



CITY OF WHITE SALMON
City Council Regular Meeting – Wednesday, October 21, 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
Bill Hunsaker, Building Official/Fire Chief
Mike Hepner, Police Chief

1. Call to Order

Marla Keethler, Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. There were approximately 3 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

Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer asked that the meeting minutes for the October 7 be pulled from the Consent Agenda as they are not ready.

Moved by Jason Hartmann. Seconded by Joe Turkiewicz.

Motion to remove Approval of the October 7, 2020 meeting minutes from the Consent Agenda. CARRIED 5-0.

5. Ordinance 2020-10-1066, Amending WSMC 10.08 Speed Limits

Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer, said the proposed amendments to WSMC 10.08 Speed Limits changes the speed limit in White Salmon to 20 miles per hour unless designated in the code. She said it covers most residential streets except those areas already designated at 15 miles per hour. Brending said Estes is designated to continue at 25 miles per hour.

Public Hearing

Marla Keethler, Mayor opened the public hearing regarding Ordinance 2020-10-1066, Amending WSMC 10.08 Speed Limits.

Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer said no one registered to testify during the teleconference meeting but two written comments were received by email.

Brian T. Mullis, 835 SW William Drive, White Salmon WA provided comment that he believes the speed limits in White Salmon should be revisited and considered as the community grows. He said while he supports instituting a speed limit of 20 miles per hour in neighborhoods and congested areas he does not support lowering the speed limits within the entire city to 20 miles per hour.

John Mooney, White Salmon WA said that he is happy with the 20 miles per hour on Jewett but does not feel reducing the speed limit throughout White Salmon is warranted.

Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer noted that she spoke with Brian Mullis about the proposed amendments. She said he noted that he had not read the ordinance and reiterated that he supports 20 miles per hour in neighborhoods and congested areas.

Marla Keethler, Mayor closed the public hearing.

Marla Keethler, Mayor said she has heard from a lot residents that they wanted the speed limit lowered, particularly during the construction period. She provided statistical data about how reducing the speed limit by 5 miles per hour can help protect older and younger citizens.

Mike Hepner, Police Chief said that the majority of White Salmon's roads are congested because of the narrowness of the roads and on street parking. He said he supports the proposed amendments. Hepner noted that it is his department's goal to provide education over enforcement.

Jason Hartmann, Council Member said he has heard nothing but support for the proposed amendment.

Ashley Post, Council Member said she agrees with Hartmann that she has only heard support for the proposed amendment. She asked if the 15 miles per hour sections were necessary on Tohomish and O'Keefe Streets if there is no signage.

Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer said all three locations are signed appropriately.

Moved by Ashley Post. Seconded by Jason Hartmann.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-10-1066, Amending White Salmon Municipal code 10.08 Speed Limits. CARRIED 5-0.

6. Request to Change Water Right Lease Agreement – Karleen Swarztrauber

Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer review the proposed request submitted by Karleen Swarztrauber. Brending said Swarztrauber entered into a water right lease agreement with the city in 2017 which specifies that she pay for water rights upon the issuance of a water right permit from the Washington Department of Ecology. She said Swarztrauber received a water right permit in 2018 and the city billed her in 2020 for a prorated fee (per the agreement) for 2018 and full fees for 2019 and 2020. Brending said after Swarztrauber received the invoice she submitted a request to amend the water right lease agreement so that the fees begin when she started using water which was in 2020

due to equipment malfunctions in 2018 and 2019. She said that because Swarztrauber is leasing city owned water rights that the city cannot use during the specified time period, staff does not recommend changing the water right lease agreement. Brending also noted that the city is paying a debit payment each year for the purchase of its water rights.

Council members and staff discussed the existing water right lease agreement and request by Swarztrauber. Council members noted that she signed the agreement in 2017 a year before the water right was issued. Ashley Post suggested that Swarztrauber might not have understood the lease language.

There was no motion made by council members to amend the water right lease agreement with Karleen Swarztrauber so the lease agreement language stands as signed in 2017.

7. Memorandum of Understanding Between Oregon and Washington Partners Regarding the Development of the Hood River-White Salmon Interstate Replacement Bridge

Marla Keethler, Mayor said the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is the result of collaborative work and conversations among the parties for the last year. She said sees the MOU as a positive step forward and helpful in engaging state officials.

Kevin Greenwood, Port of Hood River said there has been a lot of activity related to the MOU. He said the City of Hood River, Hood River County, Klickitat County, and the City of Bingen have all agreed to sign the MOU. He said the Port of Hood River will consider the MOU next Tuesday. Greenwood provided an overview of the NEPA and EIS (environmental impact statement) process.

Jason Hartmann, Council Member asked if the Port of Klickitat was invited to participate.

Greenwood said that it was felt that the three entities (City of White Salmon, City of Bingen, and Klickitat County) representing the Washington side.

Council members and Greenwood discussed the possible governance of the future bridge. Greenwood noted that it is the intent that the future bridge would not be owned by the Port of Hood River but that there would be some type of bi-state authority ownership.

Council members and Greenwood discussed the funding the future bridge. Greenwood noted that revenue bonds will be needed to build the bridge and that the revenue to repay the bonds will come from tolls.

Moved by Jim Ransier. Seconded by Jason Hartmann.
Motion to the mayor to sign Memorandum of Understanding Between the Oregon and Washington Partners Regarding the Development of the Hood River-White Salmon Interstate Replacement Bridge. CARRIED 5-0.

8. Tree Board Appointment

Marla Keethler, Mayor said she is asking the city council to confirm her appointment of Becky Williams to the Tree Board. She said the Tree Board has two public representatives that are currently unfilled. Keethler said Williams provided an email as to why she wishes to serve on the Tree Board. She said she hopes to provide another appointment to the Tree board in the near future.

Moved by Jason Hartmann. Seconded by Ashley Post.
Motion to confirm Mayor’s appointment of Becky Williams to the White Salmon Tree Board. CARRIED 5-0.

9. Consent Agenda

- a. Budget Report – August 2020
- b. Approval of Vouchers

Type	Date	From	To	Amount
Claims	10/21/2020	EFT	EFT	7,270.01
		36512	36538	82,182.12
			Claims Total	89,452.13
Payroll	10/16/2020	EFT	EFT	11,571.66
	10/20/2020	EFT	EFT	67,617.72
			Payroll Total	79,189.38
Manual Claims				
			Manual Total	0.00
			Total All Vouchers	168,641.51

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 21st day of October, 2020.

Moved by Jason Hartmann. Seconded by David Lindley..
Motion to approve consent agenda. CARRIED 5-0.

10. Department Head and Council Member Reports

Mike Hepner, Police Chief said things have leveled out at Harvest Market regarding the face mask issue.

Jim Ransier, Council Member noted that two different times people have indicated to him how much they like the Bingen-White Salmon Police Department in relation to other area departments. He said the comments have been that most of the officers are fair and nice.

Bill Hunsaker, Building Official/Fire Chief said the burn ban has been lifted and that outdoor burning can occur in White Salmon with permits. Hunsaker noted that the Department of Ecology has removed the air monitoring station. He said he has requested DOE to put something back up for next year.

Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer said the audit should be wrapping up the first week of November. She said the city council will hold its first public hearing on the 2021 budget at the November 4 city council meeting. Brending said the park restroom remodel is continuing and should be complete at the end of November/beginning of December. She said that in discussions with the Mayor, the park playground equipment will be reopened with signage noting that the equipment is not sanitized and that all social distancing should be followed. She said the gazebo and picnic shelter will also be reopened with some picnic tables removed to maintain the limits on gatherings.

Marla Keethler, Mayor said there is a lot of construction work occurring in the vicinity of Jewett Blvd due to the city's construction and the PUD replacing power poles. She said the project is approximately 90% complete.

Jim Ransier, Council Member said there was a good Community Development Committee meeting and that a proposed resolution on climate change will be presented to the city council at their next meeting.

Jason Hartmann, Council Member said the City Operations Committee met yesterday and were briefed on the status of ongoing projects.

Joe Turkiewicz, Council Member said he attended a work part at the Bike Park. He said there is a lot of work going on there and the project is coming along nicely.

Ashley Post, Council Member said she is glad to see the park reopened. Post asked if it is too late to reconsider the Swarztrauber request. She said not amending the agreement is not sitting well with her although she appreciates the position that Swarztrauber signed the contract. Post said she would like to have a better understanding the city's water rights and the cost associated with them.

Ken Woodrich, City Attorney said a council member can request something be put on a future agenda and that unless there is an objection from the remainder of the council it could be added.

Ashley Post, Council Member said she would like the city council to reconsider Swarztrauber’s water lease amendment request at the next council meeting in order that staff could provide additional information related to the city’s water rights.

There were no objections from city council members.


Marla Keethler, Mayor said the planning commission is holding a public hearing on proposed amendments to the cell phone tower code. She said that MRSC (Municipal Research Services Center) is holding a webinar regarding inclusive public engagement and encouraged council members to attend. Keethler said the signs that will be posted at the park are more about maintaining social distancing and the level of people related to gatherings. She said she hopes people using the park will be responsible. Keethler said it is important to continue following COVID-19 recommended guidelines.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned 7:27 p.m.



Maria Keethler, Mayor



Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer