

CITY OF WHITE SALMON
City Council Meeting – Wednesday, July 6, 2022
In Person and Via Zoom Teleconference

Council and Administrative Personnel Present

Council Members:

Ben Giant
 Patty Fink
 David Lindley
 Jim Ransier

Staff Present:

Russ Avery, Public Works Operations
 Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer
 Marla Keethler, Mayor
 Paul Koch, Interim City Administrator
 Stephanie Porter, Deputy Clerk
 Shawn MacPherson, City Attorney
 Jeff Cooper, Public Works Foreman

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Marla Keethler, Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m. Jason Hartmann was absent. There were approximately 10 members of the public in attendance in person and via teleconference.

Moved by Ben Giant. Seconded by David Lindley.

Motion to excuse Jason Hartmann from the July 6, 2022 City Council meeting. CARRIED 4-0

II. Changes to the Agenda

Jan Brending requested to add the Masonic Lodge Parking Lot Lease to the Consent Agenda.
Moved by Patty Fink. Seconded by Ben Giant.

Motion to add the Masonic Lodge Parking Lot Lease to the Consent Agenda. CARRIED 4-0.

III. Consent Agenda

- A. Task Order - Anderson Perry & Associates (\$55,000)
- B. Approval for Modification of Existing USDA Forest Service Agreement (\$4,234)
- C. Approval of Meeting Minutes - June 1, 2022
- D. Approval of Meeting Minutes - June 15, 2022
- E. Approval of Meeting Minutes - June 21, 2022
- F. 2022 May Budget Report
- G. Approval of Vouchers
- H. Masonic Lodge Parking Lot Lease

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 6th day of July 2022.

Type	Date	From	To	Amount
Claims	7/6/2022	EFT	EFT	2,190.00

	7/6/2022	38217	38272	200,516.42
			Claims Total	202,706.42
Payroll	6/21/2022	EFT	EFT	72,854.62
	6/21/2022	38203	38203	2,686.00
	7/5/2022	EFT	EFT	111,547.53
	7/5/2022	38212	38214	396.61
	7/5/2022	38216	38216	842.80
			Payroll Total	188,327.56
Manual Claims	6/5/2022	EFT	EFT	2,337.80
	6/16/2022	EFT	EFT	7,670.46
	6/23/2022	38204	38211	49,809.75
	7/5/2022	EFT	EFT	2,045.64
	7/10/2022	EFT	EFT	7,920.00
			Manual Total	69,783.65
			Total All Vouchers	460,817.63

Jim Ransier asked why the Task Order for the pump stations was being brought to the council before the Water System Plan.

Marla Kethler said it is due to the application window for funding this fall. The target is to have the pump stations functioning by 2023. Marla said the goal is to be proactive in having water capacity for future growth.

Jim Ransier asked about the Masonic Lodge Parking Lot Lease auto renewal language.

Jan Brending said the auto renewal is for the new lease agreement and will be triggered moving forward.

Moved by David Lindley. Seconded by Jim Ransier.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda as presented. CARRIED 4-0.

IV. Public Comment

Kevin Herman, White Salmon Resident said he opposes the four-way stop at Main St and Spring St. Kevin said the reasons it was placed was due to visibility issues created by cars parked, which have now been moved. Kevin said since the cars have been moved, the stop signs should be removed.

Kevin said he is against the Dock Grade Stop Sign. Kevin said there should at least be a traffic study done first. Kevin recommended that Dock Grade be one way going south, then the stop sign would be unnecessary.

Kevin said the tire chalking ruling came out of the Sixth Circuit Court in Michigan and does not apply to other jurisdictions.

Gabrielle Gilbert, Klickitat County Resident spoke to the need for childcare in our area and the desire to see it be made a priority within our Economic Growth Plan. Gabrielle said as a caregiver she has seen parents in our area stretched. Gabrielle requested that the city look at how they can be more involved in the solution to the childcare crisis. Gabrielle said if the city established a childcare facility that the grant money available increases exponentially. Gabrielle said she wants to see the city open the doors of childcare in White Salmon.

David Lindley, Council Member noted that the Stop Sign Intersection Ordinance and Discussion will be on the July 20, 2022 City Council agenda. David noted that it will be a more nuanced discussion as the city staff has expanded their research to provide additional information on the subject.

V. Presentations

A. PRIDE Heritage Month – Speaker Rachel Suits

Rachel Suits works with the White Salmon Valley School District as the 21st Century Learning Center and A List Adventure Program Coordinator. This includes LGBTQIA support and education programs.

Rachel also works with educators around the Gorge to understand how they can best support the LGBTQ+ youth community. A support group was established in 2020 when at home learning became necessary, knowing that home is not the safest place for all youth.

The group focuses on LGBTQ+ youth events, professional development, and adult education. These programs cover a wide range of topics that aid in the support of LGBTQ+ youth, including How to De-escalate and Bullying Awareness, Be an Ally, Healthcare Training, and Parent Support Groups.

The group is working on creating a Youth Strength and Needs Assessment to give youth a voice to create programming for themselves. They have been working to host events that allow Queer youth to meet each other and create supportive friendships.

Rachel said the best way for city leaders to support the local LGBTQ+ youth community would be to encourage the local business owners to engage in the adult trainings offered to help them be strong allies in the community.

VI. Business Items

A. Fire Emergency Services Plan of Action

Paul Koch presented the Fire Emergency Services Plan of Action with Klickitat County Fire District 3. Paul highlighted that Klickitat County Fire District 3 would hire consultant Bob Merritt and the city would enter into an Interlocal Agreement for cost sharing.

Paul said that in the plan of action, a Task Force of 10 citizens will be created to report to the City Council and Fire Board with specific recommendations in December 2022.

Ben Giant asked what the criteria would be for choosing the Task Force Members.

Paul Koch said they would be citizens that volunteer. The Task Force will ultimately be decided by the City Council and Fire Board.

David Lindley asked if a cost estimate had been identified.

Paul Koch said the cost estimate is between \$20,000 and \$30,000 that would be split with Klickitat County Fire District 3.

Jan Brending said this cost may be doable within the existing Fire budget.

Moved by Ben Giant. Seconded by David Lindley.

Motion to adopt the Fire Emergency Plan of Action presented on July 6, 2022. CARRIED 4-0.

B. Ordinance 2022 – 07 -1107 – Rezone

Jan Brending presented the ordinance approving and affecting a rezone classification of identified properties on Snohomish Ave and Rhine Village Drive from General Commercial to Residential Multi-Family (R-3).

Ben Giant asked for confirmation that the 2 parcels east of Snohomish where the owner's did not want to be rezoned are not included in this Ordinance for Rezone.

Jan Brending confirmed this is correct.

Moved by Jim Ransier. Seconded by Ben Giant.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2022-07-1107, Approving and Affecting a Rezone Classification of Certain Properties from General Commercial to Residential Multi-Family (R-3). CARRIED 4-0.

VII. Reports and Communications

A. Department Heads

Russ Avery, Public Works Operations Manager

Russ said Public Works has been working on identifying and repairing sidewalks that are buckling. They have repaired the Park Shelter beam. Russ said there will be a Public Works Work Plan by the end of the month.

Russ is working on the Water System Plan sections related to Operation Maintenance and updating the City of White Salmon Construction Standards.

Patty Fink asked if the city has an ordinance that requires homeowners to repair the sidewalks in front of their property.

Russ said that sidewalks are the homeowner's responsibility. Russ said if it a safety issue, public works views that as a priority to fix.

Marla Keethler confirmed that per the city code the sidewalks maintenance and liability are the homeowner's responsibility.

Patty Fink asked if the sidewalks being repaired are adjacent to public property.

Jeff Cooper said no.

Jan Brending said that in smaller cities the buckling sidewalks would likely be repaired by the city because of the safety issue. Jan said that the maintenance portion of the code likely refers to snow and vegetation removal and general maintenance, not larger repairs to the sidewalk. Jan said this is something the city may want to clarify in the code.

Jeff Cooper, Public Work Foreman

Jeff said the water fountains at the park have been installed and are functioning. They are ADA accessible.

The bathrooms at the park will need to be winterized differently since they will be open year-round.

Jeff said the Park Shelter beam is in and the structure is stable.

Jeff said Public Works is working on solutions for sidewalk buckling in front of Northshore Medical and on Jewett at 7th and 8th St.

The older wood tennis court signs have been removed per city hall request as they were creating some confusion on who is responsible for the tennis court reservation process. The city is not currently responsible for the maintenance or scheduling of the tennis courts as they are owned and operated by the White Salmon Valley School District.

Jeff requested that the city regain use of the storage building at the city lot by Whitson Elementary School. Jeff said the storage space would be helpful for storing park equipment and other larger street equipment.

Jeff asked if the sidewalks in the park are being covered by the park plan.

Jan Brending said yes.

Jeff said the Public Works helped with the firework clean up at the port.

Jeff said that Sandy Dicky provided a rough quote for the Fireman's Park flowers at \$2800. The electrician has been struggling to find the parts needed to configure the electricity at Fireman's Park. The existing flagpole at Fireman's Park will need to be removed with a crane.

Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer

Jan said a few bids came in, but staff is not ready to present them to the City Council yet due to funding review.

Request for proposals out for Housing Action Plan. There will be a recommendation for a consultant at an upcoming meeting. The city has a grant for this project which will hopefully cover the consultant cost.

Planner interviews are continuing this week. We are hoping to have a planner hired by the first of August.

The city has a planning consultant that will be utilized to process the more urgent planning issue that have been on hold since the city has been without a planner.

Jim Ransier asked if staff was planning to continue to wait on the FishCo Agreement negotiations, that have been taking a substantial amount of time, to

be completed before addressing the Everybody's Brewing agreement negotiations. **Paul Koch** said the idea was to keep them separate. Paul said there will be meeting with Everybody's Brewing July 14, 2022.

Jan Brending said the owners of Everybody's Brewing had been out of town previously which is why the city had focused on FishCo. Jan said that the FishCo agreement was to be used as a lead in to the Everybody's Brewing Agreement.

Jim Ransier asked for an update on Granicus Short Term Rental tracking system.

Jan Brending said city staff put together the data base. Jan will review and enter the current licensed Short-Term Rentals in town. Jan said the enforcement letter is out for review to the city attorney.

Paul Koch, Interim City Administrator

Water Master Plan meeting later this week in hopes of having the plan complete by the end of July. Paul said there are many staff members coming together to contribute with the goal of creating the most effective plan for the city.

Ben Giant asked for context on why the candidates for City Administrator turned down the offers extended.

Marla Keethler said the first candidate had to withdraw due to personal reasons which was due to unfortunate timing. The second candidate had reservations due to moving a family. The goal is to continue to be aggressive in our search. Paul is the ICA through July per the current contract. Paul has offered up a limited extension of the contract.

Shawn MacPherson, City Attorney

Shawn said there is a new law associated with open carry in public buildings and during public meetings. There is signage required to declare what the requirements are for the space. Shawn said our signage is acceptable.

Stephanie Porter, Deputy Clerk

The Postmaster had not yet submitted the documents provided by the city due to a struggle adding the proposed stops to existing routes. The new proposal will present the option of a new route for the White Salmon mail stops. This will allow for more flexibility in cluster box locations. Staff will meet to review proposed stops and the visit locations to confirm feasibility. Once appropriate city staff and leadership has identified and confirmed location and the route, the route plan will be submitted to the postmaster for US Post Office approval of the new route.

Stephanie said monthly meter read will begin with the October 2022 utility bill. This will make it easier for water users to track their usage and in turn help with the conservation efforts.

Stephanie said she spoke with Russ about looking at our current bulk water rates. Russ will be looking at comparable water system rates to hopefully make up some adjustments to the city's current bulk purchase rates which seem to be underpriced.

Patty Fink asked if properties on existing route could be prioritized.

Marla Keethler said this will be a big change and there will be parts of the community that will not be able to be served by cluster boxes but will be eligible for free PO Boxes. Coordinating this messaging and ultimately switch to the new system will be most effective if done all together. It is a big shift that we only want to do one time to give residents a chance to respond as a whole and to implement as a whole.

B. Council Members

Patty Fink, Council Member

City Operations committee talked about Yard Debris pick up. The committee is looking at doing a survey to see if residents would be interested. It is allowable within the city limits to take on yard debris pick up without taking on additional services.

Ben Giant, Council Member

Thanked staff for their work.

Jim Ransier, Council Member

The City LAB reviewed the development packet. It instigated talk of looking into incentivizing green building standards. The committee would like to have the city staff update what is allowed as a non-GMA county.

The park mural is complete. Jim thanked the volunteers. Special thank you to Sally Gilchrist who designed the mural, Molly Holmlund who led the painting efforts, and Jeff Cooper and Ryan Adam from Public Works for their ongoing help to complete the project.

Jim attended the White Salmon Downtown Business Group which discussed what type of events they would like to see in the future. Jim will bring this to the Community Development Committee to review in more depth.

David Lindley, Council Member

The Personnel and Finance Committee met and discussed the May Budget Report that was approved by City Council tonight. David said they discussed how the city would pay for an expense approved by council for the Hood River Pool Transportation project with the White Salmon Valley Pool District. David said Jan identified some leftover funds from the Walker House project that would cover this.

C. Mayor

Mayor Marla Keethler said that the Shared Pool Transportation service has been put on hold by the School District due to the inability to find bus drivers. The city is waiting to issue funding until the program is functioning.

Marla said there was a meeting with 2 Pool Commissioner for an update on the pool. Marla intends to make known that the city supports the pool and will look at continue the conversation on how the city could best support the pool with funding contribution options.

Marla said there is focus on moving forward with personnel changes.

Fireman's Park is in the plan to be completed this year. Marla will be working with staff to move forward with the projects.

Jason Hartmann will be running the July 20, 2022 meeting. Marla will be in Washington DC advocating for the replacement of the White Salmon/Hood River Bridge.

Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area is in public comment for their Climate Action Plan. City LAB reviewed the plan and have made comment to be submitted.

Marla said there was a bobcat in town lounging in a tree. Marla requested that residents be extra cautious.

Jim Ransier asked if there currently any actions being taken to provide more Childcare options in White Salmon.

Marla said the city is participating in a program focusing on connecting children to nature. This program is mostly aimed at ages 0-5. This program is bringing about conversations of allowing outdoor preschools being licensed.

Marla said both herself and the Bingen Mayor were vocal about the need for childcare when commenting on the County Economic Development Plan.

Marla said she would like to review the county's plan. Marla said that currently all action in regard to childcare issues are in the talking phase. Marla said the goal is to find the best action for the city to take to make the greatest impact for White Slamon residents.

Patty Fink said you can get to the Hood River Pool using a combination of the Mount Adams Transportation (MAT) and CAT transportation systems. Children under the age of 10 ride for free with an adult.

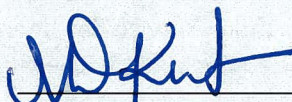
Patty said that if the city is interested in expanding the transportation options for White Salmon residents, it would be worth a conversation with the senior center and MCAT directors to work together. Patty said there are a lot of grant option available that go unused because the matching funds are not available through the smaller entities.

VIII. Executive Session (if needed)

There was no additional Executive Session.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:33p.m.



Marla Keethler, Mayor



Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer