



White Salmon City Council MEETING MINUTES

April 1, 2026 – 6:00 PM
119 NE Church Ave and Zoom Teleconference

Attendance:

Council Members:

David Lindley
Ben Giant (Zoom)
Doug Rainbolt (Zoom)
Morella Mora

Staff:

Marla Keethler, Mayor (Zoom)
Shawn MacPherson, City Attorney (Zoom)
Erika Castro Guzman, City Clerk
Jennifer Neil, Director of Finance and Operations
Jason Kinley, Public Works Operation Manager

I. Call to Order (6:00 p.m.)

Mayor Marla Keethler called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. A total of four members of the public were in attendance, both in person and via teleconference.

A. Land Acknowledgement (6:00 p.m.)

The Land Acknowledgement was delivered.

B. Presentation of the Flag (6:02 p.m.)

The Presentation of the Flag was conducted.

II. Roll Call (6:02 p.m.)

The meeting was called to order with four Council members present, constituting a quorum.

Moved by Ben Giant. Seconded by Morella Mora.

Move to excuse the absence of Council Member Patty Fink from the April 1 City Council meeting.

MOTION CARRIED 4-0

Giant – Aye, Mora – Aye, Rainbolt – Aye, Lindley – Aye.

III. Additions or Corrections to the Agenda (None)

IV. Public Comment (6:03 p.m.)

No members of the public provided comment.

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V. Presentation (6:04 p.m.)

A. Heritage Month Presentation (6:04 p.m.)

Mayor Marla Keethler introduced the City's recognition of Arab American Heritage Month and invited Community Development Committee Chair Ben Giant to lead the presentation.

Council Member Ben Giant highlighted the significance of Arab American Heritage Month, recognizing the contributions of Arab Americans to the nation's civic, cultural, and economic life. He introduced a short educational video from the Arab American National Museum, noting it provides insight into the diversity, traditions, and lived experiences within the Arab American community.

On Location With The Arab-American National Museum short video provided an overview of Arab American culture and identity, highlighting the diversity within the community and the blending of Arab and American traditions. It emphasized the cultural importance of food and hospitality as a way of bringing people together and expressing identity, as well as traditions such as sharing coffee and tea to foster connection and conversation. The video also discussed entrepreneurship within Arab American communities, including the presence of markets, restaurants, and small businesses, and illustrated how cultural practices are maintained and adapted across generations. Additional examples included youth experiences balancing cultural traditions with everyday American life, such as participating in school activities while observing religious practices like Ramadan.

Full Video Link: <https://www.pbs.org/video/on-location-with-the-arab-american-national-museum-m2vfbr/>

Mayor Keethler thanked Council Member Ben Giant following the presentation.

B. City Highlights with the Mayor (6:10 p.m.)

Mayor Marla Keethler provided updates on recent City activities, including a successful Tree Fest event with strong community turnout. She recognized the Tree Board and volunteers for their efforts and noted the City's 9th year as a Tree City, coinciding with the 50th anniversary of the national Tree City program.

Mayor Keethler reported that the City submitted a CDS application to Senator Murray's office and is preparing a RCO grant application for the next phase of Bluff Trail improvements. She also acknowledged Public Works Operations Manager Jason Kinley for presenting to the Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) regarding the State Route 141 project, as the City explores funding opportunities for Complete Streets improvements, including sidewalks, lighting, and pedestrian enhancements.

Mayor Keethler announced that the annual wildfire open house is planned for May 4 and will follow a new open house format, allowing the public to engage directly with multiple agencies and access information.

Mayor Keethler also shared an update on the State Route 141 project, including early discussions around potential parking configurations to support project feasibility and costs. She referenced past consideration of back-in angled parking and its potential benefits for visibility and multimodal design, noting that further evaluation and

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community engagement would be required. Then she concluded by revealing that the parking discussion was an April Fool’s joke, clarifying that no changes to parking configuration are currently proposed and that the project remains under coordination with WSDOT.

Council Member David Lindley responded with lighthearted reactions from the Council chamber following the Mayor’s joke.

VI. Consent Agenda (6:16 p.m.)

A. Approval of Service Agreement - Integrated Underwater Services

B. 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 1st day of April 2026.

Type	Date	Beginning Check	Ending Check	
Claims	04/01/2026	43365	43390	\$1,1353,011.03
			Claim Total	\$1,1353,011.03
			Total Vouchers	\$1,1353,011.03

Moved by David Lindley. Seconded by Ben Giant.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda and Vouchers for \$1,353,011.03.

Discussion (6:17 p.m.)

Council Member Ben Giant noted the unusually large voucher total, stating it was the largest amount he had seen during his time on Council and recognizing the scale of ongoing City projects.

Mayor Marla Keethler credited Finance and Public Works staff for advancing reimbursements efficiently. She explained that the large voucher amounts are tied to major infrastructure projects, particularly water system improvements, and emphasized the importance of timely processing to manage loans and maintain project momentum.

MOTION CARRIED 4-0

Giant – Aye, Mora – Aye, Rainbolt – Aye, Lindley – Aye.

VII. Reports and Communications (6:17 p.m.)

A. Department Head Reports (6:17 p.m.)

Mayor Marla Keethler noted that Police Chief Mike Hepner was absent due to attending an open house at the Husum Fire Station related to evacuation planning, involving multiple agencies including the County Sheriff’s Office.

No questions were raised for staff regarding the department head reports, and no further updates were reported.

B. Council Member Reports (6:18 p.m.)

Council Member Ben Giant reported that the Community Development Committee has an upcoming vacancy following the resignation of longtime member Charlie Kitchens

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after five years of service. He expressed appreciation for Kitchens' contributions and noted that the City will work with Mayor Keethler to fill the position.

Council Member Doug Rainbolt reported that the Operations Committee is exploring system development charges as a potential funding tool for growth-related infrastructure. He noted the goal is to develop a fair and proportional model for developers and expects to bring a preliminary proposal to Council in the coming months.

Council Member Morella Mora provided a legislative update, noting that two bills were recently signed into law by the Governor. She highlighted SB 5855, addressing law enforcement identification standards, and SB 5974, which updates requirements and accountability standards for sheriffs and law enforcement personnel. Councilor Mora outlined key provisions, including training requirements, restrictions on volunteer enforcement roles, and enhanced transparency measures. She emphasized the importance of maintaining high standards for public safety and acknowledged the City's Police Department for its ongoing training efforts.


Council Member David Lindley shared that the Operations Committee continues work on system development charge research and expressed appreciation for staff support in reviewing ongoing and future projects. He also reported attending an Association of Washington Cities (AWC) leadership event in Ellensburg, noting the value of networking and training opportunities.


Mayor Marla Keethler encouraged Councilmembers to attend the upcoming AWC annual conference in Spokane and announced that White Salmon will host a Small City Connector event on April 21, providing an opportunity for regional networking and training.

VIII. Executive Session (None)

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

DocuSigned by:

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Marla Keethler, Mayor

Signed by:

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Erika Castro Guzman, City Clerk