

CITY OF WHITE SALMON
City Council Retreat Meeting – Wednesday, August 30, 2022
In Person Meeting

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, Clerk Treasurer
Jeff Broderick, Land Use Planner
Mike Hepner, Police Chief
Bill Hunsaker, Fire Chief/Code Enforcement
Paul Koch, Interim City Administrator
Stephanie Porter, Deputy Clerk

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Marla Keethler called the meeting to order at 4:00p.m. There were no members of the public in attendance.

II. Public Comment

No public present.

III. Business Items

A. Introduction and Purpose of Retreat

Mayor Marla Keethler presented the purpose of the retreat to identify council priorities for the budget year 2023. Mayor Keethler presented the results of a survey sent to the city council requesting importance of previously identified priorities and ranked them based on council response.

B. 2023 Base Budget

Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer, presented the base budget for year 2023. Brending explained that the base budget only includes expenditures that are reoccurring operating and maintenance costs to keep the city functioning, and only revenues that are ongoing funding sources such as taxes.

Brending noted that there will need to be a cautious and intentional approach to budgeting and spending for 2023 due to the presented facts that the city is currently using beginning cash balances to balance the budget. Brending noted that the city needs to identify additional streams of revenue to maintain the budget long term. Brending noted that the water and sewer utility rates will increase and recommended the city investigate a permanent levy lid lift to

increase the property taxes over the regular 1% annual increase to accommodate for inflation.

Mayor Marla Keethler reviewed current projects that will carry over into 2023.

C. Review of 2021-2022 Priorities and Accomplishments

Mayor Marla Keethler reviewed the priorities from 2021 and 2022.

Mayor Keethler reviewed the recent accomplishments of the city.

D. 2023 Budget Priorities

Department heads presented their budget requests including their number one priority as follows:

Mike Hepner, Police Chief	Additional Lateral Police Officer
Russ Avery, Public Works	Upgrade of the SCADA system
Stephanie Porter, Finance	Meter Reading Base Station
Bill Hunsaker, Building	Permitting/Inspection Software
Bill Hunsaker, Fire Chief	Fire Engine
Jeff Broderick, Planning	Grant Writer

Council members and Departments Head discussed the presented requests.


Council identified where each request fit within the following agreed upon the priorities for 2023:

- Develop sustainable infrastructure funding for the construction, operation, and maintenance of public buildings, roads, and utilities.
- Support a vibrant downtown.
- Improve communication between the community and the City Council/City Hall/Residents of White Salmon.
- Increase availability of housing for all income levels.
- Support efforts to increase access to public transportation.
- maintain public safety to the highest standards,
- Support efforts to increase childcare.
- Increase economic development activities.
- Improve existing park facilities and expand recreation access within town. Including supporting the efforts of the White Salmon Valley Metropolitan Park District to construct a pool.
- Increase tourism as an economic development driver.
- Support and preservation, rehabilitation, and restoration of historical buildings.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.



Maria Keethler, Mayor

Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer