at all hours of the day and night. The petition may note that a building almost burned down because a semi caught it on fire, 6 street lights have been knocked over due to semis hitting them, a house has been plowed into by a truck, and numerous parked cars have been hit. Their petition will ask if NDOT can, at least, put rumble strips across US93 (McGill’s Main Street) with the hopes of slowing down the speeding traffic.

Council Maestes noted her agreement. Pointing out that very seldom do drivers slow down while traveling through McGill especially at night.

Council Chairman Ballandby explained that the Town Council cannot act on this matter because it was not on the agenda. She is requesting that the matter be placed on the next agenda for September 20th. She is also requesting that the secretary send a letter to NDOT inviting them to the Sept. meeting.

Lisa Ashby, WPC Aquatics Center, addressed the Town Council reporting that the annual “Big Splash” that is always held in conjunction with the annual McGill Labor Day festivities will go on as scheduled. They will have their regular activities, and they are considering doing something special for Robert Harris as he has always been a great supporter and participant at the Big Splash. Presently both McGill and the Ely Aquatic Center are short staffed. They are trading employees back and forth, however; they may reach a point where they may have to cut hours or close for a day or so.

Dan Mumn, Rio Tinto, addressed the Town Council explaining that he is in attendance because Jeff Lackowski (McGill Rep) was not able to attend this evening. They are here to determine future uses of the KCC property, and they would like to include the opinions and perspectives of the McGill community members on the maintenance, actions, and potential future uses. Some potential management approaches are habitat improvement, grazing and crop production, generate renewable energy, reprocess the Tailings Storage Facility, Hydroponic greenhouse, etc. Areas of review are the Duck Creek Pipeline, Duck Creek Reservoir, Bassett Lake, Tailings Storage Facility, slag ditch, etc.

Dan Mumn stated again, that Kennecott/Rio Tinto would like to evaluate potential future uses of their property and to understand the opinions of the McGill Town Council and the McGill community.

Duane Bays thanked KCC for the opportunity to give suggestions. His suggestion would be to generate renewable energy, such as solar energy.

Matthew Noriega, McGill Volunteer Fire Chief, addressed the Town Council explaining that his father is Jose Noriega, White Pine Forest Service District Supervisor. His father has spoken often about the future uses for Bassett Lake. He will provide the KCC representatives of Jose Noriega’s contact information.

The Town Council thanked the 3 representatives of Rio Tinto/Kennecott for taking the time to attend a McGill Council meeting seeking input from residents. **Noting that if anyone has suggestions, they are welcome to pass the information on to Jeff Lackowski through the McGill secretary, as she has his contact information.**

Matthew Noriega spoke on another matter. Explaining that on the corner of Avenue O and North 3rd Street, there is an old shed that is falling over. This shed appears to be possibly on KCC (but outside their fence line) property where the old slew used to be.

The Council directed the secretary to list this shed under Nuisance Abatements later on the agenda.

PURCHASE OF PLAQUE FOR MEMORIAL TREES THAT WERE PLANTED IN MEMORY OF TOWN RESIDENTS:

Dave Miller, Basin Engineering, addressed the Council explaining that he was in Elko last week and he saw a wooden display tree at their hospital where they have been dedicating leaves to persons in Elko. This wooden tree and attachable leaves were made locally made by the Elko High School. He visited with staff at the Elko Hospital and explained how McGill has been planting trees in McGill Parks in memory of persons who had passed away. He explained to them that McGill had been looking at a

brass or a metal tree. Staff at the Elko Hospital allowed him to take numerous pictures and they gave him a few samples of the wooden leaves where a local person had been writing in the names before attaching the leaves to the wall. Dave Miller asked the McGill Town Council if they would consider employing a local person to cut out a wooden tree to be hung on the wall at the Town Council Meeting Chambers, then cut out several leaves and then find someone locally to write names of the persons who has had a tree planted in their memory.

The Council agreed with the idea of a wooden tree to be made locally, and instructed the secretary to carry this matter on the next agenda.

PURCHASE OF THE ANNUAL LABOR DAY FIREWORKS DISPLAY:

Michael Couch, Garden State Fireworks, addressed the Council explaining that, with the \$6,000 McGill will provide toward the firework display, he has \$8,300 total for the annual Labor Day firework display. Fireworks will be much like it was last year, he has his permits, he has worked with Jeff Lackowski in reviewing his safety plan, and everything is in line. Fireworks will again be out on the Tailings. McGill Town Council is the first show he put on in White Pine County and he would like to continue working with them.

The Council assured Mr. Couch that the funds will be approved when the Town Council pays their bills in this meeting.

PRESENTATION FOR A WHOLESALE COOKIE-MAKING BUSINESS IN MCGILL:

Lori Wines, Granny Lou's Cookie Company, addressed the Town Council explaining that her family has been baking cookies for many years. They use the recipes that her grandmother has used all of her life. She used to make these cookies at home at night, but their cookie business is expanding. They will be leasing Marie's Café to do their baking, and she has recently purchased a trailer where she will station in McGill one day a week, and station the trailer in various locations in Ely and for their special events.

The McGill Town Council thanked Lori Wines for stationing her cookie baking business in McGill, if she needs anything, all she needs to do is contact any Town Council Member.

UPDATE/PLANNING FOR ANNUAL LABOR DAY FESTIVITIES:

Stacy Laird, McGill Revitalization Association, reported that Brenda McConaha has the food permit, the liquor license, and the porta potties ordered. The street dance will be held at the Avenue K Park, the food for the picnic has been ordered, the BBQ is reserved, and there will be vendor booths. The parade will start at 5:30 on Friday, street dance will follow, picnic will be on Saturday at the Swimming Pool Park at 11:00 am, and they have a few persons lined up to cook, and the Base Ball game between the Sheriff's Office and McGill will be on Sunday. Stacy Laird noted that the only problem they encountered is getting the stage delivered. The person she spoke with did not know that McGill was a town so they didn't know if they could deliver it.

After a short laugh, the Council pointed to a copy of the Town Charter hanging on the wall, and requested that the bill for the stage rent and delivery be mailed to the McGill Town Council.

Matthew Noriega, McGill Volunteer Fire Chief, noted that he has 6 or 7 Volunteer Firemen lined up to assist with the cooking.

Council Vice-Chairperson Angelopoulos explained that the Swimming Pool Park has already been reserved.

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

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

PURCHASE OF A USED TRUCK TO BE USED FOR MCGILL PARKS:

Council Vice-Chairperson Angelopoulos reported that she has spoken with the Public Works Director regarding the purchase of a used truck. The Public Works Director had expressed concerns about not being able to obtain a new or used truck for \$25,000. She explained to him that \$25,000 was the amount that had been augmented from McGill's Fund Balance, and they could not go over that amount. The Public Works Director is still waiting for bids to come in, costs have raised drastically, so for now McGill can continue to use the Road Department truck and pay for the gas and mileage.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Council Member Maestes requested a correction to the McGill minutes dated July 19, 2022 on page 4. Stating that she understood that the price quote for a LED light to be installed was on the corner of Avenue A and South third Street.

Council Vice-Chairperson Angelopoulos motioned to approve the McGill Town Council minutes dated July 19, 2022 with the correction on page 4 stating the price quote for a new LED light installed is located at the corner of Avenue A and South 3rd Street.

Council Member Maestes seconded the motion.

Motion was carried by unanimous vote of the quorum present.

APPROVAL/RATIFICATION OF BILLS/AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE:

The following bills/purchase orders were read into the record:

Bradley's Bestway Market	\$ 11.97
(Neighborhood Watch refreshments)	
Garden State Fireworks, Inc.	\$6,000.00
(Labor Day fireworks)	
OPI	\$ 32.85
(copy machine contract)	
Rainbow Sign & Banner	\$2,142.12
(deposit required for sign)	
WPC Road Dept.	\$ 565.47
(park gas for July)	
Global Flags Unlimited (Flagco)	\$ 565.05
(purchase order for flag)	

Council Member Maestes motioned to approve the bills/purchase orders as read.

Council Vice-Chairperson Angelopoulos seconded the motion.

Motion was carried by unanimous vote of the quorum present.

NUISANCE ABATEMENTS:

Abatements were listed as follows:

1. #4 Fourth Street – weeds are several feet high and dry and is posing a fire hazard.
2. Train Depot just inside the KCC gate – tumble weeds are over 3 feet high and dry.
3. #4 North 5th Street – boat is parked in the middle of the road and there are piles of bags of trash that has been scattered by animals.
4. #6 Avenue C – trash has been piled in a trailer that has not been moved for several weeks.
5. Avenue K and 3rd Street – 2 campers are parked on each side of the street blocking traffic.

6. North 6th Street – tent trailer is parked in the middle of the street (street is narrow and the trailer is blocking traffic).
7. 5th Street – there is a utility trailer parked in the middle of the street (street is narrow and it is blocking traffic).

Include the nuisance abatement of the shed falling over at the corner of Avenue O and North 3rd Street (next to the old slew ditch that is fenced).

Council Member Herndon reported that he recently learned that the Standard Market building will be going Tax Title in the near future. He inspected this building several years ago and found there were some structural problems and some of the bricks are crumbling; but he feels the building still has potential if the right person were to acquire it and possibly obtain grant funding to assist in renovations.

