



CITY OF WHITE SALMON
City Council Workshop and Meeting – Wednesday, January 4, 2023
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:

Jeff Broderick, Land Use Planner
Jeff Cooper, Acting Public Works Manager
Mike Hepner, Police Chief
Bill Hunsaker, Fire Chief/Code Enforcement
Marla Keethler, Mayor
Stephanie Porter, Clerk Treasurer
Troy Rayburn, City Administrator
Ken Woodrich, City Attorney

I. Council Workshop: 2023 State Legislative Priorities (5:30pm)

Mayor Marla Keethler presented the drafted 2023 State Legislative Priorities to the City Council as follows:

1. Affordable Housing
2. Community Pool
3. Infrastructure including adding childcare to the conversation.

Troy Rayburn, City Administrator recommended that the council review the priorities, but to keep the list short, focused, and direct.

Council discussed the presented draft 2023 State Legislative Priorities.

Council suggested that the list be prioritized by importance rather than alphabetically.

II. Call to Order and Roll Call

Mayor 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.

III. Changes to the Agenda

Staff recommended the following changes to the agenda:

Add Business Item Resolution 2023-01-554 Setting Time and Place for Public Hearing for Consideration of Assumption of the Rights, Powers, Functions and Obligations of the White Salmon Transportation Benefit District.

Add Business Item 2023 Mayor Committee Appointment

Mayor Marla Keethler recommended the 2023 AWC Center for Quality Communities Scholarship Nomination be moved to the consent agenda.

Moved by Ben Giant. Seconded by Jason Hartmann.

Motion to approve changes to the agenda to add business items Resolution 2023-01-554 and 2023 Mayor Committee Appointments and to move business item AWC Center for Quality Communities Scholarship Nomination to the consent agenda.

CARRIED 5-0

IV. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes – December 7, 2022

B. Approval of City Council Minutes – December 21, 2022

C. Approval of Vouchers

D. 2023 AWC Center for Quality Communities Scholarship Nomination

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 4th day of January 2023.

Type	Date	From	To	Amount
Claims	12/30/2022	38768	38798	58,234.57
	12/30/2022	EFT	EFT	4,236.00
	1/4/2023	38763	38767	36,587.33
			Claims Total	99,057.90
Payroll	1/5/2023	EFT	EFT	123,759.73
	1/5/2023	38759	38762	1,239.79
			Payroll Total	124,999.52
Manual Claims				0.00
			Manual Total	0.00
			Total All Vouchers	224,057.42

Moved by Ben Giant. Seconded by Jim Ransier.

Discussion: Council was glad to see such a strong candidate for the city to nominate for the AWC scholarship this year.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda as presented with vouchers in the amount of \$224,057.42.

CARRIED 5-0.

V. Public Comment

There was no public comment in person or online.

VI. Presentation

Bridge Authority Presentation –

Representatives Kevin Greenwood, Port of Hood River and Michael Shannon, Project Manager from the Bridge Authority gave an update on the progress of the new White Salmon/Hood River bridge.

They discussed the history of the project, the timeline of the project, the permitting of the project, the RFP process for a designer including getting authority from the state of Washington to use a portion the \$75 million awarded to the project on engineering and design.

Mayor Marla Keethler initiated conversation around the community survey that was issued to garner response on where the headquarters for the project would be located, Washington or Oregon. It was noted that there was significant outreach regarding the potential bias of the survey to choose Oregon and did not capture the benefits of having the headquarters on the Washington side.

The new bridge will be commissioned by a Bi-state Commission – 3 Bridge Commissioners appointed by the Klickitat County Commissioners and 3 Bridge Commissioners will be appointed by the Hood River County Commissioners.

Michael Shannon confirmed that the I-5 bridge replacement is not a direct competitor to this bridge project. He noted that the White Salmon/Hood River project would likely aid the I5 project through the development of a local workforce.

Kevin Greenwood explained Title 23 that requires 100% of tolls of a federally funded infrastructure project have to be used for maintenance and operations of the infrastructure. He noted that the White Salmon Waterfront Park could be included in this due to its proximity to the new bridge.

The goal is for there to be shovels in the ground by 2025 with the project completed by October 2029.

VII. Business Items

~~A. 2023 AWC Center for Quality Communities Scholarship Nomination~~

A. 2022 Vacation Leave Carryover – Retroactive

Stephanie Porter, Clerk Treasurer presented information regarding the 2022 Vacation Carryover approval. The request was made for Jeff Cooper, Troy Rayburn and Jeff Broderick to carryover their vacation leave that was over their allotted carryover due to multiple staffing changes and overall inability to take time off in the interim.

Moved by Jason Hartmann. Seconded by David Lindley.

Motion to approve the 2022 Vacation Carryover as presented.

Discussion:

Ben Giant, Council Member confirmed that no employees were losing vacation time.

CARRIED 5-0.

B. Resolution 2023-01-554 Setting Time and Place for Public Hearing for Consideration of Assumption of the Rights, Powers, Functions and Obligations of the White Salmon Transportation Benefit District.

Stephanie Porter, Clerk Treasurer explained the Transportation Benefit District process and the need to pass Resolution 2023-01-554 to establish the Public Hearing for the next step to assume powers of the Transportation District.

Moved by Jim Ransier. Seconded by Jason Hartmann.

Motion to approve Resolution 2023-01-554 Setting Time and Place for Public Hearing for Consideration of Assumption of the Rights, Powers, Functions and Obligations of the White Salmon Transportation Benefit District.

CARRIED 5-0.

C. 2023 Mayor Committee Appointments

Mayor Marla Keethler introduced her appointments for the 2023 Committees and Boards.

Jim Ransier, Council Member gave reminder that there are vacancies on the CityLab Board not noted on the outlined appointments.

Patty Fink, Council Member noted that she would like to see a representative from Public Works attend the Tree Board meetings.

Moved by David Lindley. Seconded by Jason Hartmann.

Motion to approve 2023 Committee Appointments as presented.

Discussion:

Mayor Keethler confirmed that in the Transportation Benefit District is established, staff will discuss how it may be advised.

CARRIED 5-0.

VIII. Reports and Communications

A. Department Heads

Jeff Cooper, Acting Public Works Operations Manager

Jeff Cooper confirmed that the uptick in maintenance issue with vehicles is not related to age.

Stephanie Porter, Clerk Treasurer

Stephanie Porter confirmed funding for the replacement of the SCADA system with the recent issues. Troy Rayburn, Jeff Cooper, Andrew Dirks and Stephanie Porter met to discuss how to move the SCADA project forward and efficiently as possible.

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

Bill Hunsaker confirmed that Bob Merritt will be ready to update the council regarding the task force recommendation by the January 31, 2023 deadline.

Jeff Broderick, Land Use Planner

Jeff Broderick confirmed that the Short Term Rental percentage could be easily lowered the 6-7%. He noted that even with the units that are currently out of compliance, the percentage would be under that range.

Ken Woodrich, City Attorney

Ken Woodrich announced his retirement. His last council meeting will be March 15, 2023.

Mayor Marla Keethler thanked him for his many years of service to the City of White Salmon.

Troy Rayburn, City Administrator

Troy Rayburn gave an overview of the management team meeting. He noted that staff is refocusing on goals at hand specifically lined out in the adopted Comprehensive Plan and 2023 Budget.

B. Council Members

Jim Ransier, Council Member

Jim Ransier clarified that the Green Storm Water Infrastructure email that was sent out to council was informational. He did note that there is a potential pilot project for this in future years.

Mayor Marla Keethler noted that there will be communication between herself and committee heads regarding Memorial Benches.

Patty Fink, Council Member

Patty Fink said she would like to see Yard Debris pick up in White Salmon.

Jim Ransier, Council Member noted that this would help support the Climate Action Resolution Goals.

C. Mayor

Mayor Marla Keethler stated that there will be a new flow of information between City Council and City Staff. All Council Members should direct recommendation to the Mayor and the Mayor to City Staff.

Mayor Keethler noted that the first City Newsletter will be issued March 2023.

Mayor Keethler thanked Public Works for their quick response to the recent outage. She noted it has set a priority for the replacement of the SCADA system in 2023. She noted that staff is also discussing and making plans for necessary security at city sites.

IX. Executive Session

No Executive Session.

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:44p.m.

Marla Keethler, Mayor

Stephanie Porter, Clerk Treasurer