



CITY OF WHITE SALMON
City Council Regular Meeting – Wednesday, September 2, 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
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

There was no public comment

4. Changes to Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

5. Resolution 2020-09-506 Recognizing Diversity Months

Marla Keethler, Mayor provided a review the proposed resolution recognizing diversity months. She noted that the resolution should probably refer to diversity and heritage months instead of just diversity months. Keethler said the resolution identifies the following:

February: Black History Month (President Ford)

March: Women's History Month (President Reagan)

May: Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month (President H.W. Bush)

June: Pride Month (President Clinton)

September 15 – October 15: Hispanic Heritage Month (President Reagan)

November: Native American Heritage Month (President H.W. Bush)

Keethler said ideally someone or an organization would be identified to come and speak to the council such as previously has happened. She said the Community Development Committee could also develop ideas on how to celebrate the months.

Jim Ransier, Council Member said he supports celebrating heritage/diversity months. Ashley Post, Council Member asked how the decision to present the resolution came about and who contributed.

Keethler said that is based on feedback from the community and something she has been thinking about over the summer. She said she brought it forward now because there are a couple of months left in the year and it provides an opportunity for community enrichment. Keethler said she selected months that have been recognized by Presidential proclamations.

Post said she feels hesitant about the government socially educating the public. She said she feels it should be a public endeavor. Post said she feels the issues are already addressed under the city's diversity resolution. She suggested that maybe delaying adoption of the resolution so that additional conversation could be had regarding additional months to include. Post asked if there is a process where other months could be included so that it could be more inclusive.

Jason Hartmann, Council Member said he appreciates the idea of giving more thought to the resolution but feels the proposed resolution is well thought out and well written. He said it does not preclude other recognitions or other ideas. Hartmann said it is a good step towards including diversity and inclusion in the community. He said he would not want perfection to stop progress.

Jim Ransier, Council Member said he agrees with Hartmann. He said the resolution is a good starting point and sends a great message to the community. Ransier said the adoption of the resolution does not need to be the end of the discussion.

David Lindley, Council Member said he agrees that this is a start. He said he hopes it is the first step in exploring ways to honor diversity and heritage and to educate.

Ashley Post asked if something could be added to the resolution. She said that in the past the city has acknowledged mental health awareness month.

Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer noted that there is a difference between recognizing an issue or cause such as mental health versus recognizing diversity and heritage.

Post asked if Jewish American Heritage Month could be added to the list. She said it is recognized in some places in May and in other places in April.

Hartmann said he would support adding Jewish American Heritage Month.

Joe Turkiewicz, Council Member asked if there is an issue in sharing a month.

Marla Keethler said she does not see that as problem. She said the month was recognized by President GW Bush in 2005 and it is celebrated in May.

Moved by Jim Ransier. Seconded by Jason Hartmann.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-09-506, Recognizing Diversity and Heritage Months adding May: Jewish American Heritage Month (President G.W. Bush) and changing the title reference from “diversity” to “heritage and diversity” and within the “NOW THEREFORE” clause from “diversity” to “heritage and diversity.” CARRIED 4-1 with the following vote: Hartmann – Aye, Lindley – Aye, Post – Nay, Ransier – Aye, Turkiewicz – Aye.

- 6. Crestline Construction Payment No. 6 and USDA Reimbursement Request No. 6**
 Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer asked for authorization to make payment #6 to Crestline Construction in the amount of \$203,777.58 and to request submit USDA reimbursement request #6 in the amount of \$227,801.36.

**Moved by Jason Hartmann. Seconded by Joe Turkiewicz.
 Motion to approve Crestline Construction Payment No. 6 in the amount of \$203,777.58 and USDA Reimbursement Request No. 6 in the amount of \$227,801.36. CARRIED 5-0.**

- 7. Consent Agenda**
 a. Approval of Meeting Minutes – August 19, 2020

Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer noted that she had a citizen who suggest adding reasons for why the public did not support building a cell tower on Strawberry Mountain. She said she is requesting the first paragraph under “Public Comment” be changed to read “Six public comments were read regarding a proposed cell tower on Strawberry Mountain expressing opposition to the project due to scenic impacts; possible health impacts; zoning, deed restrictions and code height violations; cost/benefit analysis; illegal subdivision of city property; and potential property devaluation.”

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 b. Approval of Vouchers

Type	Date	From	To	Amount
Claims	9/2/2020	36390	36428	284,739.85
			Claims Total	284,739.85
Payroll	9/4/2020	EFT	EFT	109,265.58
	9/4/202	36386	36389	1,243.89
			Payroll Total	110,509.47
Manual Claims	8/31/2020	EFT	EFT	3,876.00

			Manual Total	3,876.00
			Total All Vouchers	399,125.32

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 2nd day of September, 2020.

Moved by David Lindley. Seconded by Jim Ransier.
Motion to approve consent agenda with meeting minutes as corrected. CARRIED 5-0.

8. Department Head and Council Member Reports

Mike Hepner, Police Chief said he has no specific updates. He said the department is getting more and more calls at Harvest Market related to wearing masks. Hepner said Harvest Market has identified separate times available for those who don't wear masks due to health reasons. He said that in some situations Harvest Market has trespassed the individuals until further notice.

Joe Turkiewicz, Council Member asked how people have been involved.

Hepner said that since last weekend there has been 4 instances. He said most of the individuals are from out of town. Hepner noted that the requirement to wear face masks is posted at Harvest Market.

Bill Hunsaker, Building Office/Fire Chief said he has no update.

Marla Keethler, Mayor asked when the burn ban will be lifted.

Hunsaker said September 30.

Russ Avery, Public Works Operations Manager said the public works department has been working on repairing service line leaks that are due to normal wear and tear on the lines. He said Crestline will begin working on Skyline Blvd. on September 16. Avery said the city and Crestline met with Skyline Hospital to discuss the lane closures that will happen. He said the department is also continuing to work on potholes.

David Lindley, Council Member thanked Avery for the work on potholes. He asked what was the percentage of completion on the water line project.

Avery said he thinks it is about 80% complete.

Jim Ransier, Council Member asked about the status of the park restroom remodel.

Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer said the contractor has been issued a Notice to Proceed and she expects the work to begin the week of September 14. She said the timing is ideal as the Farmer’s Market last Tuesday is the day after Labor Day.

Ken Woodrich, City Attorney noted that the Governor has extended the order related to public meetings not being in person through the end of September.

Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer noted that when the order is lifted the city will likely meet in a hybrid format with council members and staff meeting in public and the audience attending by teleconference as there is not enough room in the meeting room to include both groups and meet social distancing requirements.

Marla Keethler, Mayor said there will be an additional COVID19 business grant funding through Klickitat County. She said she expects information to be communicated shortly.

Jason Hartmann, Council Member said he hopes that Tarwater and Gorge Maker Space (both have not been able to open due to COVID19) are eligible for funding both at the county and city level.

Keethler said the city has sent a letter of confirmation that the city is participating in a consortium with Klickitat County for the CDBG COVID19 CARES funding. She said a public hearing before the Board of Commissioners will take place on September 15.

Keethler said the 2020 Census is expected to end on September 30. She said the for every individual not registered it is a loss of \$3000 to the city. Keethler said 47% of the city residents have registered. She said some community outreach will be taking place with opportunities to register in person at the Mt. View Grange. Keethler said she wants to get the message out and asked council members to help.

Keethler said the agenda and packet for the retreat should be available by Thursday.

Keethler said the city has received complaints regarding Republic and pickup of garbage and recycling. She said the city sent an email of concern to which was replied by Republic. Keethler said they seem have been listening and are wanting to address the issues.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned 6:58 p.m.

Marla Keethler, Mayor _____

Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer _____