



CITY OF WHITE SALMON
City Council Meeting – Wednesday, June 15, 2022
In Person and Via Zoom Teleconference

Council and Administrative Personnel Present

Council Members:

Ben Giant
 Jason Hartmann
 David Lindley

Staff Present:

Marla Keethler, Mayor
 Paul Koch, Interim City Administrator
 Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer
 Jeff Cooper, Public Works Foreman
 Mike Hepner, Police Chief
 Erika Castro-Guzman, Permit Technician
 Bill Hunsaker, Fire Chief/Building Official
 Kenn Woodrich, City Attorney

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Marla Keethler, Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. There were approximately 24 members of the public in attendance in person and via teleconference.

***Moved by Ben Giant. Seconded by Jason Hartmann.
 Motion to excuse Patty Fink and Jim Ransier. CARRIED 3-0.***

II. Changes to the Agenda

Jan Brending requested the following change to the consent agenda:

1. Add to the Business Items as Item E, Cost-sharing Proposal for Using School District Buses for Free Transportation to the Hood River Pool.

***Moved by Jason Hartmann. Seconded by Ben Giant
 Motion to add to the Business Items as Item E, Cost-sharing Proposal for Using School District Buses for Free Transportation to the Hood River Pool. CARRIED 3-0.***

III. Consent Agenda

- A. Personal Services Contract – The Watershed Company, Land Use Planning Services (Critical Areas Ordinances Update - \$18,080, Shoreline Management Program Review/Update - \$11,190, On-Call Services – Fees per Hour)
- B. Committee Appointments – Patty Fink
- C. Approval of Meeting Minutes – May 12, 2022
- D. Approval of Meeting Minutes – May 18, 2022
- E. Approval of Vouchers

Type	Date	From	To	Amount
Claims	6/15/2022	38159	38202	161,950.44

			Claims Total	161,950.44
Payroll	6/5/2022	EFT	EFT	112,762.17
		38156	38158	1,084.07
			Payroll Total	112,762.17
Manual Claims				
			Manual Total	0.00
			Total All Vouchers	274,712.61

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 15th day of June 2022.

**Moved by David Lindley. Seconded by Ben Giant.
 Motion to approve Consent Agenda as amended. CARRIED 3-0.**

IV. Public Comment

Heidi Venture, White Salmon Washington said she represents White Salmon Co-Housing. She said they hope to build an affordable triplex and referenced goals for housing in the city’s comprehensive plan. She said White Salmon Co-Housing has been waiting over a year for proposed zone changes that might allow the triplex. Venture asked what can be done to help move forward the middle housing tool.

Shelly Baxter, White Salmon Washington thanked the city council for the stop signs at Spring and Main Street. She said she has ridden her bike up Dock Grade and would love to see a bike lane added on Dock Grade so that it can be used to go up and down versus having to go down on Jewett Blvd. Baxter said individuals can easily ride their bikes from Bingen to Dock Grade because there is a wide shoulder or sidewalk available along Highway 14.

Bruce Bolme, White Salmon Washington said he is a homeowner on Scenic and is a cofounder of White Salmon Co-Housing. He encouraged the city council to move forward with considering a middle housing tool.

Marla Keethler, Mayor said the city was awarded a grant to develop a housing action plan. She said it is intended to initially address the middle housing tool within the plan. Keethler said The White Salmon Co-Housing organization will be included as a stakeholder as that planning process moves forward.

Chris Heald, Loop Road Klickitat County said he supports middle income housing. He said he is a board member of Big River Land Trust who is working to create opportunities for middle income households. Heald said he hopes the trust can work with the City of White Salmon to help achieve these goals.

Susan Svenson, White Salmon Washington said she supports bike safety and hopes to see Spring Street addressed. She said she likes the idea of using Dock Grade Road for bike access up and down to Highway 14.

Ray Klebba, White Salmon Washington thanked the city council for the stop signs at Spring Street and Main. He said he supports the idea of adding a bike lane on Dock Grade. Klebba asked the city council to consider changes the public works yard lights that are super bright. He said he does not believe they meet the city's night sky lighting requirements.

Kirby Erdely, White Salmon Washington said he was impressed with the decision the city council made on the Walker house. He said he has faith in the what the city council is doing. Erdely said he supports bicycle safety and noted that he recently had a friend run off the road by truck coming up the Bingen hill. He suggested adding signage on Highway 141 coming out of Bingen might be helpful. Erdely said suggested adding a bike lane on Vine Street as it is a key route off of Jewett.

Dana Shefler, White Salmon Washington said he supports bike lanes to Bingen. He said he is a former park district commissioner. Shefler said he is advocating that the city work with the pool district to find money to build the pool. He said the pool district is in a challenging time.

Anne Maguire, White Salmon White Salmon said she is a co-owner of the lot being considered for the White Salmon Co-Housing project. She said the group wants to build something that would fit into the neighborhood.

Gifford Pinchot, White Salmon Washington said he is part of the White Salmon Co-Housing group and supports the comments made by prior speakers. He said he hopes to be able to move forward.

Peter Wright, White Salmon Washington said he echoes the support for middle housing and would love to see attainable rental housing built. He urged the city to move as quickly as possible on the missing middle housing code.

Kelcey K, White Salmon Washington said she supports the stop sign on Dock Grade Road. She said there are no sidewalks and vehicles travel very fast up Dock Grade. Kelcey K said it is a very scary intersection.

Marla Keethler, Mayor noted there is a public hearing for the proposed 4-way stop sign at Dock Grade and Oak later in the meeting.

V. Presentations

Todd Jacobson, Washington Fish and Wildlife provided information to the city council regarding wildlife interactions in Klickitat and Skamania Counties. He said he has worked with the White Salmon police chief in the past. Jacobson said it is important that residents report wildlife sightings to the enforcement department of Fish and Wildlife. He said if it is a life-threatening situation then the individual should call 911. Jacobson recommended property owners remove

attractants such as garbage cans outside of the home, food & fat residues on barbecues, pet food containers outside of the home, etc.

Ben Giant, Council Member asked if it is illegal to hunt bears.

Todd Jacobson said August 1 – 15 is bear hunting season. He said people can protect themselves if they are in imminent danger.

It was noted that the dispatch center for Fish and Wildlife is not manned 24 hours per day and that residents should call 911 and report wildlife sightings after hours and that state patrol will let Fish and Wildlife know about the incident.

VI. Business Items

A. Parks Plan – Cameron McCarthy

Representatives from Cameron McCarthy provided information to the city regarding the park planning process including public outreach, needs, and goals. It was noted that at the open house held on June 4 the pollinator garden was the top voted amenity desired in the park.

Marla Keethler, Mayor said it has been great to see all of the outreach in the planning process.

Jason Hartmann, Council Member said he is looking forward to the actual plan and feels the consultants are moving in the right direction.

David Lindley, Council Member noted that both Rheingarten Park and the Jewett Sports Complex properties are not owned by the City of White Salmon.

The city's consultants noted that is not uncommon and it ties into the goals for partnerships and collaboration. It was suggested that long-term use agreements with responsibility for management of the facilities should be developed.

Ben Giant, Council Member asked if the school district was included. The consultants noted that they did speak with the Whitson Elementary School principal but not specifically with school district representatives.

David Lindley asked what the splash pad would fall into in the park plan.

It was noted it would show up in maintenance and facility upgrades.

Marla Keethler, Mayor said she appreciates the work that has gone into the plan so far. She asked where the idea for a natural play area came from.

Cameron McCarthy said it came up in multiple stakeholder interviews and that it was ranked in high importance. It was noted that it is a newer type of facility that is trending incorporating natural elements into play areas.

Marla Keethler, Mayor said she feels it is important to incorporate water conservation goals with the splash pad and consider recycling water.

B. Proposed Rezones

Jan Brending provided a brief overview of the proposed rezone of properties currently designated commercial to multi-family residential (R3). She noted that no action is being requested of the city council as an ordinance needs to be developed to enact the proposed rezone.

Erika Castro-Guzman provided additional information on the properties located on the west and east sides of Snohomish north of Tohomish and one property located east of the hospital property. She noted that a public hearing was held before the planning commission who recommended to move ahead with rezone of properties on the west side of Snohomish and the property located east of the hospital property. Castro-Guzman said the planning commission did not recommend moving ahead with the rezone of the two properties located on the east side of Snohomish as the property owners desire to keep the property in commercial.

Marla Keethler, Mayor opened the public hearing on the proposed rezones. Keethler reviewed the requirements for disclosing conflict of interest and any ex parte contacts. Council members reported no conflicts of interest or ex parte contact.

Erica Miller, White Salmon Washington said she supports the proposed rezoning.

Shelly Baxter, White Salmon Washington said she do not live in the area. She said the area is very walkable including to parks and would hate to see it remain in commercial.

Marla Keethler, Mayor closed the public hearing.

Jason Hartmann, Council Member said he likes the idea of more infill and supports the proposed rezoning. He said because the property that the planning commission is not recommending for rezoned is already zoned commercial the city would not be losing it to commercial.

Ben Giant, Council Member said he agrees with the planning commission recommendation.

David Lindley, Council Member said he is also fine with the planning commission recommendation.

C. Ordinance 2022-06-1106 Amending WSMC 10.24.015 Stop Intersections (Specifically 4-way Stop at Oak and Dock Grade Road).

Jason Hartman, Council Member said the City Operations Committee did discuss the proposed 4-way stop at Oak and Dock Grade Road but did not have a specific recommendation and requested it be forwarded to the city council.

Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer provided a review of the proposed ordinance. She noted that the city's code does not current provide for any of the stop signs that are currently in place at Dock Grade and Oak.

Mike Hepner, Police Chief said that once the city put in a crosswalk at Dock Grade and Oak he feels a stop sign needs to be added due the speeding that occurs on Dock Grade. He noted that even if the city's codes do not include stop signs that are actually in place, the Washington Administrative Codes (WACs) would address the issue.

Jeff Cooper, Public Works Foreman said he was told to remove the northbound sign at Dock Grade and Oak once the city's waterline construction project was completed. He said that it is possible to trim some trees to open up the line of site at Oak and Dock Grade. Cooper said he does not feel that an LED lighted stop sign would help much. He said people still drive through the Main stop signs put in place at Spring Street. Cooper said the signage needed for a 4-way stop are currently available.

Jason Hartmann, Council Member asked Jeff Cooper what he thought about the recommendation.

Jeff Cooper, Public Works Foreman said he would put one up.

Marla Keethler, Mayor opened the public hearing.

Shelly Baxter, White Salmon Washington said the four-way at Spring and Main is working. She said she hopes the flashing LED lights will go away in the future. Baxter said the additional stop sign at Dock Grade Road and Oak will help slow down traffic so people can walk and bike in the area safely.

Barbara Beattie, White Salmon Washington said that has lives on Oak Street. She said it is a scary death wish to cross Dock Grade and does not want to see anyone get hit there. Beattie said a flashing stop sign might be an irritant. She said making Dock Grade a two-way road again is not a good idea.

Amanda Lawrence, White Salmon Washington thanked the city council for putting this on the agenda. She said children in the area have to cross Dock Grade to visit other friends and it is a barrier. Lawrence said there is increased traffic. She said that possible increased housing on the east side of Dock Grade should have access to walkability. Lawrence said she is in full support of the proposed stop sign. She said Oak is a great street to walk and bike on.

Kirby Erdely, White Salmon Washington said he is supportive of the proposal. He suggested using advisory lanes for bikes and pedestrians on Dock Grade that would help to slow traffic down. Erdely also suggested considering installing rumble strips or speed bumps.

Marla Keethler, Mayor closed the public hearing.

Jason Hartmann, Council Member said he likes the idea of a speed pump particularly since Dock Grade is not plowed in the winter time.

Jeff Cooper, Public Works Foreman said it is plowed but when the snow is too deep it is closed.

Jason Hartmann, Council Member said that signage alerting drivers that a crosswalk and/or stop sign is coming up would be helpful.

Marla Keethler, Mayor noted that a Voyent poll was sent out with 51 respondents – 36 against and 15 for.

Ben Giant, Council Member said with two council members not present he would be supportive of tabling the decision until the next meeting.

Ken Woodrich, City Attorney said it is premature to consider a motion to table since a motion for a decision has not been made.

There was a consensus of the city council to postpone the decision on the proposed ordinance to the July 6th council meeting.

D. Kinzey Water Line Acceptance – Project 2021.01

Paul Koch, Interim City Administrator provided a review of the Kinzey waterline extension. He noted this project is similar to the Harvey waterline extension. Koch said staff is recommending acceptance of the Kinzey waterline extension.

Moved by Jason Hartmann. Seconded by Ben Giant.

Motion to accept water line extension and approve the Water Line Extension Agreement between the City and Kinzey's Country Place LLC for the Kinzey's Country Place Short Plat. CARRIED 3-0.

E. Cost-sharing Proposal for Using School District Buses for Free Transportation to the Hood River Pool

Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer and Marla Keethler, Mayor provided an overview of a proposal to provide free transportation to the Hood River pool using White Salmon School District buses and drives. There would be two pickup locations in White Salmon, three times per week and two times per day. The program would run from July 4 through August 22 with pickup locations at Rheingarten Park and Rhine Village in White Salmon and Society Hotel and Daubenspeck Park in Bingen. The estimated cost for the program is \$10,000.

Council Members and staff discussed the funding and how to prorate it. It determined that 32% of the pool district population comes from the City of White Salmon with \$3,200 being the cost using that statistic.

Moved by Jason Hartmann. Seconded by David Lindley.
Motion to provide up to \$4,000 toward the cost of transportation using the school district buses and drivers to the Hood River Pool.

Moved by Ben Giant. Seconded by Jason Hartmann.
Motion to amend motion to provide for funding up to \$3,200. CARRIED 3-0.

Motion as amended CARRIED 3-0.

VII. Reports and Communications

A. Department Heads

Mike Hepner, Police Chief said that Comprehensive Health will no longer be providing crisis work in Klickitat County effective August 6. He said it will be up to the Klickitat County Board of Commissioners as to how to replace. Hepner said crisis responders are needed in the county. He noted that all police officers are wearing body cameras as of June 10, 2022.

Bill Hunsaker, Fire Chief/Building Official said that the County Board of Commissioners has delayed implementing the fire ban for Zone 3 to July 1st. He said he is not concerned with the delay.

Jeff Cooper, Public Works Foreman said public works has found a drinking fountain that meets ADA requirements and will provide for bottle filling to replace the one in Rheingarten Park that does not work. He said public works staff has not been involved in the City Operations Committee meetings in the past.

Marla Keethler, Mayor noted that the committee normally meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month but the schedule could be changed in the future.

Cooper said public works staff has been reviewing the costs to paint all of the crosswalks in White Salmon. He said the cost and availability of paint has been an issue. Cooper said that a number of water valve lids associated with the Jewett water line project have broken. He said the city is working with the city's engineer to determine what needs to be done. Cooper said a notice of a water violation has gone out to the public. He said the issue was false reads and the SCADA system not being able to provide adequate information in order for public works to respond. Cooper said public works responded to an issue of rock in the Achor and Academy area to find that a cache basin needed to be cleaned. He said there is a maple street to close the Strawberry Reservoir that needs removed. Cooper said the lights at the Spring Street public works shop are needed for security reasons to protect the city's water system and equipment. He said public works staff meet with Paul Koch and the Mayor to discuss revamping Fireman's Park.

Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer said she has been out of the office the last two weeks of June. She noted Stephanie Porter is out of the office this week for conference training and that Erika Castro-Guzman has been manning city hall. Brending said she is working on getting the Request for Proposals out for the Housing Action Plan and getting a small works roster bid out for asphalt work on Jewett Blvd related to waterline project and for the Patton/Cherry Street overlay.

Paul Koch, Interim City Administrator said the city was notified by the State Department of Health of a water violation. He said notice will be sent to all water customers in both English and Spanish and will be posted on the city's website. Koch said staff has been developing a development review process that involves a team of staff and forms to assist in the process. Erika Castro-Guzman, Permit Technician walked the city council through the development review packet. Koch said the forms will help staff track and monitor developments that are occurring in White Salmon or even in the county where they might have an impact on city services.

Jason Hartmann, Council Member asked if the forms are handwritten or are fillable pdf.

Erika Castro-Guzman, said both can be used.

B. Council Members

David Lindley, Council Member said the Tree Board meet and looked at several tree issues. He said the Board has requested additional input from city staff.

Ben Giant, Council Member said he is enjoying the reports from the Interim City Administrator and hearing reports from Public Works.

C. Mayor

Marla Keethler, Mayor said Farmer's Market started on Tuesday. She said a 4th of July event will be held including a parade and music at Rheingarten Park along with the event at Bingen Point. Keethler said she hopes to bring back "Let's Talk White Salmon" at the end of the month. She asked for input from the council for future topics and plans to have one related to the bridge. Keethler said the city will be closed on Monday, June 20 in recognition of Juneteeth. She said that she and Paul Koch met with Senator Curtis King and spoke to support for the new pool. Keethler said it is exciting to see some enhancements for Fireman's Park.

VIII. Executive Session (if needed)

There was no additional Executive Session.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.



Marla Keethler, Mayor



Jan Breeding, Clerk Treasurer