



CITY OF WHITE SALMON
City Council Regular Meeting – Wednesday, September 16, 2020
Via Zoom Teleconference

Council and Administrative Personnel Present

Council Members:

Jason Hartmann
David Lindley
Ashley Post
Jim Ransier
Joe Turkiewicz

Staff Present:

Marla Keethler, Mayor
Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer
Ken Woodrich, City Attorney
Pat Munyan, City Administrator
Russ Avery, Public Works Operations Mgr.
Mike Hepner, Police Chief
Bill Hunsaker, Building Official/Fire Chief

1. Call to Order

Marla Keethler, Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. There were approximately 4 people in the audience (by video or telephone).

2. Roll Call

All council members were present.

3. Public Comment

Sasha Bentley, White Salmon submitted public comment regarding inclusivity training, capacity of staff and budget, Loop Road trail, short-term rental compliance, attainable and affordable housing, playground equipment, replacing police officer with specialist in mental health/prevention, climate change, crisis preparedness, and utilizing social media and other communication tools.

4. Changes to Agenda

Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer asked that a proposed resolution ratifying the mayor's emergency proclamation be added to the agenda after the 2021 Policy Area Priorities agenda item.

Moved by Jason Hartmann. Seconded by Ashley Post.

Motion to add agenda item regarding proposed resolution ratifying the mayor's emergency proclamation after the agenda item "2021 Policy Area Priorities." Motion carried 5-0.

5. COVID19 CARES Funding Agreement Amendment

Marla Keethler, Mayor said the city has been notified that it will receive an additional \$39,150 in CARES Act funding increase the total to \$117,450. She said the funds must be spent by November 30, 2020. Keethler said an amendment to the resolution providing how the funding is to be spent will be presented at the council's October 7, 2020 meeting. It was noted that the amendments will address grant opportunities for nonprofits.

Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer said staff is asking for authorization for the mayor to sign the amendment to the COVID-19 CARES Act Funding agreement with Washington Department of Commerce increasing the funding to \$117,450 and extending the termination of the program to November 30, 2020.

Moved by Jim Ransier. Seconded by Jason Hartmann.

Motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the amendment to the COVID-19 CARES Act Funding agreement with Washington Department of Commerce increasing the amount of funding from \$78,300 to \$117,450 and extending the termination of the program from October 31, 2020 to November 30, 2020. Motion carried 5-0.

6. 2021 Policy Area Priorities

Marla Keethler, Mayor reviewed proposed 2021 priority policy areas that are a result of the September 9 council retreat. It was noted the proposed policy areas are in addition to the ongoing projects the city is already working on that will carryover to 2021. The proposed 2021 priority policy areas are:

Ongoing Mitigation of COVID19 Business Impacts and Ongoing Business Support to Make Downtown More Welcoming to Visitors

- Allowing parklets in the summer of 2021 and future summers
- Downtown signage
- Downtown planters
- Maintenance of existing crosswalks and researching permanent crosswalks for Jewett Blvd. – investigation of concrete crosswalks

Public Safety & Hazard Preparedness

- Adding a position to BWSPD to focus on social service issues
- Encouraging staffing a diverse and bilingual police department
- Develop plans for fire mitigation and fire preparedness in and around the City of White Salmon

Ensure residents receive quality, cost-effective services that maintain sense of community

- Develop funding strategies for increased emphasis on street infrastructure
- Revisit ability to have home postal delivery
- Work towards the development of a community center on property owned by the city across from Whitson Elementary
- Hire personnel to focus on code enforcement
- Complete Comprehensive Park Plan
- Invest in existing parks to improve amenities and increase citizen use
- Safer Loop Trail (working with WSDOT and private property owners to move portions of the trail off of Highway 141)

- Riverfront Park – continue discussions with Klickitat County for acquisition of the property
- Spoke Bike Park – continue improvements including possible viewing area/rest area to safety sit

Develop and Implement Effective Communication and Outreach

- Continued website improvements, including page for police department
- Develop public notification processes including email and texting notifications for both general and emergency notifications, such as street sweeping and snow plowing work, road closures, water outages, etc.
- Consistent distribution and development of bilingual materials regarding City related new, updates, and events

Reduce food waste at landfills and improve collection of recyclables

- Curbside compost pickup in White Salmon
- Use of recycling bins versus recycling bags

Invest in and strengthen efforts on supporting attainable housing development

- Ensuring that when rezones of residential areas are considered that the goal to protect areas from incompatible uses is addressed

Moved by Jason Hartmann. Seconded by Ashley Post.

Move to adopt the council's 2021 policy area priorities and ongoing 2020 projects that will carryover into 2021 providing guidance to the mayor and staff in developing the 2021 budget, including possible budget options and providing proposals for implementation with the priority policy areas. Motion carried 5-0.

7. Resolution 2020-09-507 Ratifying Proclamation of Emergency 2020-002.

Marla Keethler, Mayor review the proclamation of emergency that she issued on Monday, September 14, 2020 regarding air quality and wildfire danger. She said the core focus was to get the message out that there was an air quality issue and wildfire danger.

Council members said they did hear some concerns regarding the language used in the emergency proclamation ordering “no outside activities that could spark or flame, but not limited to backyard fires, barbeques, candles, and gas or electric yard/construction equipment that creates sparks be immediately suspended” and in general the use of the word “ordering.”

Keethler said it is not her intent to arrest or penalize anyone who is in violation of the emergency proclamation. She said she sees it as a strong recommendation. Keethler said that due to high wildfire danger she does not think it safe for anyone to be using the park and trails within the city. She said that she would lift the emergency when there is relief in the air quality.

Council members discussed changing the phrasing from “ordering” to “recommending” or “advising” trusting that people can make their own decisions.

Bill Hunsaker, Fire Chief said the Department of Ecology has an air monitoring station in White Salmon which is very accurate. He said that he believes Gaddis Park and Spoke Bike Park should be closed because of wildfire danger.

The council discussed the termination date for the emergency. It was noted that the County Board of Commissioners is being asked to extend the fire ban until October 15. It was suggested that the it be left up to the mayor and the fire chief.

Moved by Jason Hartmann. Seconded by David Lindley.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-09-507 Ratifying Proclamation of Emergency 2020-002 with the following language provided for Section 2. Activities and Section 3. Effectiveness.

Section 2. Activities.

1. It is advised that all outdoor activities that could spark or flame, but not limited to backyard fires, barbeques, candles, and gas or electric yard/construction equipment that creates sparks, be immediately suspended.
2. It is advised that all citizens refrain from visiting city parks, natural areas, and/or trails during this time of extreme fire danger and hazardous air quality.
3. It is advised that all citizens refrain from non-essential outdoor activities.
4. It is ordered that Gaddis Park and Spoke Bike Park are immediately closed.

Section 3. Effectiveness.

The provisions of this Resolution shall become effective upon adoption and expire at 11:59 p.m. on September 30, 2020 or until the fire chief determines the risk has abated.

CARRIED 5-0.

9. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Meeting Minutes – September 2, 2020
- b. Approval of Meeting Minutes – September 9, 2020
- c. Approval of Vouchers

Type	Date	From	To	Amount
Claims	9/16/2020	36429	36459	376,973.91
		EFT	EFT	13,674.26
			Claims Total	390,648.17
Payroll				
			Payroll Total	0.00
Manual Claims				
			Manual Total	0.00
			Total All Vouchers	390,648.17

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 September, 2020.

**Moved by Ashley Post. Seconded by David Lindley.
 Motion to approve consent agenda. CARRIED 5-0.**

8. Department Head and Council Member Reports

Mike Hepner, Police Chief said he did speak to some people about the emergency proclamation and that when he provided them with a copy of the proclamation they seemed fine with it. He noted that some people were frustrated at declaration of the emergency did not happen fast enough. Hepner said he had no issues with people following it.

Bill Hunsaker, Building Official/Fire Chief said the building department has been quiet and said that Tum-A-Lum has been closed. He noted there have been no fires in Klickitat County during the heightened wildfire concerns.

Russ Avery, Public Works Operations Manager said that Crestline Construction had suspended work due to air quality and hopes to start back up again on Friday.

Jim Ransier, Council Member asked what construction work is happening at Rheingarten Park.

Russ Avery said it is fiber optic being installed for Insitu.

Pat Munyan, City Administrator said the city had identified an option for the Jewett Water Main Improvement Project to bring an additional line into Skyline. He said there is funding remaining that would allow this option to be exercised. Munyan said this allow the hospital to have two different sources in which to obtain water in case there is a problem with one of the lines.

Munyan said he spoke with Bill Hunsaker, Fire Chief about the possible idea of setting up dry barrel sprinkler guns on the bluff to help in a wildfire situation.

Bill Hunsaker, Fire Chief said the bluff is one of the city's most hazardous areas.

Munyan said work on the White Salmon River feasibility study is moving forward.

Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer said she is working through the 2018-2019 audit and working on the 2021 budget.

David Lindley, Council Member said he continues to receive mask donations. He said he has distributed approximately 16,000 masks and has about 6,000 left.

Ashley Post, Council Member said the Tree Board met and discussed the city's tree ordinance. She said Karen Black Jenkins will be compiling a list of trees that can be used for city streets and parks. Post noted that the committee is also looking at the heritage tree section of the Critical Areas Ordinance and what changes should be made.

David Lindley, Council Member noted that the Tree Board has two community member positions that are vacant.

Marla Keethler, Mayor said the Port of Hood River and Klickitat County have received notification that a federal grant application for \$5 million to move development work on the replacement bridge has been approved. She said the application was a joint effort between Klickitat County and the Port of Hood River.

Keethler noted that September 15 is the beginning of Hispanic Heritage Month. She said a presentation will be scheduled for the October 7 council meeting.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned 7:13 p.m.



Marla Keethler, Mayor



Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer