

CITY OF WHITE SALMON
City Council Meeting – Wednesday, August 3, 2022
In Person and Via Zoom Teleconference

Council and Administrative Personnel Present

Council Members:

Ben Giant
Patty Fink
Jason Hartmann
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

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

***Moved by Jason Hartmann. Seconded by Jim Ransier.
Motion to excuse Council Member David Lindley.***

II. Changes to the Agenda

Marla Keethler requested to add a presentation by James Szubski, Consent Agenda item E. Task Order for Anderson Perry to update drawings in the Construction Standards and business item B. FISHCO Agreement.

***Moved by Jason Hartmann. Seconded by Ben Giant.
Motion to add presentation by James Szubski, Consent Agenda item E. Task Order for Anderson Perry to update drawings in the Construction Standards and business item B. FISHCO Agreement. CARRIED 4-0.***

III. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Code Enforcement Line of Sight Letter
- B. June 2022 Budget Report
- C. Approval of Meeting Minutes - July 20, 2022
- D. Approval of Vouchers
- E. Task Order - Anderson Perry - update the drawings in the Construction Standards (\$5000)

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 3rd day of August 2022.

Type	Date	From	To	Amount
Claims	8/3/2022	EFT	EFT	2,190.00
	8/3/2022	38302	38344	148,074.69
			Claims Total	150,264.69
Payroll	8/2/2022	38301	38301	839.88
	8/5/2022	EFT	EFT	109,542.80
	8/5/2022	38298	38300	396.61
			Payroll Total	110,779.29
Manual Claims				
	7/15/2022	EFT	EFT	110.00
	8/5/2022	EFT	EFT	2,215.00
	8/10/2022	EFT	EFT	7,920.00
			Manual Total	10,245.00
			Total All Vouchers	271,288.98

Moved by Ben Giant. Seconded by Jim Ransier.
Motion to approve Consent Agenda as presented. CARRIED 4-0.

IV. Public Comment

Gabrielle Gilbert, Klickitat County Resident

Gabrielle Gilbert requested that the city make in town day care options a priority in the budget and the five-year plan. She requested that the council members voice their support of childcare for our community and commitment to addressing the lack of available care in the city. Gabrielle Gilbert recommended collaboration with Skyline Hospital and other interested agencies in the area.

V. Presentation

James Szubski, Making Klickitat County Remarkable

James Szubuski is a local business owner with a marketing background. James Szubuski presented his marketing plan to make Klickitat County a remarkable place, an exciting destination. He explained a plan that would involve local businesses to create a central tourism draw to the county. His business began requesting reports of paranormal experiences. The response showed the presence of an animal that has been named the "Klickitat County Ape Cat". Washington state is ranked #3 in the county for likely hood to experience paranormal activity and Szubuski noted that he recognized this as a potential to rebrand Klickitat County as the "Super-Natural Capital of the Pacific Northwest".

James Szubuski noted that a community strategic plan is necessary for the success of the initiative. This could include visitor signs at the Highway 141 Cutt Off, Public Art, Marketing Materials, and adding a paranormal parade to local festivals, or creating a local paranormal festival.

Jim Ranisier, Council Member asked what the next steps are to get the community onboard.

James Szubuski said putting together a group to help synergize the movement.

Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer noted that the city will have tourism marketing dollars available at the beginning of 2023. She noted that the entity applying would need to be a non-profit organization. She noted that both Klickitat County and the City of Bingen would have tourism funds available as well.

James Szubuski noted that his intention is to donate the “Ape Cat” art to the Chamber of Commerce for all businesses to have access for use.

Patty Fink, Council Member said this is a creative idea. She asked if James Szubuski had reached out to McMinnville regarding their alien parade. She noted it could be a play on Super NATURAL leaning towards the abundant nature that draws tourism.

James Szubuski said he has not reached out to McMinnville specifically. He said that Bigfoot lends to the emphasis on nature.

VI. Business Items

A. Interlocal Agreement - Klickitat County Fire District 3

Bill Hunsaker, Fire Chief, presented the information for the Joint Activity Interlocal Agreement with Klickitat County Fire District 3 (KCFD3). He explained that the agreement documents a 50-50 cost share for the KCFD3 contract with Bob Merritt of mHc Associates to assist in the Fire Services Evaluation Project. The study will be completed by the appointed citizen task force and reported back to the elected bodies by December 30, 2022.

Moved by Jim Raniser. Seconded by Ben Giant.

Motion to approve the Joint Activity Local Agreement between the City of White Salmon and Fire District 3 for the Emergency Fire Services Evaluation project in an amount not to exceed \$15,000. CARRIED 4-0.

B. FISHCO, LLC Agreement

Paul Koch, Interim City Administrator, presented the information explaining the FISHCO, LLC Wastewater Agreement.

Ben Giant, Council Member, asked for context as to why this agreement is necessary.

Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer, responded that the Core of Engineers purchased the land to fulfill an agreement with the 4 tribes in Klickitat County. There is no river inlet. The

tribes built a fish processing plant which is run by FISHCO, LLC, a collaborative entity of the 4 tribes. During the fish processing, significant water is used. Pilot tests were completed to determine the impact on the wastewater treatment plant in Bingen. The plant does not process fish every day, which is what the agreement is based on. The agreement will cover the cost of the additional wastewater created.

Moved by Jim Raniser. Seconded by Jason Hartmann.

Motion to authorize the Mayor to sign Wastewater Service Agreement between the Cities of White Salmon and Bingen and Tribal Fishco, LLC . CARRIED 4-0.

Jason Hartmann, Council Member, congratulated staff on a great agreement.

VII. Reports and Communications

A. Department Heads

Mike Hepner, Police Chief

Chief Mike Hepner said he is working to get a Designated Crisis Responder (DCR) committed as the current contract with Comprehensive Mental Health will end on August 5, 2022. He explained the process the Police Officers complete when a mental health crisis call comes through.

Chief Hepner said that Klickitat County Health Department has taken over crisis response. They have entered into an agreement with Skamania Health Department for a three-month umbrella for crisis care.

Chief Hepner said that the White Salmon Municipal Code regarding towing needs to be updated. He said they need to have authority to tow to help with parking issues.

Jason Hartmann, Council Member, said the City Operations Committee would be happy to start the process if that would be a helpful first step.

Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer, said that Title 10 needs to be updated to fees and penalties including towing. The current code is only enforceable from October to March.

Marla Keethler, Mayor, stated that she would like to see the towing section prioritized with a target adoption in September 2022. Additional sections of Title 10 could be modified for a later review date.

Marla Keethler wanted to clarify information regarding the Mental Health Crisis Response issue. She reiterated that when our police department gets a mental health call, it takes our only officer off the street for an extended amount of time due to the procedures that must be followed for these calls. When the additional resources of a Designated Crisis Response Individual is not sufficient or unavailable, it extends the amount of time our officers must remain with the

individual in crisis. This then creates a ripple effect that directly affects the response time to any additional calls that the officer is needed at. She said there is a definite need for a more efficient mental health response in the community.

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

Bill Hunsaker has a meeting about a fuel reduction grant. White Salmon has been identified as a location with land suitable for a pilot project.

White Salmon Fire District sent aid to the Dalles, OR to assist in a boat fire.

Chief Hunsaker said the Task Force for the Fire Emergency Services Evaluation will begin their process in September.

Patty Fink, Council Member, thanked Chief Hunsaker and the White Salmon Fire Department for being good neighbors and assisting both Hood River and Maupin with fire mutual aid.

Russ Avery, Public Works Operations Manager

Russ Avery said he continues to work on the Water System Plan Construction Standards. He noted the importance of this document being complete and accurate. He said the Annual Work Plan for Public Works is still in process.

Russ Avery said the Starlink Internet installation at Buck Creek Monitoring station is progressing. The modems have been ordered and once installed the system will be complete and running.

Russ Avery said the city and the School District met and worked out a watering schedule for the schools. The reclamation of the shed on the city owned property across from Whitson Elementary has been agreed on. The shed will be used to store the new reader board and park supplies and equipment. The city proposed conservation programs to be initiated in the schools including an essay contest.

Russ Avery said he will begin attending the Regional Transportation Committee (RTC) Meetings with the mayor in hopes of being ahead of federal funding opportunities.

Jeff Cooper, Public Work Foreman

Jeff Cooper spoke about Public Works operations. He said the main line water break was due to an inaccurate utility locate. He noted that Public Works has proper equipment for locating but is looking into training for proper use. He noted that GIS Mapping will be very helpful for accurate location of utility lines. He would like to see this prioritized.

Jeff Cooper said public works is looking into the sewer line on Indian Lane. He said this line needs to be identified for replacement as soon as possible.

Jeff Cooper said the 4 day / 10 hours schedule has been working well. He said he feels that productivity has been up. He noted when they go back to 5 day / 8 hours shifts that the potential of a 7:00am – 3:30pm workday would be helpful as many public work employees have school age children and childcare availability has had an impact on them.

Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer

Jan Brending said the city will begin their audit on September 6, 2022.

Jan Brending communicated updates from the Tree Board regarding the Tree of Heaven removal project, the Sweet Gum Tree progress, and the approval to remove a sick tree on Green Street and plant a replacement tree in town.

Jan Brending said the Granicus Software for the tracking of Short-Term Rentals in the City Limits is moving forward.

Jan Brending said the Housing Action Plan proposals have been received. She said it will come to the council at the next meeting. She also noted that the Climate Action Plan was ready to go to bid.

Jan Brending said the GIS mapping discussion has been initiated.

Stephanie Porter, Deputy Clerk

Stephanie Porter said the mail delivery project is moving forward. A quote has been locked in for the purchase of the bulk boxes that includes a waiver of the freight charges saving the city \$4000.

Ken Woodrich, City Attorney

Ken Woodrich said that the drafting of the towing ordinance may need special attention taking into consideration some new laws.

Paul Koch, Interim City Administrator

Paul Koch said he is working on establishing administrative procedures that will be initiated with council approval. The Bingen Water Agreement strategy is moving forward. The Everybody's Brewing Wastewater Agreement should be wrapping up next week.

B. Council Members

Patty Fink, Council Member

Patty Fink said she was happy to see the water fountains in the park with the bottle filling stations.

Patty Fink noted that she will be attending the Gorge Regional Transit Strategy Meeting to address service gaps. She will be communicating the gap in service between the Hood River Pool and the City of White Salmon and weekend service. She noted they will potentially be going out for bid to obtain grant funding for weekend service. She said they will likely be reaching out to both White Salmon and Bingen for help with dollar matching requirements.

Jim Ransier, Council Member

Jim Ransier said City LAB Committee had a discussion with Klickitat Public Utility District in relation to addressing Climate Change. He noted that the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Climate Change Action Plan is ready to go out for bid.

Jim Ransier said that the Community Development Committee is continuing the conversation of Spring Fest.

Jim Ransier said he supports the effort to pursue how the city can partner in bringing more sustainable childcare options to White Salmon. He agrees it should remain high on the priority list.

C. Mayor

Marla Keethler, Mayor, said that the Forth Grant was awarded for the Carshare Program to the cities of White Salmon and Bingen. This carshare program will roll out in the 3rd quarter of 2023 to bring EV Stations to our community.

Marla Keethler said the DC trip to lobby for the new bridge was productive. They met with Washington State Representatives and supporting agencies to communicate the necessity of the replacement bridge. The bridge committee has shifted their funding strategy to intentionally go after larger amounts. The committee invited agencies and representatives to visit the gorge in hopes of illustrating the need in person.


Marla Keethler said that childcare continues to be a priority issue that the city supports. She notes that the conversation being raised is the barriers in the Washington State Code related to licensing. She said that as the city explores the potential for a community center, childcare is in the forefront of that conversation. She noted that the potential for outdoor preschool is being looked at.

VIII. Executive Session


There was no Executive Session.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.



Marla Keethler, Mayor



Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer