CITY OF WHITE SALMON
City Council Meeting – Wednesday, September 21, 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
Jan Brending, Staff Assistant
Bill Hunsaker, Fire Chief/Code Enforcement
Marla Keethler, Mayor
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 7 members of the public in attendance in person and via teleconference.

II. Changes to the Agenda

No changes were made to the agenda.

III. Consent Agenda

A. Employment Agreement - City Administrator
B. Small Works Roster Bid Contract - Electrical Work Glockenspiel Bells City
C. Approval of City Council Retreat Minutes - August 30, 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 21st day of September 2022.

Type	Date	From	To	Amount
Claims	09/21/2022	38456	38480	296,121.13
			Claims Total	**296,121.13**
Payroll	09/20/2022	EFT	EFT	77,176.98
			Payroll Total	**77,176.98**
Manual Claims				
	09/10/2022	EFT	EFT	7,920.00
	09/12/2022	EFT	EFT	13.25

	09/19/2022	EFT	EFT	110.00
	07/10/2022	EFT	EFT	7920.00
	08/15/2022	EFT	EFT	110.00
			Manual Total	**16,073.25**
			Total All Vouchers	**389,371.36**

Jan Brending, Staff Assistance, noted that the approval of the consent agenda item B. Electrical Work for the Glockenspiel Bells would direct staff to award the project to Colburn Electric as the low bidder.

Moved by Ben Giant. Seconded by David Lindley.
Motion to approve Consent Agenda with Scribner corrections. CARRIED 5-0.

IV. Public Comment

Chris Heald, White Salmon Resident, Big River Community Land Trust

Chris Heald presented information regarding an Affordable Housing Forum hosted by the Big River Land Trust and additional community partners. Chris noted that the forum would be broken into 3 sessions and invited the City Council to attend the 2nd session aimed at community leaders. Chris said the forum would address how the community could bring more affordable housing to the northwest and specifically White Salmon and Klickitat County.

V. Presentation

Hispanic Heritage Month

Jim Ransier, Council Member introduced a video series for Hispanic Heritage Month highlighting the Bracero Program that brought agricultural worker to the United States from Mexico. The videos showed the struggles, disparities and sacrifices made by the workers in this federally run program aimed to aid the United States agricultural industry.

VI. Business Items

A. Approval of Resolution 2022-09-546, Removing and Authorizing Signers on Financial Accounts.

Stephanie Porter, Clerk Treasurer presented the proposed changes in signers to the city financial account. Porter noted the changes are to update accounts for the changes in staff.

Moved by Jason Hartmann. Seconded by Jim Ransier.
Motion to* adopt Resolution 2022-09-546, Removing and Authorizing Signers on Financial Accounts as presented. *CARRIED 5-0.

B. Ordinance 2022-09-1112, Amending WSMC 2.32 - Mayor and Council Salaries

Mayor Marla Keethler presented the . The personnel and finance committee were requested to review the current salaries to make a recommendation on compensation that would be fair.

Mayor Keethler noted that in the past when City Council positions had become vacant, a challenge that was brought up from potential candidates was the compensation. Mayor Keethler noted that an increase would benefit the effort to encourage a diverse pool of candidates. Mayor Keethler noted that the way the city chooses to compensate for council and mayor positions can unintentionally exclude certain candidates who may rely on the compensation to make their time available for city government service.

Jason Hartmann, Council Member said this was discussed at the personnel and finance committee. Jason noted that it was confirmed the increase would be manageable in the according budget years. The budget committee came to a consensus to recommend that the mayor salary be increased to $2000.00 per month, effective October 2022 and the council salaries increase to $225.00 per month to begin after the position is next elected. Hartmann noted that the mayor position specifically has grown in time commitment and work and garners an increase in wage.

David Lindley, Council Member said the dollar amount was derived from the comparisons table provided. Lindley said the committee looked to be somewhere near the middle of the provided salaries comparisons.

Ben Giant, Council Member asked why a Salary Commission was not considered for the mayor position.

Ken Woodrich, City attorney explained that a Salary Commission allows mid term salary increases if there were an interested group of citizens that would review the salaries compared to other jurisdictions to derive at a fair salary and if it is different than the current salary paid can be implemented mid-term. This differs from a council voted increase in that the council cannot vote an increase for the council seat they currently hold. Any council approved salary increase would not be effective until the next election cycle for the seat. Ken noted he would be able to assist with this process if desired.

David Lindley, Council Member said that this was not considered as an option. Lindley noted that personally he had not previously known of the Salary Commission option. Lindley noted that the council salaries in particular seemed appropriate because no council member would be voting for their own increase.

Jim Ransier, Council Member noted that he is supportive of both the mayor and council salary increases. Ransier agreed that this process felt fair because it is not effective for the current council. Ransier noted that the mayor currently puts in far more than the 10 hours per week that the current salary accounts for.

Patty Fink, Council Member said she agreed with both increases. It was confirmed that the council and mayor increase was factored into the 2023 baseline budget as a possibility.

Mayor Marla Keethler noted that the council may set an effective date for the mayor salary increase if they desire.

Stephanie Porter, Clerk Treasurer clarified that if an effective date was not noted the mayor salary increase would go into effect October 2022 paid in November 2022. Porter said this would create an increase for 2 monthly pay cycle for the 2022 budget year.

Jason Hartmann noted that there would need to be a budget amendment if approved for the 2022 year.

David Lindley noted that in the budget committee meeting, Jan Brending noted that there were available funds for this increase.

Moved by Ben Giant. Seconded by Jim Ransier.
Motion to* adopt Ordinance 2022-09-1112, Amending WSMC 2.32 - Mayor and Council Salaries*. CARRIED 5-0.

C. Appointment of Fire Emergency Services Task Force

Bill Hunsaker presented the appointed White Salmon representatives for the Fire Emergency Task Force. The identified appointees are Tao Berman, Mark Lemley, Michelle Mayfield, Nate Reagan, and Sara Weber

Moved by Jim Ransier. Seconded by Jason Hartmann.
Motion to appoint Tao Berman, Mark Lemley, Michelle Mayfield, Nate Reagan, and Sara Weber as the five White Salmon Resident representatives to the Community Cooperative Services Task Force
Council Discussion:
David Lindley, Council Member Thanked the volunteers. Councilor Lindley requested that Fire Mitigation be specifically named in the process.
Paul Koch, Interim City Administrator noted that this was in goals 3 and 4 of the approved Fire Emergency Services Plan of Action.
CARRIED 5-0

VII. Reports and Communications

A. Sweet Gum Tree Report

Paul Koch reported that the engineers will have a preliminary draft to view next week.

B. Department Heads

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

Chief Hunsaker reported that the Fire Department had a retirement celebration for the local Fire Departments. It was noted that Jay Holtmann, who officially retired form the White Salmon Fired Department in 2021, was honored for his 27 years of service to the Department.

Chief Hunsaker noted that there was no new information regarding the Wildfire Mitigation.

Chief Hunsaker noted that the White Salmon, Fire District 3 and DNR are talking about partnering together for grant applications to increase funding to the area.

Chief Hunsaker clarified that the White Salmon 2004 Mitigation CWPP was completed with all items accomplished including fire mitigation fuel reduction and purchasing all identified equipment.

Russ Avery, Public Works Operations Manager

Russ Avery reported that he is working on the 2023 budget narrative including identifying equipment replacement schedule and funding.

Avery noted that the two of the tennis courts in Rheingarten park have been identified to be striped for pickle ball.

Avery reported that Starlink Internet is working great at Buck Creek. They are looking into using it for the Base Station.

Avery said the public works crew is reviewing the Water System Plan Updates SCADA Plan with intentions to strengthen the final plan.

Avery noted that the Fireman's Park Flagpole has been taken down and will be replaced after the electrical work has been completed.

Avery reported that public works has begun partnering with Underwood Conservation District to begin the treatment and removal of the Tree of Heaven in city right of way. They are utilizing the most effective treatment which is pesticide injection.

Jim Raniser, Council Member thanked Ryan Adam for voluntarily coming to the park to help with bathroom restocking and clean up for the El Grito Event.

Ken Woodrich, City Attorney

Ken Woodrich recommend that for all recorded meeting that the mayor recite the official vote on any motion for clarity since the council members cannot all turn their microphones on at one time to verbally record the vote.

Stephanie Porter, Clerk Treasurer

Stephanie Porter reported that the city will begin reading the water meters monthly. All steps have been taken to prepare for this transition beginning in October.

Porter reported an update on the current audit. Porter noted that things are moving along well and that there were not findings in the financial condition, Open Public Meeting Act (OPMA), Payroll, and Pensions & OPEB.

Porter update council on the mail delivery for White Salmon. Porter noted that the route stops have been approved. Porter said the city may move forward with the installation of the boxes. Porter noted that the White Salmon Postmaster will be submitting the route and addresses to the Colorado Office for approval. This approval process can take several weeks to complete. There could also be an extended time frame to find a contracted driver for the route.

Paul Koch, Interim City Administrator
Paul Koch said there have been members added to the legislative coalition.

B. Council Members

Jim Ransier, Council Member
Jim Ransier reported that the El Grito event for Hispanic Heritage was a success with a turn out of upwards of 200 people. Councilor Ransier noted the need for event supplies such as a City of White Salmon tablecloth and marketing materials to hand out to attendees.

Ransier noted that the Halloween road closure proposal in moving forward. With input from Chief Hepner and the Downtown business they will determine the most ideal option to submit to WSDOT.

Ransier noted that the Community Development Committee has begun reviewing the City Facility Use Application and supporting code to make revisions. Ransier anticipated this would come before council closer to November.

David Lindley, Council Member
David Lindley reported that the Tree Board with the help of Land Use Planned Jeff Broderick, will be reviewing and potentially amending the Tree Board listed responsibilities.

Ben Giant, Council Member
Ben Giant congratulated Troy Rayburn on his new position as the White Salmon City Administrator.

Giant noted that since the Tree of Heaven Presentation, he has spotted the trees in so many locations across town. Giant noted he was glad to see public works getting a start on the removal project.

Patty Fink, Council Member

Patty Fink reported that she has been reviewing the Human Services Transportation Plan and putting together recommendations that would help support White Salmon goals of more regular service options.

Fink noted that she would like to look into more holiday and seasonal banners for the downtown streets.

C. Mayor

Mayor Keethler reported the continued effort to create a local coalition to work together for legislation efforts, specifically the pool funding effort.

Mayor Keethler reported that the bridge committee will be hosting State legislators from Washington and Oregon to talk about the bridge replacement project and the needed funding.

Chief Bill Hunsaker offered to take the representatives across the bridge in a Fire truck to illustrate the condition of travel specifically for large vehicles.

Mayor Keethler noted that there will be an emphasis on outreach to the White Salmon community for budget priorities.

Mayor Keethler said the Park Restroom Mural Dedication was great. Mayor Keethler thanked artists Molly Homlund and Sally Gilchrist, White Salmon Public Works members Ryan Adam and Jeff Cooper and the White Salmon Art Council for making it happen.

Patty Fink requested that the council meet with the White Salmon Valley Metropolitan Pool District and discuss their request for the city to make a significant financial contribution to the pool project, specifically providing a specific dollar amount. Fink noted she is supportive of the pool. Fink is concerned that the price tag of $7 million is a large ask for a small community even when approaching legislative for funding.

Mayor Keethler responded that she agrees that there needs to be more clarification regarding the requested contribution and the site selection process.

VIII. Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Marla Keethler, Mayor

Stephanie Porter, Clerk Treasurer