

**CITY OF WHITE SALMON**  
**City Council Meeting – Wednesday, October 5, 2022**  
**In Person and Via Zoom Teleconference**

**Council and Administrative Personnel Present**

**Council Members:**

Ben Giant  
 Patty Fink  
 Jason Hartmann  
 David Lindley

**Staff Present:**

Russ Avery, Public Works Operations  
 Jan Brending, Staff Assistant  
 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 14 members of the public in attendance in person and via teleconference.

**Moved by Jason Hartmann. Seconded by Patty Fink.**

**Motion to excuse Council Member Jim Ransier from the October 5, 2022 council meeting.**

**CARRIED 4-0**

**II. Changes to the Agenda**

Request was made to remove consent agenda item B Approval of Meeting Minutes for September 21, 2022 and the Wildfire Mitigation Update under reports.

**Moved by Patty Fink. Seconded by Jason Hartmann.**

**Motion to approve the changes to the agenda to remove consent agenda item B Approval of Meeting Minutes for September 21, 2022 and the Wildfire Mitigation Update under reports.**

**CARRIED 4-0**

**III. Consent Agenda**

- A. Approval of City Council Minutes – September 7, 2022
- ~~B. Approval of City Council Minutes – September 21, 2022~~
- C. Approval of Vouchers

Type	Date	From	To	Amount
Claims	10/5/2022	38487	38529	179,441.43
	10/5/2022	EFT	EFT	2,850.00
	10/5/2022	EFT	EFT	644.20

	10/5/2022	EFT	EFT	1,314.98
			<b>Claims Total</b>	<b>184,250.61</b>
<b>Payroll</b>	10/5/2022	EFT	EFT	113,598.61
	10/5/2022	38483	38486	1,182.15
			<b>Payroll Total</b>	<b>114,780.76</b>
<b>Manual Claims</b>	9/30/2022	38481	38482	3,816.79
	9/22/2022	EFT	EFT	12,694.11
	10/10/2022	EFT	EFT	7,920.00
			<b>Manual Total</b>	<b>24,430.90</b>
			<b>Total All Vouchers</b>	<b>323,462.27</b>

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 5<sup>th</sup> day of October 2022.

***Moved by Patty Fink. Seconded by Jason Hartmann.  
 Motion to approve Consent Agenda as presented. CARRIED 4-0.***

**IV. Public Comment**

**Jeff Cooper, White Salmon Resident**

Jeff Cooper requested the City Council consider the impact of the Halloween Street Closure on the residential side streets that will be used to reroute traffic.

**V. Presentation**

**Hispanic Heritage Month – Juan Reyes, Latinx Outreach Coordinator, Washington Gorge Action Programs**

Juan Reyes joined by zoom teleconference to present results of the first El Grito event hosted in White salmon Rheingarten Park. The event celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month and included information booths of community partners, a Mariachi Band, Pinata for the kids and free tacos and churros. Juan Reyes noted that there were over 300 people at the event, noting that a majority were from the White Salmon Community. They were excited to see an event like this because there has not been anything like this in the past to celebrate Hispanic Culture.

Juan Reyes noted that there were representations from all different community members, and they were able to receive access to community resources that benefit all community members. It was noted that this event has been identified to be a yearly event and there is hopes that it will be even bigger with more community partners next year. Many of the community members who attended expressed interest in helping with the event in future years.

**VI. Business Items**

**A. Resolution 2022-10- 547 Adopting City of White Salmon Park Plan**

Elizabeth Auvil and Colin McArthur from Cameron McCarthy Landscape Architecture and Planning Firm presented the draft White Salmon Park Plan.

Colin McArthur noted that this plan is a guideline for park improvements and all projects may not be completed but having them identified will allow for potential funding.

Elizabeth Auvil noted the presentation will focus on recommendations and plan level of service. It will evaluate existing systems including walkability, park acreage, and number of parks. White Salmon is currently rated at 9.2 acres of park per 1000 residents, median quartile and has 415 residents per park, low quartile.

The outreach process included stakeholder interviews, online surveys, in person surveys and focus groups. The overall request was for more youth activities, more facilities, accessibility, city relationships, and stewardship.

Facility needs identified were more play equipment, trails, accessible sidewalks and trails in parks, more parks and adding additional amenities to existing parks.

Capital improvement projects were reviewed.

Colin McArthur noted that the Park Plan will give tools and projects to keep up with the growth of White Salmon. It was confirmed that the estimated costs of the projects were in today's dollars and not increased to accommodate for inflation.

**Public Comment:**

**Tim Requa, Klickitat County Resident**

Tim Requa noted that Pickleball has been a rapidly growing sport in White Salmon, particularly at the Tennis Courts in Rheingarten Park. He gave a background of pickleball and noted that Governor Inslee had declared it the official State Sport.

Tim Requa would like to work with the City to paint a few pickleball courts on the existing Tennis Courts.

**Mayor Keethler** noted that the Tennis Courts are owned by the school district, and they are on board for the painting of a few courts for pickleball.

**Leigh Hancock, White Salmon Resident**

Leigh Hancock also wanted to declare support for pickleball courts in White Salmon. She noted that she currently uses her front porch to store the pickleball equipment so those who want to play can have access to it.

**Tom Clein, Residency Unknown**

Tom Clein declared his support for pickleball in White Salmon. It was noted that there is a high demand for the sport in this area.

**Soroush Kermani, White Salmon Resident**

Soroush Kermani declared his support for pickleball in White Salmon. He noted that there has been significant growth in participation for the game. He noted that it has brought people together after a very difficult few years and the sense of community is wonderful.

Jan Brending, Staff Assistant, read a comment into the record from **Patrick O'Dell from Friends of the White Salmon Bluff, Residency Unknown.**

The letter stated support for the Pedestrian Bluff Stairs Project. He noted it would be a necessary connection to Hood River and the projected Water Front Project. The bluff

property owners are willing to help. He believes it will make White Salmon an even more unique community.

Mayor Marla Keethler closed the public comment.

Jason Hartman, Council Member said he recently found out that Pickleball is a Washington State Sport created in Bainbridge Island.

Patty Fink, Council Member said access to the park from neighborhoods is an important piece of this project. She noted that keeping an eye on safe accessibility to the parks is a priority to ensure it may be enjoyed by everyone.

Marla Keethler, Mayor noted that proposed the name Spoke's Bike Park be replaced with White Salmon Bike Park in the Plan.

Ben Giant, Council Member said thankyou to all who participated in this plan creation.

**Moved by Ben Giant. Seconded by Jason Hartmann.**

**Motion to Approve Resolution 2022-10-547 Adopting the City of White Salmon Park Plan, amending the name of Spoke's Bike Park to White Salmon Bike Park.**

Discussion:

Council and Mayor discussed inclusion of Pickleball. It was determined that the tennis courts including Pickleball striping was specifically noted in the Park Plan. It was also noted that the city is open to partnership from the community to help facilitate the resurfacing of the courts.

**CARRIED 4-0.**

## VII. Reports and Communications

### A. Sweet Gum Tree Report – Paul Koch, Interim City Administrator

The city received the initial report from Grey and Osbourne with options for the tree. Pricing to keep the tree ranges from \$95,000 to \$128,000. Pricing to remove the tree is \$56,000. A full update will be brought to the council no later than the first meeting in November.

### ~~B. Wildfire Mitigation Update – Bill Hunsaker, Fire Chief~~

### C. Department Heads

#### **Paul Koch, Interim City Administrator**

Discussion is in the works for a joint pool board meeting on October 27.

New City Administrator Troy Rayburn joins the city on October 24.

A new City Council Report is being utilized for council meetings. It includes an area for applicable initials to ensure the information has been confirmed in house and approved before presentation to the council.

Meeting with departments heads related to budget are continuing this week. In conversations with Bob Merritt, the Fire Task Force may be requesting an extension for their time frame to ensure they complete all the required meetings.

**Mike Hepner, Police Chief**

Klickitat County Health Department Behavioral Health Coordinator has been active 60 days. They are currently looking to extend job offers to additional Crisis Responders.

There has been great cooperation in regards to abandoned and neglected vehicles.

Halloween Parade has brought up some safety concerns specifically for the residential side street that will be detours for the diverted traffic. Chief is working with staff and community partners to shorten the length of the closure and highlight existing events.

Mayor Keethler clarified the current plan and thanked Chief Hepner for his cooperations.

**Russ Avery, Public Works Operations Manager**

Work is continuing on the Water System Plan Update with Dave Jepsen,

Anderson Perry. The Construction Standards are close to completion.

Work is continuing on the 2023 Public Works budget including a new vehicle replacement process.

Development Team Meeting discussed the Booster Pump Station upgrades for an upcoming potential development.

**Jeff Cooper, Public Works Foreman**

Identified current Public Works projects and day to day operations.

Noted a few trees on DNR property that need to be addressed before winter.

Had conversation with local parent school representative about painting paw prints from Jewett and Main up to high school. Mayor Keethler noted that there had been mention of this, but this was a larger scale than she had originally been notified of. Mayor Keethler said this may be better suited as a project for a local volunteer group.

The most recent power outage brought light to the need of a generator at the police Station and maintenance on the generator at City Hall.

**Jeff Broderick, Land Use Planner**

Working on identifying current codes that need to be updates including priority.

The Development Team Process is being reviewed to refine the process. The inclusion of other public agencies and jurisdictions is being discussed in hope of minimizing appeals and giving a more proactive approach to the overall process.

**Ken Woodrich, City Attorney**

Addressed question about potential RCW that states cities are not required to pay counties for court costs. Noted he is unsure of such RCW that specifically addresses that issue. He noted there is typically a contract with the county for a portion of court costs.

**Stephanie Porter, Clerk Treasurer**

Updated the council on the Financial Audit. No findings in areas completed.

The change to monthly meters reads is underway for October. This will provide meter read monthly rather than every other month.

**B. Council Members**  
**No council updates.**

**C. Mayor**

DNR Reached out to the City with a Wildfire Ready Neighbor Program. City will be sharing the toolkit and information on the website and through Voyent! Alert.

The Hood River/White Salmon Bridge Project has not received funding from the most recent round of submission. There are 2 additional programs that have not been awarded yet. The Bridge Coalition is planning a trip to DC in December.

After the elections, there are plans to meet with the Senators to discuss street improvements. Recommendation will be brought forward.

October is "Walk and Bike to School Month". Be extra careful of kids getting to school.

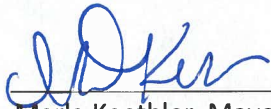
**VIII. Executive Session**

**The City Council went into Executive Session at 7:46 pm for 20 minutes pursuant to RCW 42.30.110 to discuss a matter related to potential litigation with no decisions being made upon return.**

**Council resumed regular council meeting at 8:06pm**

**IX. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07p.m.



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Maria Keethler, Mayor



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Stephanie Porter, Clerk Treasurer