The Council directed the secretary to list the above listed nuisance requests in correspondence to the Sheriff.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Labor Day Food List
2. E-mail from Dave Miller re: Memorial Trees.
3. Letter to Krish Rozich, WPC Aquatics Director.
4. Memo to WPC Public Works re: vandalism to curfew sign.
5. Letter to BOCC re: CARES Act funds to used for security cameras.
6. Memo to WPC Public Works re: request for cleanup sign.
7. Letter to Grants Department re: compliment for a great job.
8. E-mail from Council Member re: new cookie store in McGill.
9. E-mail from Great Basin Pyrotechnics re: fireworks.
10. Corres to Rainbow Sign re: order for sign.
11. Corres to Artistic Bronze re: order for plaque.
12. Monthly report from secretary.

ANIMALS AT LARGE/VICIOUS DOGS:

Nothing new to report.

PARK MAINTENANCE:

Council Vice-Chairperson Angelopoulos reported that the McGill parks are looking very good. Greg has cleaned the flowerbed at the front of the Town Hall building and it looks great. She recently asked to have the Little League playing field cleaning and upgrading. She will speak with the Public Works Director again soon and have more to report at the next meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The secretary reported receipt of the financial report received from the WPC Finance Department for month ending August. Noting that the purchase orders that were approved in the previous meeting have not been listed yet. This could possibly be due to change in personnel. She will continue to monitor this.

FIRE/EMT REPORTS:

Matthew Noriega, McGill Fire Chief, reported again they have 7 volunteer Firemen ready to assist with cooking at the Labor Day BBQ. McGill currently has 19 volunteer firemen. They now have a new program where youths 14 years of age and older can become volunteer firemen.

STREET LIGHTS:

Council Chairman Ballandby reported that the street light at the corner of Avenue F and First Street is out and it needs to be changed to LED.

STREETS & STREET SIGNS:

It was reported that:

1. the Yield sign at the Circle by the Mansion is faded.
2. The No Parking sign by the Legion Hall is faded.
3. The No Parking sign on South 6th Street is faded and people are parking and blocking through traffic.
4. The Yield sign at the corner of Avenue D and 1st Street is faded.
5. The Yield sign on Avenue C is faded.
6. The Yield sign on Avenue A is faded.
7. When the County Road Department does their annual inventory and inspection of street signs this Fall, she would like them to watch for these.

The Council directed the secretary to prepare the necessary correspondence.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM:

It was reported that the McGill Neighborhood Watch Program is planning a movie night on September 17th. The old Fire Station that used to be located above the Grade School has been broken into by youth.

The Council directed the secretary to notify the Sheriff about kids breaking into the old abandoned building that used to be the fire department.

YOUTH/COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

Council Vice-Chairperson Angelopoulos reported that the candy for Christmas has already been ordered. They are currently looking for a new Santa to come to McGill.

BUSINESS PLAN/McGILL MERCHANTS REPORTS:

Stacy Laird, McGill Business Rep, reported that Marie's Café will soon serve as the new Granny Lou's Cookie Company as reported earlier in this meeting.

COUNTY COMMISSION LIAISON REPORT:

Council Member Maestes reported that the Board of County Commissioners has prepared a new list of liaison contact Commissioners. She will provide a copy for the Town Council Office; other departments are requesting Covid funds in addition to McGill's request; Lackawana Road is dark; the County hired a new Airport Manager; McGill fire truck's pump is out and is out for repairs; there is confusion on emergency calls in Baker; Cole Creek Fire Station is in bad shape; Broadband upgrades are in the works; Commission Bullis is looking at revisiting the ski resort in White Pine; and the Fire District is still looking for additional volunteer firemen.

The secretary recalled that there had been extensive studies done regarding the proposed ski resort on the backside of Ward Mountain. There was a local businessman who brought a Swiss Engineer to conduct studies for a ski resort, and that engineer noted there is "pink" snow on the backside of Success Loop. He placed in his report there is only one other place in the world where there is "pink" snow and that is the Swiss Alps.

CULTURAL CENTER/KINNEAR LIBRARY REPORT:

No report given.

McGILL REVITALIZATION ASSOCIATION:

Stacy Laird reported that the MRA is currently assisting with the planning for the annual Labor Day festivities.

McGILL HISTORICAL DRUG STORE MUSEUM:

No report given.

McGILL HERITAGE CENTER:

No report given.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Council Chairperson Ballandby called for any further comments from the audience. There were no further comments.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

There being no further business or comments to be brought before the McGill Town Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:16 P.M.