



**CITY OF WHITE SALMON**  
**City Council Meeting – Wednesday, June 1, 2022**  
**In Person and Via Zoom Teleconference**

**Council and Administrative Personnel Present**

**Council Members:**

Ben Giant  
Patty Fink  
Jason Hartmann  
David Lindley  
Jim Ransier

**Staff Present:**

Erika Castro-Guzman, Permit Technician  
Jeff Cooper, Public Works Foreman  
Mike Hepner, Police Chief  
Marla Keethler, Mayor  
Paul Koch, Interim City Administrator  
Stephanie Porter, Deputy Clerk  
Ken Woodrich, City Attorney

**I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Marla Keethler, Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. City Councilor Patty Fink arrived to the meeting at 6:02pm. There were approximately 6 members of the public in attendance in person and via teleconference.

**II. Changes to the Agenda**

Stephanie Porter requested the following changes to the consent agenda:

1. Remove item H, Approval of Meeting Minutes – May 12, 2022
2. Remove items I, Approval of Meeting Minutes – May 18, 2022

***Moved by Jason Hartmann. Seconded by Patty Fink.***

***Motion to remove Consent Agenda items H Approval of Meeting Minutes – May 12, 2022 and I Approval of Meeting Minutes – May 18, 2022. CARRIED 5-0.***

**III. Consent Agenda**

- A. 2022 Mt. Adams Chamber of Commerce Lodging Tax Grant Agreement
- B. Public Works Board Construction Loan Contract - Amendment C
- C. Formal Task Assignment - Bell Design Locating of Right-of-Way Line Green Street
- D. Formal Task Assignment - Bell Design Locating Strawberry Mountain Reservoir Site Corners and Fence Locations
- E. Employment Agreement Amendment - Brendan Conboy
- F. April 2022 Budget Report
- G. Approval of Meeting Minutes - May 4, 2022
- H. ~~Approval of Meeting Minutes May 12, 2022~~
- I. ~~Approval of Meeting Minutes – May 18, 2022~~
- J. Approval of Vouchers

Vouchers audited and certified as required by RCW 42.24.080 and expense reimbursement claims as required by RCW 42.24.090 as of this 1<sup>th</sup> day of June 2022.

Type	Date	From	To	Amount
Claims	6/1/2022	EFT	EFT	3,928.00
	6/1/2022	38133	38155	42,178.49
			<b>Claims Total</b>	<b>46,106.49</b>
Payroll				0
Manual Claims	5/20/2022	38125	38128	23,994.92
	5/25/2022	38129	38131	3,021.61
	5/27/2022	38132	38132	10.00
			<b>Manual Total</b>	<b>27,026.53</b>
			<b>Total All Vouchers</b>	<b>73,133.02</b>

*Moved by Jim Ransier. Seconded by Ben Giant.  
 Motion to approve Consent Agenda as presented. CARRIED 5-0.*

**IV. Public Comment**

**Tammara Tippel, White Salmon Resident** thanked the city council for their support through the Explore White Salmon Grant. Tammara noted the new billboard on I-84 in Troutdale OR promoting tourism in and around White Salmon.

Tammara said there will be a July 4<sup>th</sup> parade with festivities this year.

**Marla Keethler, Mayor** said she was also excited to see the billboard and as well as the videos on Instagram and other marketing items initiated by the Explore White Salmon Grant Program. Marla said the city will have a booth at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July festivities.

**Charles Hogue, White Salmon Resident** said thank you for the engagement and community involvement regarding the Walker House project. He said he respects the initiative the city took to engage the community's input.

**V. Presentations**

Jim Ransier, Council Member spoke to the history of PRIDE Heritage Month. PRIDE month is celebrated each year in the month of June to honor the 1969 Stonewall Rising in Manhattan. The Stonewall Rising was a tipping point in the liberation movement in the United States. PRIDE month includes celebrations events and memorials to those lost to hate crimes or HIV/AIDS. The purpose of PRIDE month is to recognize the impacts made by members of the LGBTQ community locally, nationally, and internationally. The first PRIDE march was held in New York City on June 28, 1970, the one-year anniversary of Stonewall Rising. The LGBTQ community continue to come together to advocate for equal rights.

**VI. Business Items**

**A. Harvey Water Line Acceptance - Project 2020.01**

Paul Koch, Interim City Administrator presented the Harvey Water Line Extension information.

Paul noted that under city code, the City Council must approve all agreements for the extension of water service. Paul said after City Council approval, the extension may be constructed. Paul said the final step is for the City Council to accept the water line extension as part of the City's Water System.

Paul said the proper process was not followed before the construction of the Harvey Waterline Extension. Paul noted that the city has created and implemented procedures to ensure all necessary processes are completed in the correct timeline moving forward. **Ben Giant, Council Member** asked why this happened.

Paul responded that pieces of the process would be completed and then it seemed to stop at different stages, for reasons he was not able to pinpoint.

*Moved by Ben Giant Seconded by Jason Hartmann*

*Motion to accept water line extension and approve the Water Line Extension Agreement between the City and Judith and Ted Harvey for the Painted Sky Short Plat. CARRIED 5-0.*

**VII. Reports and Communications**

**A. Department Heads**

***Mike Hepner, Police Chief***

There have been 8 collisions in town due to more traffic and line of site issues. Chief Hepner has been working with Public Works to remedy these issues. Chief Hepner noted his passion for strong Mental Health Care. The community partners met with Comprehensive Mental Health. He believes the communication to Comprehensive Mental Health was clear in the need for more care for our area. There will be an additional mental health co-responder added the existing program with Skyline Clinic at the end of June due to a grant received.

The blonde bear has been reported to Fish and Wildlife. Chief Hepner is working with Fish and Wildlife to have him humanely relocated.

***Jason Hartmann, Council Member*** asked for what reasons the meeting was initiated with Comprehensive Mental Health.

Chief Hepner said when a person in crisis is taken into custody due to a civil issue that is not criminal, they are taken to meet with a Designated Crisis Responder (DCR). Comprehensive Mental Health has seven positions for DCR, in Klickitat County they have one. Comprehensive Mental Health depends on telehealth services (video meetings) and Chief Hepner finds this ineffective for crisis situations. He said this option works for the care in a jail setting but is not appropriate for an emergency situation. He said that Comprehensive Mental Health has noted they are experiencing staffing shortages due to a high turnover in the field.

**Patty Fink, Council Member** asked for details specific to the cause of the accident involving the young boy hit by a car on Wauna.

**Chief Hepner** said speeding has not been an issue, especially after the speed limit was lowered to 20MPH. Regarding the call involving the 10-year-old boy, he walked behind a car at the stop sign on Wuana and Jewett and was hit by the car turning onto Wauna from Jewett due to the driver not being able to see him behind the car. He was not in the crosswalk.

**Jeff Cooper, Public Works Foreman**

Jeff stated that the Public Works team is working to clear the line-of-sight issues in town. He said Public Works will make time to address any safety issues that arise. Paul Koch is drafting a consent letter to be used for private property owners when a safety issue is flagged from their property. The intent of the letter would be to obtain written property owner consent for the public works team to either complete the work to alleviate the safety issue or confirm a date the property owner will have the work completed.

Public Works put up 25 new stop signs on Main and Estes. They will continue to work on this.

Jeff is putting together a bid to have the streets striped. He is also researching the potential of heat down crosswalks. He is suggesting choosing a few high traffic crosswalks to see how they hold up before investing for all crosswalks. Jeff said the shed has been removed from the Strawberry Mountain Reservoir.

The painting prep is complete on the park bathroom and ready for the mural to begin.

Jason Hartmann, Council Member said he would like to have key crosswalks identified to test the high traffic crosswalk stripping. He asked for an estimate to be brought to the next City Operations meeting.

David Lindley, Council Member stated that he has noticed the uptick in quality, productivity and responsiveness by Public Works and he asked to pass along his appreciation to the Public Works Team.

**Ken Woodrich, City Attorney**

Ken spoke to the line-of-sight issues due to vegetation originating from outside of the city right of way. He said that after a first warning to a private owner, the city needs a process that allows them to step in.

**Paul Koch, Interim City Administrator**

Paul stated he is working on a draft letter for vegetation clean up that is out of the right of way.

**Jason Hartmann, Council Member** asked staff to research if a hold harmless agreement should be included in the process if the city must respond.

**Ken Woodrich, City Attorney** said that there would be some form of indemnification on the document.

Paul reviewed the Boards, Commissions and Committee Ordinance that was established in 2021.

**Stephanie Porter, Deputy Clerk**

Master Meter representative came to City Hall to discuss the process necessary to change out meter reads from thousand gallon reads to a single gallon read. The process will require reprogramming of the meter. There are 2 options to consider. The city may have the work contracted out. This option is cautioned as it can be costly. The city may consolidate the reprogramming of the meters to when the meter base station is installed at City Hall. This process requires its own reprogramming and would incur no additional cost.

Stephanie said that the city is looking to move to single month reads beginning with October 2022.

**Patty Fink, Council Member** asked about the status of the Post Office Street Delivery project. Stephanie stated that the information requested from the city has been submitted to the Postmaster. The postmaster is currently working on route creation which will ultimately be submitted to his supervisor for approval. Stephanie said she has plans to follow up with the postmaster by weeks end.

**Marla Keethler, Mayor** said that once there is a solidified plan for the post office delivery, there will be a detailed press release explaining the addition of the cluster boxes and the option of free PO boxes for those residents who live inside city limits that are not included in the cluster box delivery area identified.

**B. Council Members**

**Jim Ransier, Council Member**

Jim attended an events and festival webinar. Jim said the city should begin Springfest planning discussions July of this year. Jim said the city will be looking at how they can best partner with the Mt Adam Chamber and the Springfest Committee to support the festival. Jim noted that in the webinar event naming was discussed and that Springfest may benefit from a name change to something more specific. Jim said this has been shown to increase attendance by outside guests and vendors.

**Patty Fink, Council Member**

Patty noted that she may not be available for the July 6, 2022 meeting.

**C. Mayor**

Marla Keelthler acknowledged the Uvalde School shooting that occurred on May 24, 2022. Marla said it is hard to imagine if something like that happened in our community and the “gut punch” knowing there have been 17 more mass shootings since that day.

Marla said that as leaders in this community she hopes to start a conversation that acknowledges that there is a public safety issue, without putting anyone in a corner.

Marla noted her goal is to have these hard conversations in a manner that is civil and moves the issues forward to action.

Marla spoke about the bridge full closure and noted that a local group will be heading to Washington DC in July 2022 to lobby for funding for the replacement on the Hood River bridge.

White Salmon residents are eligible for Hood River Pool Pass through the City of White Salmon June 1 – September 30, 2022. The city is working with the pool district to potentially provided bus shuttle to the Hood River Pool.

Columbia River Gorge Commission has their Climate Action Plan available for public comment. The city will be commenting thoughts relating to our own climate action goals.

**Patty Fink, Council Member** requested to be involved with the Transportation Plan update with the Department of Human and Health Services. Patty stated that it is important to her to see more services become available to the White Salmon community.

Water System Plan update is moving forward. The county has been brought into the conversation with a goal of better communication and efficient collaboration on how development is occurring not only as the city but as the water service provider. The goal is to have the Water System Plan adopted by this summer to be eligible for funding by Fall of 2022.

Park Plan open house is at the Fire Hall during Springfest.

**Mike Hepner, Police Chief** stated that if there is an active shooter in our community, they will go in; they will not wait. The police department has been trained extensively for these situations.

**VIII. Executive Session (if needed)**

There was no additional Executive Session.

**IX. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:57p.m.

  
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Marla Keethler, Mayor

  
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Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer