



CITY OF WHITE SALMON
City Council Regular Meeting – Wednesday, November 4, 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
Pat Munyan, City Administrator
Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer
Ken Woodrich, City Attorney
Russ Avery, Operations Manager
Mike Hepner, Police Chief

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Marla Keethler, Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. There were approximately 24 people in the audience (by video or telephone). The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. Roll Call

All council members were present.

3. Public Comment

Public comments supporting the proposed resolution regarding climate change were recorded from the following:

- Friends of the White Salmon River
- Columbia River Gorge Commission
- Friends of the Columbia River Gorge
- Ruth Olin
- Barbara Beattie
- Steven Woolpert
- Steve Erickson
- Robert Connor
- Kelly Larson
- Sasha Bentley
- Debie Garner
- Peter Fink
- Spreadsheet with 62 names showing support submitted by Michelina Roth

Public comment asking the city to defer consideration until entire community has chance to debate the issues related to the proposed resolution regarding climate change from:

- Will Bloch

4. Changes to Agenda

Marla Keethler, Mayor asked to add a video presentation to the agenda recognizing Native American Heritage Month.

Moved by Jason Hartmann. Seconded by Ashley Post.

Motion to add video presentation to recognize Native American Heritage Month. CARRIED 5-0.

5. Video Presentation – Native American Heritage Month

Marla Keethler, Mayor read an excerpt from Whereas by Layli Long Soldier and then presented a video of Layli Long Soldier reading from “Whereas I Tire” and speaking.

6. 2021 Preliminary Budget and Proposed 2021 Levy

Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer presented the 2021 preliminary budget and information regarding the 2021 property tax levy. She said the budget provides for a 1% increase in the property tax levy as allowed by law which equates to an additional \$4,004.24. Brending noted that the council is not asked to take any action tonight. She said two additional public hearings will be held on the 2021 budget. Brending noted that she will be asking the city council to adopt the property tax levy at the November 18 city council meeting.

Public Hearing

Marla Keethler, Mayor opened the public hearing regarding the 2021 preliminary budget and proposed 2021 property tax levy.

Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer said no written public comment was received and no one registered to testify during the meeting.

Marla Keethler, Mayor closed the public hearing.

7. Resolution 2020-11-059 Declaring Climate Emergency and Cost-Saving Action Plan

Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer said Community Upcycle presented a proposed resolution to the Community Development Committee which made several changes and agreed to move the resolution to the full city council for consideration.

Jim Ransier, Council Member said it is good to hear from the community regarding the proposed resolution. He said he feels the resolution does three things: declares a climate emergency, sets goals for the cities to execute on, and sets up a community task force. Ransier said he feels that from a commitment perspective the resolution is pretty straight forward.

Joe Turkiewicz, Council Member said that he thought all of the “commits to” were going to be changed to “consider.” He said he thinks the intentions are good but is not sure that it is ready for adoption. Turkiewicz said that he feels some initiatives need to be studied more to see what their effectiveness will be before implementing them.

Ashley Post, Council Member said that she thinks it is a little early to take a vote on the proposed resolution. She said there are a lot of commitments in the resolution. Post said the

resolution sounds like the city is declaring a climate emergency and questioned if it would be handled the same as an emergency declared by the mayor.

Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer said no. Ken Woodrich said the resolution does not reference the RCW that addresses declaring emergencies and agrees with Brending.

Ashley Post, Council Member said she has concerns with banning natural gas hookups.

Jason Hartmann, Council Member said he agrees and that it might have an impact on affordable housing. He said that he feels there are some things in the resolution that could be done without tying the hands of the city.

Pat Munyan, City Administrator said he has concerns about being able to convert public works vehicles to all electric. He noted the city holds a franchise agreement with Northwest Natural and the city would need to ensure that nothing violates that contract.

David Lindley, Council Member acknowledged the work done by the Community Development Committee and nonprofit organizations on the resolution. He said it appears to overall be broadly supported. Lindley said he is concerned that the resolution contains broad boiler plate language and is not specific to White Salmon. He said he feels there is more work that needs to be done before he could support adopting the resolution. Lindley noted that none of the “whereas clauses” speak to water. He also suggested that the resolution could also tie to the vision statement that was worked on between the city council and planning commission as part of the comprehensive plan update.

Eric Strid, community member, said he sits on the Hood River Energy Council with is made up of 5 jurisdictions. He said there are currently no electric trucks but suggested that one of the important things is to put in conduit when developing streets for future use.

Marla Keethler, Mayor said it is important to hear from the community and fine tune the resolution.

There was a consensus of the city council to move the resolution back to the Community Development Committee for further work. Council members can submit comments to Jan Brending to forward to the committee.

8. Request for One-Time Reduction in Bill Due to Leakage, Barney Connolly

Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer presented a request to the city council for a one-time reduction in billing due to leakage submitted by Barney Connolly. She said the city’s code requires her to submit any reduction greater than \$500 to the city council for approval. She said she is recommending a one-time reduction in the amount of \$824.09.

Moved by Jason Hartmann. Seconded by Joe Turkiewicz.

Motion to authorize the Clerk Treasurer to issue a one-time reduction in utility billing due to leakage for Account No. 2448 in the amount of \$824.09. CARRIED 5-0.

9. 2020 Vacation Carryover and Buyout Proposal

Marla Keethler, Mayor said that due to COVID19 some employees were unable to take the amount of vacation they normally would have taken and that she is proposing to carryover additional beyond the carryover threshold for several employees and also buy back some vacation leave. She said buying back leave will reduce the vacation level needed to be used in 2021 which could place a burden on the departments.

Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer said the employees that would be authorized additional leave carryover are herself at 80 hours (normal amount is 40), Pat Munyan at 80 hours (normal amount is 40 hours), and Madelyn McIlwain at 144 hours. She noted that Madelyn McIlwain comes off of probation December 12, 2020 but will not be scheduled for vacation due to current vacation and training schedules.

Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer said the proposed maximum vacation leave buyouts are as follows:

- Jan Brending 43.41 hours
- Jeff Cooper 70 hours (change from agenda memo)
- Kate Daniels 68 hours
- Lisa George 62.07 hours
- Ed Gunnyon 24 hours
- Mike Hepner 85 hours
- Bill Hunsaker 0 hours (change from agenda memo)
- Ross Lambert 72.58 hours
- Pat Munyan 68.75 hours
- Frank Randal 63 hours
- Troy Rosenburg 6.03 hours (change from agenda memo)

She noted that employees will be required to carry over their maximum amount of leave.

Moved by Jim Ransier. Seconded by Jason Hartmann.

Motion to authorize vacation leave carryover and buyout as presented. CARRIED 5-0.

10. Crestline Payment No. 8 and USDA Reimbursement Request No. 8

Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer presented the Crestline payment no. 8 request in the amount of \$260,556.17 and USDA Reimbursement Request No. 8 in the amount of \$301,973.52

Pat Munyan, City Administrator provided a review of change orders that have been previously approved by the city council.

Moved by Ashley Post. Seconded by Jason Hartmann.

Motion to approved Crestline Construction Payment No. 8 in the amount of \$260,556.17 and USDA Reimbursement Request No. 8 in the amount of \$301,973.52. CARRIED 5-0.

11. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Meeting Minutes – October 7, 2020
- b. Approval of Meeting Minutes – October 21, 2020
- c. September 2020 Budget Report
- d. Approval of Vouchers

Type	Date	From	To	Amount
Claims	11/4/2020	EFT	EFT	2,634.00
	11/4/2020	36542	36576	463,531.69
			Claims Total	466,165.69
Payroll	11/5/2020	EFT	EFT	107,775.93
	11/5/2020	36539	36541	1,086.87
			Payroll Total	108,862.80
Manual Claims	11/6/2020	EFT	EFT	1,999.40
			Manual Total	1,999.40
			Total All Vouchers	577,027.89

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 4th day of November, 2020.

Moved by Jason Hartmann. Seconded by David Lindley..

Motion to approve consent agenda. CARRIED 5-0.

12. Department Head and Council Member Reports

Russ Avery, Public Works Operations Manager said that Crestline is working on Wauna Street and will make the tie overs next week. Avery provided information regarding the number of potholes that were patched this summer: 50 potholes using approximately 11 tons of asphalt totaling approximately 150 square feet of potholes repaired.

Pat Munyan, City Administrator said he met with Aspect Consulting and Washington Department of Ecology to review the first phase of the White Salmon Reliability Study. He said a report has been drafted and will be sent to the city, Washington Department of Health, Washington Department of Ecology and the Yakama Nation. Munyan said the next phase will be to put in a pilot slow sand filter and to run water through it to see what grade of water can be achieved. Munyan said Anderson Perry continues to work on the engineering for the 14-inch water line replacement project. He said the goal is to get the project into contract next year. Munyan said he continues to work with Washington Department of Natural Resources regarding some easement issues. He said this is a significant project for the city.

Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer said the audit has been completed. She said the city council will see the mayor's 2021 budget at the next city council meeting with the budget slated to be adopted at the December 2 council meeting. Brending said she will present a final 2020 budget amendment at the December 16 council meeting. She noted the park restrooms will be completed mid-November and that once completed they will remain open during weekdays. Brending said once electronic locks have been installed the restrooms will be open on weekends also.

Ken Woodrich, City Attorney thanked Jan Brending and city staff for keeping things running smoothly.

David Lindley, Council Member said that he would also like to acknowledge Jan Brending and city hall staff related to the audit results. He said it is real testament to the work done. He said the Personnel and Finance Committee will meet on November 23 and that he looks forward to seeing the incremental budget steps.

Jason Hartmann, Council Member said he agrees with the praise given to staff. He said it is great to have no findings in the audit report. Hartmann said there has been a slow down on meeting regarding composting and recycling but he hopes to set up a meeting with Republic to start the discussion.

Ashley Post, Council Member said the Tree Board will meet on November 9 at 5:30 p.m. She said that agrees Jan Brending rocks.

Jim Ransier, Council Member said he had a good conversation with Chief Hepner last week and hopes to set up a ride along schedule in the future. He said the rental housing code will be discussed at the next Community Development Committee meeting. He also thanked staff for their work.

Marla Keethler, Mayor said this has been a unique year and that all of the city staff have stepped up to get things done. She noted the park playground equipment and picnic shelters have been reopened. Keethler said we are still in a pandemic and that heeding hygiene requirements is important. She said that she has confirmed that the stop sign at the top of Dock Grade will be removed when the Jewett Water Line project is completed. Keethler said she attended a webinar about "inclusive public engagement" and felt there were some good ideas that could be used in White Salmon. She said the NEPA process for the Hood River replacement bridge is moving forward and that the Port is trying to figure out how to hold public hearings and meet COVID19 requirements.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned 7:58 p.m.



Maria Keethler, Mayor



Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer