



CITY OF WHITE SALMON
City Council Regular Meeting – Wednesday, October 16, 2019

Council and Administrative Personnel Present

Council Members:

Jason Hartmann – by phone
Donna Heimke
Marla Keethler
Ashley Post
Amy Martin

Staff Present:

Pat Munyan, City Administrator
Stephanie Porter, Deputy Clerk
Ken Woodrich, City Attorney
Mike Hepner, Police Chief
Russ Avery, Public Works Operations
Manager

1. Call to Order

Mayor Dave Poucher called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. There were approximately 40 people present.

2. Roll Call

All Council members present. Jason Hartmann called in by phone.

3. Comments – Public and Council

Lloyd DeKay, White Salmon Community Partners and White Salmon Valley Metropolitan Park District said he brought in Fall/Winter banners that the White Salmon Community Partners have for the downtown light poles. He said they have enough for the 8 light poles downtown. DeKay said they have summer ones but are not sure where there are at. He said he thought the City may have taken them down when the lights were replaced and stored them somewhere on City property.

DeKay said the White Salmon Valley Pool Metropolitan Park District is meeting with the school board on October 24, 2019 regarding the property they would like to use for the new pool. He said this meeting will decide whether their use is approved. DeKay said if they approve the use of the school property, it is the intent of the Park District to release the City property as an option.

Rusty Neff, Klickitat County Resident said he is representing 9 homeowners that paid to install a fire hydrant on Highway 141 that was removed during the emergency water line repairs at Bald Mountain. He said he noticed the fire hydrant had been removed but was never notified by the city. Neff said that when he contacted the city, he was told that the hydrant had never been used, was in a bad location, and that the fire department had given the okay to remove it. He said his current homeowner insurance rate is dependent on a fire hydrant being within a certain proximity of his home. Neff stated that according to Wes Long of Fire District 3 the fire hydrant has been checked regularly and used on many occasions including the 2012 Highway 141 Fire. He said he is concerned about fire protection for his home and the neighboring homes. Neff said he is disappointed that the city never attempted to contact him regarding the removal of the fire hydrant.

Patrick Munyan, City Administrator (responding per Mayor Poucher's request) provided Rusty Neff a copy of a letter submitted by Pioneer Engineering regarding the reasons for the removal of the fire hydrant. Munyan said that even with the emergency repairs the water line is in extremely poor shape. He said having the fire hydrant on the line would allow "water hammering" which would create more leaks that would require emergency repairs. Munyan said the most recent emergency repair cost the city \$200,000. He said the line will be replaced in the coming years and noted the agenda item related to a Public Works Board Pre-Construction Loan that addresses the beginning stages of the project that will replace the water line. Munyan said that when the line is replaced, the fire hydrant will be replaced.

Rusty Neff said he wants to see the fire hydrant returned to Fire District 3 since they purchased the hydrant. He said he would like to ask that there be better communication from the city when issues like this come up.

Patrick Munyan said this fire hydrant situation is unique in that it was purchased by residents. He said that if the city had known this from the beginning there would have been immediate communication with the homeowners including providing information about replacing the hydrant when the water line is upgraded.

George Mersereau, Klickitat County Resident said that city should be able to put an adapter on the standpipe to replace the hydrant.

Pat Munyan responded that the standpipe was bypassed and currently there is not water available to the pipe.

George Mersereau said that he understands. He said he wants the hydrant replaced when the pipe is replaced.

4. Changes to the Agenda

Marla Keethler requested adding an agenda item - Downtown Winter Decorations. There was a consensus of the council to add the agenda item.

Jason Hartmann requested that the Executive Session regarding the review of city employee(s) performance be moved to the November 6, 2019 city council meeting.

There was a consensus of the council to move the Executive session to the November 6, 2019 city council meeting.

5. Reconsideration of Ordinance 2019-10-1053, Adopting WSMC 8.50 Single-Use Carryout Bags

Dave Poucher opened the discussion per council request. He said he is proud of the collaborative group effort to instill a bag ban. Poucher said he sees the discussion or disagreement is situated around the implementation of the bag ban.

Poucher reminded commenters that there would be a 2-minute maximum comment time per person.

Charlie Pluckon, Klickitat County Resident said he shops in the city. He said he is concerned about the rise in irrational and emotionally based legislature across the country. Pluckon said the environmental impact is a wash. He said the United States contributes to 1% of the ocean pollution. Pluckon said if Harvest Market really does hand out 1 million plastic bags per year that is only 25 cubic yards which is nothing in comparison to the big picture. He said the plastic bags he receives are not single use because he reuses them at his home as trash liners and more. Pluckon said this is a meaningless ordinance that has no real impact but to show moral superiority.

Jerry Smith, Klickitat County Resident said he supports the Mayor's veto.

Ruth Olin, White Salmon Resident said she wants the fee to stand. She said she does not support the veto. Olin said there needs to be a fee to encourage change. She said businesses could have implemented the bag ban without the legislation, but they have not.

George Mersereau, Klickitat County Resident said he supports the Mayor's veto.

Brad Bookmyer, Klickitat County Resident said people should have a choice if they want to pay for a bag. He said currently the charge for the bags is being paid for in the increased cost of goods at the store. Bookmyer said implementing the bag ban with the fee allows people who bring their own bag to bypass paying for bags they do not use.

Kristie Tolmie, Klickitat County Resident said she supports the Mayor's Veto.

Tamara Shannon, Hood River, Oregon Resident said she fought for the bag ban in Hood River, Oregon. She said she is a retired forester. Shannon said she was disappointed when Hood River lifted the fee. She said it does not matter what the fee is, the point is to reuse bags. Shannon said the goal is to eliminate disposable bags, plastic or paper, thereby saving resources. Shannon said any single-use bag is an unnecessary use of resources. She said she is embarrassed that California is better at recycling than Oregon. Shannon said she would like to see a big sign that says, "Don't Forget Your Bags!". She said the goal is to get people to form new habits.

Becky Miles, Community Upcycle said she wants to clear up the intention of Community Upcycle. She said there has been some negative things said about the group by a narrow, special interest group. Miles said the goal of the group is to support a safe, clean and desirable community to live, work and play. She said members of the group came together with a common desire to reduce the use of plastic bags in the Gorge. Miles said the group sponsors community programs which teach children how to sew their own grocery bags out of recycled materials. She said adults have participated in sew-a-thons to make grocery bags that Harvest Market allows them to sell as a fundraiser. Miles said the money raised goes back into school education programs that support recycling. She said group has built reusable bag receptacles to put at Harvest Market and Ace Hardware. Miles said a lot of research went into cultivating a good policy that would fall in line with possible future state legislation. She said the group has communicated with the Grocery Association and the owner of Harvest Market to make sure that ordinance was sustainable. Miles said the group found overwhelming support from local businesses. She said she hopes that Community Upcycle will be seen in a new light.

Claire Gilchrist, White Salmon Resident said she moved here from a place with a plastic bag ban with a charge. She said she always brings her own bags. Gilchrist said when she moved here, she stopped bringing her own bags. She said she realized that when this ordinance came about. Gilchrist said she supports the charge for bags because it encourages people to rethink their habits.

Janet Warren, White Salmon Resident said as a profession she did research for evidence-based policy. She said she would be required to read through it and boil information down to be easily communicated. Warren asked, if the veto stands and the bag charge is removed, has anyone asked the businesses if they will continue to stand with the ordinance. She said if the answer is no, then there should not be a vote, because the businesses entered into a social contract.

Mark Schmitt, White Salmon Resident said that after the veto, the mayor contacted people who supported the veto to come and make comment at the council meeting. He said this invitation was not right in that it should have been made to everyone, not just to those who supported the veto. Schmitt said he supports the bag ban and fee.

Marty James, White Salmon Resident said he supports the Mayor's Veto.

Chris Moore, White Salmon Resident said he supports the bag ban. He said he has been able to use the same bags for the last 25 years. He said that he is an outdoorsman and sees plastic bags every time he goes out -- in the rivers and hiking. Moore said the bags are bought here, but they effect the entire area of the Gorge and beyond. He said he is a financial analyst and he supports the bag fee because one of the most successful way to create a change is to create an impact financially.

Susan Svensson, White Salmon Resident said she sews her own bags. She said she is disappointed in the veto.

Chrissy Trask, White Salmon Resident said she supports the bag ban as written. She said the truth is that the fee is necessary to create the change desired.

Dana Scheffler, White Salmon Resident said he is disappointed in the veto. He said he encourages the Council to overturn the veto.

Pam Springer, Lyle, Washington Resident said she support the ordinance as written. She said we owe it to the future generations to make a change.

Discussion

Marla Keethler said most of the e-mails she received were in support of the ordinance. She said she was encouraged to hear all sides of the discussion. Keethler said the council is elected to represent all residents of White Salmon and she hopes the takeaway is that as a resident there is value in coming forward and stating your point of view. She said at the end of the day, the discussion is regarding an issue. Keethler said the discussion should be centered around the issue and not attacks on people or groups of people. Keethler said we are all striving to create a

community that we are proud to live in. She said that the takeaway she got from the comments was that waste is an issue. She said there is compelling research including a study done in Buenos Aires where a bag ban with a fee was implemented in certain communities and not in others. Keethler said the study saw less bags used in the communities that charged a fee. She said there were comments made tonight in support of that same point.

Ashley Post said at the last meeting it was a very easy yes to vote because the council had not heard any opposition up to that point. She said she was glad to have multiple viewpoints represented tonight. Post said one of the viewpoints she found important was the question of whether the bag ban and fee will discourage people from buying goods in White Salmon, which are already priced higher than other neighboring communities. She said the city already struggles to keep people buying in White Salmon and not going to Hood River or The Dalles. Post said another concern is the impact on our residents that are already struggling financially. She said most of the bags currently handed out in White Salmon are plastic. She said if this changes to mostly paper, she would expect the price difference to be compensated in the cost of goods if the fee did not accompany the change. Post said in this case it would make more sense to have the fee. She said this would allow people to choose if they wanted to pay for the bag or bring their own.

Amy Martin said she was glad to see the different viewpoints. She said this was a community lead effort to encourage a change that people wanted to see.

Donna Heimke said she has no problem with the bag ban. She said she wants to encourage responsible environmental practices. Heimke said the fee does bother her. She said in her experience, she did not grow up in the Northwest and was not used to bringing her own bags. Heimke said she had to train herself to bring her bags. She said that took trial and error to remember the bags. Heimke said that rather than imposing a fee, why not discontinue providing any bags. She said this allows people to bring their own bags but not be required to pay a fee.

Marla Keethler said that bags have become an expectation of the shopping experience. She said there are many countries that do not provide bags at all. Keethler said providing no bags could be an interesting route to go. She said she believes that the option to buy the bag at check-out is a good middle ground.

Ken Woodrich said that in order to overturn the veto the council needs a super majority vote of 4 out of 5 council members.

**Moved by Amy Martin. Seconded by Jason Hartmann.
Motion to overrule the veto of Mayor David Poucher of Ordinance 2019-10-1053, Adopting WSMC 8.50 Single-Use Carry Out Bags. CARRIED 5 to 0.**

6. Public Works Board Pre-Construction Loan Contract

Pat Munyan said the City was awarded a loan from the Public Works Trust Fund in the amount of \$750,000 to be used for design, engineering and environmental review of replacing the 14-inch water main line that comes into town down from Buck Creek. He said the design process is expected to take two years. Munyan said the contract with Public Works Trust Fund is required in order to receive the funds awarded.

Moved by Amy Martin. Seconded by Donna Heimke.

Motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the Public Works Board Pre-Construction Loan Contract in the amount of \$750,000. CARRIED 5 to 0.

7. Intergovernmental Agreement – Klickitat County, Buildable Lands Inventory and Housing Analysis

Pat Munyan said Klickitat County is hiring FSC Group to prepare a buildable lands inventory, housing needs and economic opportunity analysis which includes the City of White Salmon and the surrounding urban exempt area. He said this will give the city information needed to complete the comprehensive plan update regarding land inventory. Munyan said the city's share of the project is \$42,802 and the funds are currently in the 2019 budget and will be carried over into 2020.

Discussion

Marla Keethler asked if the 2009 study was similar to this study.

Pat Munyan said that was an urbanization study and this study is specifically focused on housing.

Moved by Marla Keethler. Seconded by Amy Martin.

Motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the Intergovernmental Agreement with Klickitat County related to buildable lands inventory and housing analysis in the amount of \$42,802. CARRIED 5 to 0.

8. Lateral Police Officer – Vacation Leave

Pat Munyan said a request is being made to the city council to increase vacation leave for lateral police officers Frank Randall and Ed Gunnyon to 16 hours per month. He said that in 2017 the chief of police unintentionally made a commitment to Frank Randall, outside of union contract, that Randall's vacation leave would increase to 16 hours per month (from 14 hours per month) after two years of service in White Salmon. Munyan noted that retired chief Tracy Wykoff has provided a letter outlining the agreement he made with Frank Randall. He said Randall's increase of leave would be effective April 1, 2019 and Gunnyon's increase would be effective two years from his hire date.

Discussion

Ashley Post asked if retired Chief Tracy Wykoff knew that he was breaking the contract.

Pat Munyan said he does not believe that Retired Chief Wykoff knew he was in violation of the union contract when the agreement was made.

Dave Poucher said he believes the increase in leave was used as an incentive to retain a lateral officer that was able to start right away. He said lateral police officers are valuable because they do not have to go through the academy and the training that new hire officers are required to complete.

Chief Mike Hepner said that the usual cap out for vacation time for experienced officers is 16 hours a month. He said Ed Gunnyon was brought in at 14 hours a month.

Donna Heimke asked if the city was setting a precedent by making these adjustments to the leave.

Pat Munyan said that if Frank Randall is given an increase it is only right to provide Ed Gunnyon, who is also a lateral officer, with the same agreement.

Moved by Ashley Post. Seconded by Amy Martin.

Motion to authorize an increase in vacation leave for lateral police officers Frank Randall, effective April 1, 2019; and Edward Gunnyon, effective August 16, 2021, from 14 hours per month (4.2 weeks per year) to 16 hours per month (4.8 weeks per year) and noting that this action will not constitute a "past practice" related to union contracts. CARRIED 5 to 0.

9. Downtown Winter Decorations

Marla Keethler said she would like to propose that the city invest in holiday/winter decorations for the downtown. She said she spoke with Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer briefly about a budget. She said Brending has responded that there would need to be a budget amendment but there are funds that could be allocated to this project. Keethler said she has found a company in Oregon that could provide all the items purposed. She said she would like to purpose a 9-foot Santa riding on a salmon to be placed at Fireman's Park; light pole flags and shimmering snowflakes for the eight light poles beginning at Riverview Community Bank; and a light up skyline display saying "Seasons Greetings" hung across either Jewett Blvd or Main Ave at the City Hall Building. Keethler said an incentive to complete this project this year is that there are allocated funds from the pool passes and Movies in the Park, that did not get used that could be reallocated to this project. She said if the city opted for all the items proposed, including shipping, the cost would be \$10,840. Keethler said that Jan Brending gave a rough budget number of \$5,000- \$7,000 that could be available. She said she itemized the items so that adjustments could be made to adhere to any budget provided.

Discussion

Dave Poucher said he thinks this is a great idea.

Amy Martin asked who would be installing the decorations.

Marla Keethler said ideally the city would install the decorations.

Poucher suggested enlisting the help of White Salmon Community Partners.

Pat Munyan said that he has made plans for a conduit to be placed on the back side of City Hall, as well as the Police Station.

Amy Martin said she loves the decoration. She said she would like to see the Seasons Greeting Sign located at the Police Department Office.

Marla Keethler said she went with more generic winter decorations so that they could be up for a longer period of time.

The council and staff discussed how the decorations could be stored.

Moved by Amy Martin. Seconded by Donna Heimke.

Motion to approve the holiday winter downtown decorations proposal with the Waving Santa on Salmon, Flag Banners Option B, and the Seasons Greeting Sign in the amount of \$10,840. CARRIED 5 to 0.

Discussion

Ashley Post asked where Marla found the supplier Crystal Valley.

Marla Keethler said she found them by searching online. She said the value is that the shipping cost is much less than other suppliers and it would arrive within 4 weeks of ordering. Keethler said she also chose the company based on the ability to customize the banners for a much more reasonable cost. She said this company is a single source provider. Keethler suggested an option is to use the existing fall/winter banners from White Salmon Community Partners and utilize the budgeted amount to buy summer banners.

Moved by Donna Heimke. Seconded by Amy Martin.

Motion to amend the previous motion that funds up to \$10,840 may be used to purchase holiday winter downtown decorations. CARRIED 5 to 0.

Moved by Donna Heimke. Seconded by Amy Martin.

Motion to approve the purchase holiday winter downtown decorations in an amount not to exceed \$10,840. CARRIED 5 to 0.

10. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Minutes – October 2, 2019
- 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 16th day of October, 2019.

Type	Date	From	To	Amount
Claims	10/16/2019	35455	35495	359,059.32
	10/16/2019	EFT	EFT	9,344.54
			Claims Total	368,403.86

Manual Claims	10/06/2019	EFT	EFT	500.80
			Manual Total	500.80
			Total All Vouchers	368,904.66

Moved by Donna Heimke. No second to the motion.
Motion to approve the consent agenda.
Donna Heimke withdrew her motion.

Discussion

Ashley Post asked the following correction to be made on page 4 under discussion of Ordinance 2019-10-1053 Adopting WSMC 8.50 Single-Use Carryout Bags:

“Ashley Post said she feels the statistics that have been provided show when there is no fee the use of paper bags increases. She said she questions if it is the government’s right to require a fee.”

Moved by Ashley Post. Seconded by Amy Martin.
Motion to amend the October 2, 2019 meeting minutes as noted. CARRIED 5 to 0.

Moved by Donna Heimke. Seconded by Amy Martin.
Motion to approve the consent agenda with corrections. CARRIED 5 to 0.

12. Department Head and Council Reports

Mike Hepner, Police Chief said on Tuesday Officer Kate Daniels will be working on her own. He said Officer Maddie McIlwain will graduate from the academy on December 10, 2019.

Russ Avery, Public Works Operations Manager said the department is working with the state to get winterizing materials including salt and sand at a cheaper price.

Pat Munyan, City Administrator said the Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) contacted him about the Garfield Street grant application. He said they are considering funding it but want some modifications to the public parking, drainage and sidewalks. Munyan said they want the project to be extended an additional block as well. He said modifications to the original grant application have been made and the grant resubmitted to the Transportation Improvement Board. He said it would be a 95% grant requiring 5% matching funds from the city.

Ken Woodrich, City Attorney said he was at the City Attorney Conference where increased bid limits were discussed and updates on employment law and Indian law were provided.

Ashley Post, Council Member said the Tree Board has issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for an arborist to prune some city trees. She said there is a City Operations Meeting on Tuesday, October 22, 2019 at 5:30pm.

Marla Keethler, Council Member said the short-term rental ordinance will be back before the council on November 06, 2019 with adjustments made based on the feedback from the public

hearing. She said the State House Bill 1406 passed and which allows for reallocation of some state tax monies back to cities and counties to be used for housing. She said she represented the City of White Salmon in a meeting with the Klickitat County, City of Goldendale and City of Bingen to discuss and collaboratively determine the best way to maximize the incoming revenue for housing. Keethler said the consensus was for the county to make the implementation rather than each city having a much smaller piece of the funds. She said it was suggested that a Memorandum of Understanding between the three cities and the county be developed stating the three cities are not enacting State Bill 1406, but instead deferring to the county. Keethler said the MOU would include a long-term plan to clarify the process. She said she believes the MOU will be brought to the council on November 20, 2019. Keethler said it needs to be completed by the end of the year. Keethler said that City Hall looks great. She said that she and Pat Munyan will be meeting with Jerry Lewis, Superintendent of the White Salmon Valley School District to discuss vocational training opportunities for students who are not on a college path. She said this discussion is prompted as the beginning steps of the community center the city is considering building. Keethler said that the Community Development Committee discussed parking ordinances at its most recent meeting.

Ashley Post asked what the changes to the short-term rental ordinance have been included.

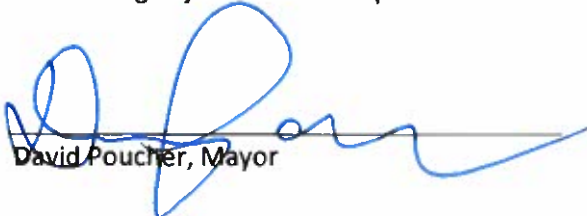
Marla Keethler said the tier structure was changed to a flat fee of \$75 per unit or space being advertised. She said they changed the wording regarding inspections from mandatory to discretionary. Keethler said this makes the inspections only necessary if there is a cause for concern or need for the inspection. She said the ordinance is aimed at creating a registration process rather than a regulation process.

Donna Heimke, Council Member said she and the Budget Committee have been working on the budget for 2020.

Pat Munyan, City Administrator said the land trust group will be making a presentation to the council in a few weeks. He said it will be a good presentation with good information to help the city make decisions moving forward.

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.



David Poucher, Mayor



Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer