



CITY OF WHITE SALMON
City Council Retreat – Wednesday, September 9, 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
Bill Hunsaker, Building Official/Fire Chief

1. Call to Order

Marla Keethler, Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. There was no audience in attendance.

2. Roll Call

All council members were present.

3. Introduction and Setting Expectations for Retreat

Marla Keethler, Mayor said the goal of the retreat is to identify broad goals that can be used to develop strategies for implementation through the 2021 budget and use of city resources.

4. Review of 2019 Goals Used to Set 2020 Goals and Status Update

Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer provided an overview of the 2019 goals used to set 2020 goals and provided a status update of ongoing projects that will continue into 2021.

5. Identification and Discussion of Priority Policy Areas for 2021

Marla Keethler, Mayor said she would like to see two affordable housing project completed in the next five years.

Jim Ransier, Council Member said he has three items. He said he would like the city to address fire mitigation; address the ongoing impacts of COVID19 including allowing parklets next summer, providing planters and consistent signage that makes downtown more pleasing, addressing establishing more permanent crosswalks with the possible use of concrete and establishing a “creative district;” and providing a social service position in the police department to deal with social work issues that would free up the officers time.

Joe Turkiewicz, Council Member said he thinks the city needs to play it safe in 2021 and do things that don’t cost money – be conservative in spending.

David Lindley, Council Member said that he wants to make things prioritized with ongoing projects to ensure that things get done. He said that infrastructure is important to him. Lindley said he would like to see the city explore revenue streams to fund infrastructure improvements and ongoing maintenance. He said that he would like to see continued enhancements to the city's website including developing a page for the police department to include their mission and possibly the policy manual. Lindley said he would also like to see the inclusivity training happen. He said that he would also like the city to be proactive regarding the media mediums it is using to get the city's messages out.

Ashley Post, Council Member said she would like to see the playground equipment replacement at Rheingarten Park incorporated into the budget which would include a natural play structure and a splash pad. She noted that completing the Park Comprehensive Plan will help. Post said she would also like to see a saver Loop Trail – working with Washington Department of Transportation and private landowners to identify areas where the trail could be moved off of Highway 141. She said she would also like to see continued conversation with Klickitat County regarding the City's acquisition of land for the development of the Riverfront Park. Post said she would also like to make sure that continued work continues with the Spoke Bike Park. She said she is also interested in exploring methods to maintain the city's crosswalks. Post said she also wants to continue to conversation regarding curbside compost pickup and the use of recycling bins versus using recycling bags. She said that she also supports mitigating the impacts of COVID 19 and that while there are guidelines related to COVID19 she would like the city to find ways to reopen and support the local economy. Post said she wants to make sure that when rezoning residential areas that they are protected from incompatible uses per the comprehensive plan's goals.

Jason Hartmann, Council Member said he supports making parks a focus and seeing progress on improvements. He said that it is important to address the safety issues related to the existing path of the Loop Trail and that there might be funding opportunities related to the safety issues. Hartmann said it is his goal to continue the work on compost pickup and using recycling bins versus recycling plastic bags. He said he also would like to see progress made on a community center/youth center on land the city owns across from Whitson Elementary. Hartmann said the building used currently for the youth center is in disrepair. He said he also supports the idea of adding a social service capacity to the police department. Hartmann said he also supports addressing code enforcement.

Marla Keethler said one of the issues that she has heard about is postal delivery to homes versus at the post office.

Ashley Post said she agrees. She said the majority of the United States gets their mail for free while White Salmon residents have to pay for it.

David Lindley said he is supportive of exploring that issue but being mindful of time and resources.

A summary of the items identified by council members are listed below:

Fire Mitigation

- Develop plans for fire mitigation in and around the City of White Salmon.

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

Police Department Staffing

- Adding a position to focus on social service types of issues

Infrastructure

- Develop funding strategies for infrastructure

Website Development and Public Notification

- Continue improving website, 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.

Parks

- Complete Comprehensive Park Plan including possible replacement of playground equipment in Rheingarten Park and installing a splash pad
- 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 safely sit

Recycling

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

Housing

- Ensuring that when rezones of residential areas are considered that the goal to protect areas from incompatible uses is addressed
- Establishing two new housing projects within five years

Community Center

- Work towards the development of a community center on property owned by the city across from Whitson Elementary

Code Enforcement

- Hire personnel to focus on code enforcement

Postal Delivery

- Mail delivery to homes versus mail delivery at the Post Office

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Marla Keethler, Mayor _____

Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer _____