



CITY OF WHITE SALMON
City Council Meeting – Wednesday, September 7, 2022
In Person and Via Zoom Teleconference

Council and Administrative Personnel Present

Council Members:

Ben Giant
Patty Fink
Jason Hartmann
Jim Ransier
David Lindley

Staff Present:

Russ Avery, Public Works Operations
Jeff Broderick, Land Use Planner
Jeff Cooper, Public Works Foreman
Mike Hepner, Police Chief
Bill Hunsaker, Fire Chief/Code Enforcement
Paul Koch, Interim City Administrator
Stephanie Porter, Clerk Treasurer
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 15 members of the public in attendance in person and via teleconference.

II. Changes to the Agenda

No changes were made to the agenda.

III. Public Comment

Mark Lemly, White Salmon Resident

Mark Lemly spoke to the Wildfire threat facing White Salmon as a concerned resident. Lemley believes the city has not been as proactive as it should in regard to wildfire mitigation. Lemley noted the large amount of fuel on the bluff. Lemley noted that the city should not rely solely on DNR (Department of Natural Resources) to mitigate the risk in the city.

Gabrielle Gilbert, Klickitat County Resident

Gabrielle Gilbert spoke to the reoccurring need for reliable childcare in White Salmon. Gilbert also noted that with the removal of the basketball court, local kids do not have a place to play basketball. Gilbert requested the city replace the basketball courts and provide benches for seating.

Jacob Anderson, Klickitat County Commissioner

Jacob Anderson thanked the city for allowing Mayor Keethler to take a lead role in the bridge replacement project. Anderson spoke to the \$2.5 million dollar county budget deficit. Anderson noted that the county is raising rates wherever allowable. Anderson noted that the District Court and Probation Costs are in discussion for renegotiation.

IV. Presentation

Tree of Heaven Project - Underwood Conservation District

Tova Tillinghast and Corrie Podolak from Underwood Conservation District presented information regarding the Tree of Heaven Project aimed at removing and preventing the spread of the invasive tree. They noted that the program will include education, demonstration, and potential fund match for private property removal.

They spoke to the nature of the tree and the urgency to have it controlled. The Tree of Heaven serves as a host for the Spotted Lantern Fly, which is a dangerous insect for an agricultural area as it can decimate crops including grapes, cherries, and apples.

They noted that early detection is the most effective way to stop the spread of the tree. They requested that the City of White Salmon add information to the city’s website regarding the detection and notification. The City Council agreed.

V. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Task Order - Applications for Funding of North Main Water Pump Station and Phase 1 Main Line Replacement - Anderson Perry (\$7,500)
- B. Approval of Contract Amendment for Professional Engineering Services - Sweet Gum Tree Sidewalk Alternatives Report - Grey and Osborne, Inc (\$6,000)
- C. July Budget Report
- D. Approval of Meeting Minutes - August 3, 2022
- E. Approval of Meeting Minutes - August 17, 2022
- F. 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 7th day of September 2022.

Type	Date	From	To	Amount
Claims	09/07/2022	EFT	EFT	3,994.00
	09/07/2022	38391	38442	227,974.41
			Claims Total	231,968.41
Payroll	09/06/2022	EFT	EFT	119,769.93
	09/06/2022	38387	38390	1,237.07
			Payroll Total	121,007.00
Manual Claims				
	08/24/2022	38384	38386	53,773.51
	09/05/2022	EFT	EFT	2,475.03
			Manual Total	56,248.54

			Total All Vouchers	409,223.95
--	--	--	---------------------------	-------------------

Moved by Jason Hartmann. Seconded by Ben Giant.

Discussion:

Jim Ransier asked why the city was spending \$6000 for Sweet Gum Tree Engineering.

Paul Koch, Interim City Administrator said that the Tree Board recommended city explore the options available to preserve the tree. The engineering report in to include up to 5 alternatives to removal of the tree.

David Lindley, Council Member said the Tree Board responded to the public comment in favor of protecting the tree.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda as presented. CARRIED 5-0.

VI. Business Items

A. Ordinance 2022-09-1110, Amending WSMC 10.24 Stopping, Standing, and Parking

Mike Hepner, Police Chief presented the proposed changes to the city's parking ordinance. Chief Hepner noted that the changes will standardize fees to one amount. Chief Hepner noted that this will give police officers more leverage to enforce parking violations, including the option of towing. Chief Hepner noted this additional options increases compliance significantly.

Mayor Marla Keethler opened the Public Hearing at 6:56pm.

There were no public comments in person or via zoom teleconference.

Mayor Marla Keethler closed the Public Hearing at 6:57pm.

Jim Ransier, Council Member requested that the language "handicap" be changed to "persons with disability".

Jim Raniser asked if there would be a warning step in this process.

Chief Hepner said any vehicle will be tagged for 72 hours before proceeding with towing the vehicle.

Mayor Keethler asked if this would be usable for street closures or events in removing cars.

Chief Hepner said no, unless the vehicle is already in the 72 hour warning time frame.

Moved by Patty Fink. Seconded by Jason Hartmann.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2022-09-1110 Amending WSMC 10.24 Stopping, Standing and Parking with identified scribner changes. CARRIED 5-0.

B. Ordinance 2022-09-1111, Amending WSMC 13.24 - Water Conservation

Paul Koch, Interim City Administrator presented the amendments to the Water Conservation code modifying is to Water Shortage Emergency Regulations. Koch noted that this revised code will provide a more direct approach to water emergencies including a procedure that lines out specific guidance on when each level is triggered and the response and messaging expectations for city staff.

Mayor Keethler opened the Public Hearing at 7:06pm.

Barbara Baily, White Salmon Resident

Barbara Baily requested an exemption for legal use grey water systems.

Mayor Keethler closed the Public Hearing at 7:07pm.

Council and staff discussed the need for an exemption for grey water systems.

Ken Woodrich, City Attorney noted that the grey water system would not in all case require water from the city water system.

Bill Hunsaker, Building Official noted that Barbara Bailey's grey water system is not tied into the city water system.

Paul Koch, Interim City Administrator noted that this exemption would be more appropriately addressed in the Staff Procedure.

Moved by Ben Giant. Seconded by David Lindley.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2022-09-1111, Amending WSMC 13.24 Water Conservation as presented. CARRIED 5-0.

C. Adoption of 2023 City Council Priorities for Budget Development

Mayor Marla Keethler presented the 2023 Council Priorities as derived from the extensive discussion and deliberation at the City Council Retreat.

Mayor Keethler noted that the 2023 identified priorities have been divided into two classifications Funding Priorities and Strategic Priorities.

The council and mayor discussed the addition of Wildfire Mitigation. The recommendation was made to add it as a stand-alone priority to the Strategic Priorities.

Mayor Keethler recommended the following changes in language: 1) change Support a Vibrant Downtown to Foster a Vibrant Downtown; 2) remove "Support Efforts" from Increase Public Transportation and Increase Childcare Availability and Access.

Council requested to change Increase Public Transportation to Increase Public Transportation Options, to include all transportation including pedestrian and bicycle.

Funding Priorities were identified as: Develop Sustainable Infrastructure Funding for the Construction, Operation, and Maintenance of Public Buildings, Roads, and Utilities; Foster a Vibrant Downtown; Improve Communication Between the Community and City Hall/Council/Residents; Increase Availability of Housing for All Income Levels; Increase Public Transportation Options; and Maintain Public Safety

Strategic Priorities were identified as: Increase Childcare Availability and Access; Increase Economic Development; Improve Existing Park Facilities and Expand Recreation Opportunities; Wildfire Mitigation and Support Efforts by WSVMPD to Build a New Pool.

Moved by Jason Hartmann. Seconded by Jim Ransier.

Motion to accept 2023 Council Priorities as amended. CARRIED 5-0.

VII. Reports and Communications

A. Sweet Gum Tree Report

Paul Koch gave an update of the progress on the Sweet Gum Tree. Koch noted that the full report would be to council for review and determination at the first meeting in November.

B. Department Heads

Jeff Broderick, Land Use Planner

Jeff Broderick introduced himself. Broderick noted that he comes to the city with a Master Degree in Urban Planning. Broderick noted he has started to identify current Land Use related ordinances that need updating.

Mike Hepner, Police Chief

Chief Hepner addressed to current issues with the parking ordinance. Chief Hepner noted that he will be looking to revise the code to be more enforceable and to remove any unnecessary language as reviewed by legal counsel.

Patty Fink, Council Member noted that it may be worthwhile to wait to revise the full code once the Transportation Plan is adopted.

Chief Hepner noted that Officer Kate Daniels is the only officer certified to work on child abuse cases. Chief Hepner stressed that it happens more and more frequently and wants to bring awareness to the council and community.

Mayor Keethler asked if there is a way the community can take action. Chief Hepner said unfortunately there is no sure way to pinpoint child abuse and it can be hard to know when it is happening.

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

Chief Hunsaker reported that the Wildland Protection Site is moving forward. Chief Hunsaker met with DNR and the clean up will begin in Fall of 2023 for Fuel

Reduction. The phases have been eliminated and the full project will be completed at one time. The pilot project for fuel reduction will likely begin this fall on the city owned property off Dock Grade. Chief Hunsaker noted that goats are not approved for this fuel reduction project.

Chief Hunsaker noted that there is one more vacancy on the Fire Emergency Task Force.

Russ Avery, Public Works Operations Manager

Russ Avery reported that the Water System Plan update and Public Works Annual Work Plan are still in process. Avery noted that at the Water Task Force meeting the booster station on Main St was identified as the priority with Dave Jespsen, Anderson Perry, support.

Avery reported that the signal from Buck Creek is communicating via Starlink Internet. Avery noted that SCADA will be connected next.

Jeff Cooper, Public Work Foreman

Jeff Cooper reported that the Buck Creek Monitoring Station is not strong yet. Cooper noted that they are hoping to use Starlink for 2 sites that would provide better communication regarding the type of alerts that are coming in.

Cooper said Public Works is working on flushing manholes.

Cooper reported there was a water leak on Snohomish Place that was fixed by public works over the weekend. Cooper noted that Snohomish Place is not passable currently for city vehicles and should be addressed.

Cooper said the reader board is in service. Will be updating with a vehicle registration message.

Cooper noted that a regular time frame for the removal of the parklets at the end of the season.

Cooper noted that the surplus sale brought in \$17,000 to be distributed to the department's budget.

Stephanie Porter, Clerk Treasurer

Stephanie Porter noted that the audit prep has begun. Porter said that the entrance conference is open to the council if they want to attend.

B. Council Members

Jim Ransier, Council Member

Councilor Ransier reported that Hispanic Heritage Month begins September 15 through October 15. Councilor Ransier noted that Washington Gorge Action Program will be hosting an event in Rheingarten Park this year as a community celebration and the city is partnering in that effort.

Mayor Keethler highlighted that the event is open to everyone.

David Lindley, Council Member

Councilor Lindley thanked the council for approving the Sweet Gum Tree Sidewalk Alternatives. Councilor Lindley thanked Public Works for their patience while the Sweet Gum Tree process is completed.

Patty Fink, Council Member

Councilor Fink asked that we have regular conversation with the Klickitat County Commissioners.

C. Mayor

Mayor Keethler reported that the dedication for the Park Restroom Mural will be done in collaboration with the White Salmon Arts Council to thank the artists and volunteers that brought it to life.

Mayor Keethler noted that the Park Plan and Transportation Plan will be coming to the council for adoption soon.

Mayor Keethler reported all the councilor has been signed for access to the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) Elected Officials Webinar Series. Mayor Keethler specifically called out the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) and Public Record Act (PRA) classes as priorities.

Ken Woodrich, City Attorney, said that the OPMA and PRA trainings are required for council members.

Mayor Keethler noted that Klickitat County will be assuming Mental Health Crisis Response as of November 6th.

Mayor Keethler brought to the council the Regional Transit Committees request for the City of White Salmon to commit to a grant match that would bring weekend transportation service to White Salmon and surrounding areas. The City of Bingen is an additional partner in the match. Mayor Keethler said the match for the City of White Salmon would be \$4,740 a year for 2 years (2023

and 2025). Mayor Keethler requested the agreement of the councilors to direct staff to proceed in pursuing the grant application that would include agreement of the \$4,740 to be accounted for in the 2023 budget. There was council consensus to move forward with the grant match for weekend service.

Mayor Keethler noted that the reader board will be advertising vehicle registration, "If you Live Here, Register Here". Mayor Keethler noted that there has been an emphasis on vehicle registrations that are not being transfer to Washington and in turn the revenue lost.

Mayor Keethler noted that there will hopefully be a notice soon of bridge funding.

VIII. Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.



Marla Keethler, Mayor



Stephanie Porter, Clerk Treasurer