

CITY OF WHITE SALMON
City Council Meeting – Wednesday, July 20, 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:

Russ Avery, Public Works Operations
Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer
Jeff Cooper, Public Works Foreman
Mike Hepner, Police Chief
Bill Hunsaker, Fire Chief/Code Enforcement
Paul Koch, Interim City Administrator
Stephanie Porter, Deputy Clerk
Ken Woodrich, City Attorney

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

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

II. Changes to the Agenda

Jan Brending requested to add Request for Additional Financial Support for Park Restroom Mural.

Moved by Jim Ransier. Seconded by Ben Giant.

Motion to add business item Request for Additional Financial Support for Park Restroom Mural. CARRIED 5-0.

III. Consent Agenda

- A. Resolution 2022-07-545, Declaring Surplus Property
- B. Small Works Roster Agreement for HVAC Replacement at Fire Hall/Public Works Shop
- A&E Heating (\$29,787.18)
- C. Approval of Meeting Minutes - July 6, 2022
- D. 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 20th day of July 2022.

Type	Date	From	To	Amount
Claims	7/20/2022	EFT	EFT	11,327.73
	7/20/2022	38274	38297	90,597.95
			Claims Total	101,925.68
Payroll	7/20/2022	EFT	EFT	71,458.07

	7/20/2022	EFT	EFT	10,347.05
			Payroll Total	81,805.12
Manual Claims	6/1/2022	EFT	EFT	61,992.12
	6/10/2022	EFT	EFT	7,920.00
	7/19/2022	38273	38273	10,000.00
			Manual Total	79,912.12
			Total All Vouchers	263,642.92

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

IV. Public Comment

Robert Chamberlain, White Salmon Resident

Robert Chamberlain said at the intersection of Dock Grade and Oak Street, coming from the east on Oak Street, traffic coming up Dock Grade is not visible due to the jersey dividers. Chamberlain said that clearing the line of sight will only increase speed coming up Dock Grade through that intersection.

Susan Romes, White Salmon Resident

Susan Romes said she grew up in White Salmon on Oak Street and is in favor of a stop sign, even if it just slows traffic down. Romes said that a "California Stop" is better than no stop. She said she stepped out to cross Dock Grade at Oak Street and was almost hit by a car that did not look for any oncoming traffic. Romes said there is concern that if the city does not act, when someone gets hurt, the city will be liable.

Jeff Cooper, White Salmon Resident

Jeff Cooper said that he supports these stop sign, especially since both the White Salmon Police Chief and Fire Chief are in favor of the stop sign to increase safety.

V. Business Items

A. Interim City Administrator Contract Extension – Paul Koch

Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer presented the details of the contract extension for Paul Koch, the City's interim City Administrator. Jan said that the city is working to have a City Administrator hired in September to start in October of this year. Jan said that Paul would be work with the new City Administrator in the office through the end of October 2022 and would be available on call November 1 – December 31, 2022.

Ken Woodrich, City Attorney, noted that the scope of work and contract do not show the same not to exceed amount.

Jan Brending confirmed both should show a not to exceed amount of \$102,000.

Jim Ransier, Ben Giant, and Jason Hartmann all thanked Paul for his leadership and willingness to extend his time in White Salmon.

Moved by Ben Giant. Seconded by Patty Fink.

Motion to approve the proposed contract extension with Paul Koch to continue to serve and the Interim City Administrator in an amount not to exceed \$102,000 through December 31, 2022 with a correction to the scope of work to show a not to exceed amount of \$102,000. CARRIED 5-0.

B. Ordinance 2022-07-1106 Stop Intersection Designated (Dock Grade and Oak St)

Paul Koch, Interim City Administrator presented alternative safety enhancements to a stop sign for the of Dock Grade Road as requested by council. Paul explained that the council may approve all recommendations, selected recommendation, none of the recommendation, or the council may select new enhancements.

Paul presented the following alternative safety enhancements:

1. Relocate the two stop signs on Oak Street closer to the intersection with Dock Grade and paint “stop strips” on the pavement.
2. Replace the current speed limit signs on Dock Grade with larger signs that are easier to see and read.
3. Remove the trees blocking the line of sight on the SW corner and cut the berm back to open the line of sight onto Dock Grade. Paul noted that this work is planned to be done July 19-20 as it is a safety issue.
4. Repaint the yellow lane separator line near the intersection of Jewett.
5. Replace all bollards with larger and brighter bollards to reduce the travel lane at the intersection. Narrow down the lane to 40-50 feet back from the intersection.
6. Install a “Yield pedestrian crossing” sign at the SE intersection alerting drivers of the potential presence of pedestrians at the intersection.

Koch noted that the cost for these enhancements is between \$3,101 and \$11,101 depending on the desired actions.

Jason Hartmann, Council Member, said that a stop sign is not one of the listed recommendations. He asked if these recommendations are intended to be in addition to the recommendation of a stop sign.

Koch said these recommendations were to be utilized as an alternative to the stop sign.

Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer, said in addition to a decision on the safety enhancements, she recommends the ordinance for designating stop signs be adopted to incorporate, at a minimum, the three (3) stop signs at the northwest, southwest and northeast corners of Oak Street and Dock Grade that are in place but not currently in our code.

David Lindley, Council Member, asked if the stop sign is approved would staff still recommend the additional safety enhancements.

Koch said if the council is in favor of the additional safety enhancements, approving a yield sign would be the recommendation before moving forward with the stop sign.

Jim Ransier, Council Member, asked for feedback from the city's Police and Fire Chiefs.

Mike Hepner, Police Chief, said there have been 2 injuries caused by collisions at this intersection this year, which Mike said was not the case with Spring Street. He said that his recommendation is to approve the stop sign and the additional safety enhancements.

Bill Hunsaker, Fire Chief, said he agrees with the police chief that there should be a stop sign and the additional safety enhancements. Bill noted that he has witnessed driver driving way to fast up Dock Grade.

Ken Woodrich, City Attorney, said that when it comes to an intersection with 3 stop signs and a yield sign, that the city needs to be diligent in confirming that all signage is consistent with the Model Uniform Traffic Code.

Jim Ransier, Council Member, said that in previous council meetings the community feedback was not in consensus with placing a stop sign.

Jason Hartmann, Council Member, noted that per his recollection the survey that was sent out via Voyent! Alert systems regarding the stop sign came back with a 2/3 majority against the stop sign.

Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer, said that at the Public Hearing for the stop sign the majority of public comment was in favor of the stop sign.

Ben Giant, Council Member, agreed.

Jim Raniser, Council Member, said he is in favor of the stop sign. Jim said the small delay in commute seems to be small price for public safety. Jim said he is in favor of the listed safety enhancements 1-5 and changing the yield sign to a stop sign.

Patty Fink, Council Member said she will always vote to enhance pedestrian safety. Patty said that she is in favor of a stop sign and the additional safety enhancements to encourage the goals of a more walkable city.

Ben Giant, Council Member, said the safety and the city's liability are at the fore front of this decision. He noted that per previous council meeting discussion the stop sign is available and ready to be installed. Ben asked for clarification that if the stop sign is installed, would the additional enhancements still be necessary or are these enhancements more recommended with the yield sign in lieu of a stop sign.

Paul Koch, Interim City Administrator, said that the original assignment from council was to come up with a more comprehensive set of recommendations for the intersection. Paul said the recommendations presented came from a variety of staff input to provide a variety of options to the council.

Ben Giant, Council Member, said staff has provided a great report. Ben asked how the various options staff identified lead to the six recommendations provided by staff.

Koch said as the Interim City Administrator he put together the final recommendations to be presented to council. He said that the recommendation may not be agreed upon by all staff. Koch encouraged council to ask questions of staff as a vital part of the process to make this decision. He said that the council has the final choice on what will be done at the intersection.

Ben Giant, Council Member, asked if staff consulted with the Uniform Traffic Code to confirm the six (6) recommendations adhere to the code.

Koch said he did not confirm with Traffic Code. He said he spoke with Washington State Department of Transportation and a few other cities before making the final recommendation.

Ben Giant, Council Member, said from a constituent perspective it could look like a \$50 stop sign installation that has now become an \$8,000 expense to a budget that is already taxed. He said he wants to ensure that all the additional safety measures in addition to the stop sign are necessary. Ben said that through this process he would agree there is a need to address the speed at which cars are traveling through this intersection.

David Lindley, Council Member, said he made the request of staff at the last meeting for a more comprehensive look at the intersection. He said that the stop sign is cheap and expedient, but it does not address all the additional concerns, such as the line-of-sight issues or the excessive speed that cause people to drive through cement barrier and fence. Lindley said the speed limit is 20 MPH and that speed is not being adhered to. He noted that per the walkability study, it was shown that speed can be reduced by narrowing the width of the traffic lane. Lindley said he does not want to put a price on safety.

Patty Fink, Council Member, said we have not narrowed the travel lane on Dock Grade after the intersection and therefore a stop sign is necessary.

David Lindley, Council Member said he supports a stop sign and the additional safety enhancements.

Jim Ransier, Council Member said that the removal of the berm is the majority of the expense presented.

Jeff Cooper, Public Works Foreman, said many of the listed enhancements have already been completed. He said the stop signs have been moved, the stop bars put in, the trees have been trimmed back for line-of-sight, the bank has been removed back to the large rock that will require additional equipment to be removed, and turn lanes, driving lanes and directional arrows have been painted. Cooper said public works has the speed signs, stop sign (18x24) and bollards available on hand. Jeff said flashing lights and larger signs would need to be ordered if approved.

Jim Ransier, Council Member, confirmed that the removal of the berm was completed except the large rock.

Cooper said that he believes the removal of the rock could be done for under \$1000.

Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer, asked if Public Works had the flashing crosswalk lights in stock.

Cooper said yes. He said the northwest corner would need to be surveyed to mark the city's corners. Cooper said that the city would have to potentially move a fence to install a cross walk with the lights.

Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer said that it may be worth looking into in addition to the stop sign.

Patty Fink, Council Member said she is in favor of lower speed limit.

Public Comment was allowed from **Bill Fleisher, White Salmon Resident**. Bill Fleischer said he would like for neighbors to be asked about the changes to their neighborhood at Dock Grade and Oak St. He said he is against the stop sign but is in favor of speed bumps and flashing lights. Fleisher said the yellow barrels are an eye sore that need to be removed. He recommended painting the speed limit ns 20 MPH on the street and to consider lowering the speed limit on all of Dock Grade. Fleischer asked to council to table their decision until they have more information because the safety concern is a speeding issue, not a stopping issue.

Jason Hartmann, Council Member, said that he agrees that the public safety issue hold the most weight and he would be in favor of a stop sign.

Jim Ransier, Council Member, asked about pros and cons of rumble strips.

Paul Koch said he looked at the ones on the bridge. He said they may be usable in this case.

Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer, noted that rumble strips would likely require a contractor which would increase the overall cost.

Jason Hartmann, Council Member, asked staff input around a speed bump as a measure to slow traffic.

Jeff Cooper recommended an inset bump to be better for plowing in the winter.

Russ Avery, Public Works Operation Manager, said he contacted WSDOT for information on which contractor they use for rumble strips and inset speed bumps. Russ confirmed that it is something that would need to be contracted out.

Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer, recommended moving to adopt Ordinance 2022-07-1106 and then authorize staff recommendation 1-5 and then council members can amend the motion as desired.

Ken Woodrich, City Attorney, recommended that the Ordinance and the staff instructions be adopted as separate motion for clarity.

Moved by Jim Ransier. Seconded by Ben Giant.

Motion to approve safety enhancements to Dock Grade numbered 1-5.

Discussion

Ben Giant asked if the city has the larger speed signs noted in item 2 in inventory. Staff said no.

Moved by Patty Fink. Seconded by Jim Ransier.

Motion to amend main motion to add the painting of the speed limit on Dock Grade Road.

Discussion

Patty Fink said that the most efficient way to reduce speed is to narrow the travel lane, which is not currently feasible all the way up Dock Grade. She said that another proven way to reduce speed is to paint the speed limit on the roadway because it reminds drivers that they are entering a neighborhood which requires slow speed.

Jim Ransier asked if any staff had concerns about painting the speed limit on Dock Grade. Staff had no noted concerns.

Bill Hunsaker noted the Uniformed Traffic Code recommends a 24x30 speed sign for the size of Dock Grade Road.

Jim Ransier asked if the sign size needs to be clarified.

Ken Woodrich said that the city must follow the Uniform Traffic Code requirements. Ken said even if a sign size option is given, he advises to go with what is recommended in the effort to minimize liability.

***Motion to amend main motion to add painting of the speed limit on Dock Grade Road
CARRIED 4-1 with the following vote: Ben Giant – Nay, Patty Fink – Aye, Jason
Hartmann – Aye, David Lindley – Aye, Jim Ransier - Aye.***

Moved by Jim Ransier. Seconded by Ben Giant.

Motion to amend main motion item 2 to specify the larger signs be 24x30.

Discussion

David Lindley asked if the motion should include approval for the items that have already been completed.

Jan Brending said that the enhancements that have already been completed do not require council approval, however, it would not hurt to have a motion approving the work.

Motion to Amend main motion item 2 to specify the larger signs be 24x 30. CARRIED 5-0

Motion to approve safety enhancements to Dock Grade numbered 1-5 with amendments adding item 6 painting of the speed limit on Dock Grade and clarification to item 2 that signs will be 24x30 per Uniform Traffic Code recommendation. CARRIED 5-0.

Jason Hartmann, Council Member, presented the remaining decision for the council to decide on the stop sign designations for the Oak St and Dock Grade intersection. He restated that the council will at minimum need to approve the 3 existing stop signs but will need to decide on the 4th pending stop sign.

Moved by Patty Fink. Seconded by Jim Ransier.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2022-07-1106 amending WSMC 10.24.015 Stop Intersections Designated – Sign Erection Authorized.

Discussion

Jim Ransier said he appreciates the public comment. Jim said he believes this stop sign is necessary as resolution to a public safety issue.

Ben Giant asked for clarification from staff, after the approval of the additional safety enhancements, if a yield sign is the recommendation or if a stop sign is the recommendation.

Paul Koch said that the stop sign was the most popular option.

Jason Hartmann said he believes a yield sign would be confusing for traffic. Jason said it would create need for additional signage to direct traffic.

Jim Ransier clarified that if the 4-way stop was approved the stop signs would include the sign under clarifying the 4-way stop.

Patty Fink confirmed that traffic revision signs will be posted for drivers.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2022-07-1106 amending WSMC 10.24.016 Stop Intersections Designated – Sign Erection Authorized. CARRIED 5-0

C. Request for Additional Financial Support for Park Restroom Mural

Jim Ransier, Council Member presented the request for an additional \$402.60 to be added to the total payment amount for the Park Restroom Mural. He said the increase in budget would allow the city to pay the White Salmon Arts Council a total of \$500 towards the payment of artist hours. Ransier said that the White Salmon Art Council anticipated 10 paid hours of labor with volunteers, but the final amount was \$3200 for hours invested into the Park Restroom Mural due to the complexity of the design. He clarified that the request would take the remaining funds of \$92.40 from the original budgeted amount of \$500 and add an additional \$402.60 for a total project cost of \$902.60.

Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer, said that the total cost of paint supplies was \$402.60 from an approved budgeted amount of \$500 to complete the mural at the Rheingarten Park Restrooms. She noted that a large portion of the supplies were donated by Ace Hardware in White Salmon.

Ken Woodrich, City Attorney, said that because this is a city project on city right-of-way a contractual agreement should not be necessary but a reimbursement voucher from the White Salmon Art Council will be needed.

Jim Ransier said that an invoice with the total cost will be provided by the White Salmon Art Council.

Patty Fink noted that in the future the city should look at these costs more completely to avoid overspending.

Jason Hartmann said that \$500 seems like a bargain for the scale and quality of the art piece.

Jim Ransier said that originally there were more volunteers lined up to help, but they did not show up as frequently as was expected.

David Lindley noted this work turned an eye sore into a beautiful art piece.

Moved by Jim Ransier. Seconded by David Lindley.

Motion to approve the additional expenditures of \$402.60 to be spent towards the Park Restroom Mural coming from Community Services Supplies budget to provide a total of \$500 towards Molly Holmlund, muralist, cost.
CARRIED 5-0

VI. Reports and Communications
A. Department Heads

Russ Avery, Public Works Operations Manager

Russ Avery said he is working on the Water System Plan Update, specifically the source water protection, operation and maintenance, and construction standards. He said they are adding street standards and stormwater standards. Avery said he is working on the annual work plan for public works. He said there will be a meeting on the SCADA pre-design report. Avery said Starlink Satellite is ready and will be installed at Buck Creek Monitoring Station in order for the information to be input in the new SCADA system.

Jeff Cooper, Public Work Foreman

Jeff Cooper spoke about the operations of public works. Jeff noted they have needed a woodchipper. He said they have been looking at consolidating the wood chipping projects into one specific time frame as the rental is \$500 a day. Cooper noted that the Brush Removal letter was still in progress to help authorize the clearing of sidewalks. He said Public works is working on upgrading the kiosk in Rheingarten Park. Public works repaired a water leak on a 2" main on Jewett. There were 3 new water taps. Cooper said Public Works is looking at decommissioning an old water line that runs Tohomish Street to Lincoln Street across Main Ave. He asked for a time frame for installation of the approved actions for the Dock Grade/Oak Street intersection.

Jan Brending said the ordinance goes into effect 5 days after publication. Jan said she would notify Public Works of the date when she solidifies it.

Patty Fink asked about sidewalk maintenance issue.

Staff and council discussed. Ken Woodrich suggested that safety issues should always be taken care of by the city to avoid liability issues.

Patty Fink requested that the city look at updating the White Salmon Municipal Code to establish the recommended process.

Bill Hunsaker noted that there is not a provision in code that allows the city to bill for maintenance of the sidewalks. He said the line-of-sight letter is in review to Ken Woodrich.

Ken Woodrich confirmed the letter will need to be approved by council because it allocates city resources on behalf of a property owner.

Bill Hunsaker, Fire Chief/Code Enforcement Officer/Building Official

Bill Hunsaker noted he is continuing work on the line-of-sight letter. It should be to council by the next council meeting. He said there was only one fire call on the 4th of July for White Salmon and Fire District 3 has not calls. Hunsaker said

work is moving forward to create the community task force for the Fire Emergency Services Plan.

Mike Hepner, Police Chief

Mike Hepner discussed the police department's current status. He said he has 5 great officers, but they are going to calls alone, which is a safety issue. Hepner noted that if an officer makes an arrest, it takes them off the street for roughly 4-5 hours due to booking processes and transport.

He said he is requesting that the council seriously consider allowing an additional police officer to increase the overall safety of the community and the police department staff.

Council discussed with Mike the best options to support the Police Department.

Hepner said that his bottom line is his officer safety and that an additional officer is the best solution for this issue.

David Lindley thanked Hepner for bringing up this issue. He noted that the budget committee will look at any options available.

Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer

Jan Brending said she is working on a baseline budget showing base revenues and base expenditures, which will allow the council and staff to see a real picture of the city financial position. She said the city administrator position has been reopened for applications. Brending said she is working to begin the transition of duties to her retirement.

Ken Woodrich, City Attorney

Ken Woodrich confirmed that the city was in compliance with the new open weapon carry laws for public meetings.

Paul Koch, Interim City Administrator

Paul Koch said that the city has reached out to League of Oregon Cities and Association of Washington Cities to assist in recruitment for the City Administrator position. He noted the city has made a job offer for the Land Use Planner position.

Stephanie Porter, Deputy Clerk

Stephanie Porter said that the mail delivery project is moving forward And that she is working on getting pricing locked in for the cluster boxes.

B. Council Members

Ben Giant, Council Member

Ben Giant thanked staff for their participation and commitment. He also thanked Jan Brending for extending her time with White Salmon.

Patty Fink, Council Member

Patty Fink noted that she had taken some pictures of a few features through her travels that she believes would enhance the city, including memorial benches, water bottle stations at water fountains and public restroom options.


Jim Ransier, Council Member

Jim Ransier said the Community Development Committee met and has begun working on a plan for Halloween including possibly closing a portion of Jewett for the evening.

VII. Executive Session (if needed)
There was no Executive Session.

VIII. Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.



Maria Keethler, Mayor

Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer