



CITY OF WHITE SALMON
City Council Regular Meeting – Wednesday, February 17, 2021
Via Zoom Teleconference

Council and Administrative Personnel Present

Council Members:

Jason Hartmann
 David Lindley
 Jim Ransier
 Joe Turkiewicz

Staff Present:

Marla Keethler, Mayor
 Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer
 Ken Woodrich, City Attorney
 Russ Avery, Operations Manager
 Mike Hepner, Police Chief
 Bill Hunsaker, Building Official/Fire Chief
 Erika Castro Guzman, Planning Associate

- I. **Call to Order, Presentation of the Flag and Roll Call**
Moved by Jason Hartmann. Seconded by Joe Turkiewicz.
Motion to excuse Ashley Post. CARRIED 4-0.

There were approximately 5 members of the public in attendance.

- II. **Consent Agenda**
 - A. **Approval of Meeting Minutes – February 3, 2021**
 - B. **Approval of Vouchers**

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 17th day of February, 2021.

Type	Date	From	To	Amount
Claims	2/17/2021	36859	36882	60,246.11
			Claims Total	60,246.11
Payroll	2/19/2021	EFT	EFT	74,795.24
			Payroll Total	74,795.24
Manual Claims	1/21/2021	EFT	EFT	10,052.54
	2/6/2021	EFT	EFT	1,798.19
	2/10/2021	36857	36858	220,212.77
			Manual Total	232,063.50
			Total All Vouchers	367,104.85

**Moved by Jason Hartmann. Seconded by Jim Ransier.
Motion to approve consent agenda. CARRIED 4-0.**

III. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

IV. Changes to Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

V. Presentations

A. Black History Month

1. Video: Amanda Gorman President Biden Inauguration Reading
2. Video: Mossback's Northwest: "The Black pioneer who launched the Puget Sound settlement"

VI. Business Items

A. Final Approval of Slug's End Subdivision, WS-SUB-2019-002

Jan Branding, Clerk Treasurer provided an overview of Slug's End Subdivision. She noted that the City Council previously provided preliminary approval of the subdivision at its January 15, 2020 meeting upon recommendation of approval by the Planning Commission. She said staff is recommending final approval of Slug's End Subdivision WS-SUB-2019-002, acceptance of Sophie Lane as a city street, and the acceptance of the associated water and sewer mainlines for city use and maintenance.

Doug Holzman, Applicant and Dustin Conroy, Pioneer Engineering provided additional review of the project.

Ken Woodrich, City Attorney noted that the city council also needs to accept the bond in the amount of \$12,500 which covers final lift paving and the installation of a street sign.

David Lindley, Council Member congratulated the applicants on completing a complex project. He asked staff if all of the conditions, but the final paving lift and installation of a street sign have been met.

Jan Branding, Clerk Treasurer said that is correct.

Moved by Jim Ransier, Seconded by Jason Hartmann.

Motion to approve Slug's End Subdivision WS-SUB-2019-002, accepting Sophie Lane as a city street, accepting the associated water and sewer mainlines for city use and maintenance and accepting a bond in the amount of \$12,500 for the two incomplete items: final paving lift and installation of street sign. CARRIED 4-0.

B. AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities Membership

Marla Keethler, Mayor said she was contacted by Gracen Bookmyer who is with Aging in the Gorge Alliance regarding the opportunity to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities. She said she feels this request ties into the city's diversity

resolution and the city's desire to create a welcoming, inclusive environment for our elder and aging residents. Keethler said there may be some grant funds available in the future.

The City Council discussed membership and the benefits there might be to the city.

Ken Woodrich, City Attorney noted that the City's Comprehensive Plan, which is an overriding document, should recognize the membership.

Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer noted that the Comprehensive Plan will also recognize the city's diversity resolution.

Joe Turkiewicz, Council Member said he feels it could be a good template to address the needs of the aging population and feels it would be a benefit to add.

Jim Ransier, Council Member said that he will note this information in the next discussion by the Community Development Committee about the future board that may be created.

***Moved by Jim Ransier. Seconded by Joe Turkiewicz.
Motion to authorize the Mayor to submit a letter requesting to join AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities. CARRIED 4-0.***

VII. Reports and Communications

A. City Council Members

Jim Ransier, Council Member said there was a good Community Development Committee meeting last week. He said that the committee discussed the tenant housing code and reviewed what was left in the code after taking out things already covered by state statutes. Ransier agreed that it did not seem necessary to move forward with the code but Jan Brending will be providing some information on the city's website and linking to the Attorney General's webpage regarding the state's Landlord Tenant Act. Ransier said the Committee also review the climate crisis resolution which will be on the city council's agenda with a public hearing at the March 3 meeting.

David Lindley, Council Member said the Tree Board met on February 8 and discussed city tree maintenance and the city's Heritage Tree ordinance. He said the city will issue a single contract for tree maintenance this year requiring the contractor to be a certified arborist or to have a certified arborist on staff or through subcontract.

Marla Keethler, Mayor said she would like to flag the tree(s) in Rheingarten Park near the flagpole as they interfere with flags that are flown from the pole.

Jason Hartmann, Council Member said the City Operations Committee met yesterday. He said the committee discussed the issue of a stop sign at the top of Dock Grade. Hartmann said the committee felt that the stop sign should be installed at this time but has recommended installation of a crosswalk at Oak with pedestrian crossing signage.

He said the committee also discussed collaboration with Fire District 3. Hartmann said Fire District 3 will be invited to the next committee meeting to present information on how they would like to collaborate with White Salmon.

Joe Turkiewicz, Council Member noted it will be important to consider where the crosswalk will be installed because there are no sidewalks or curbs in the area.

B. Mayor

Marla Keethler, Mayor said her idea of creating a Vision Board is an effort to get better outreach and participation with a group of individuals that are reflective of the White Salmon community. She said it is her idea that as policies and procedures are developed they are reviewed by the board. Keethler said she is excited about the idea and feels it will be beneficial and bring results into the community. She said the proposal will be brought forward to the council by the Community Development Committee at a future meeting.

Keethler said Klickitat County has moved into Phase 2 effective February 14 which allows for indoor dining and other activities but still maintains limits on gatherings. She said Klickitat County has received allocations of vaccines for the 2nd round.

Keethler said she and Pat Munyan, City Administrator went before the Klickitat County Board of Commissioners to discuss some land that was up for auction by the county that would tie directly into the a White Salmon bluff trail. She said the county agreed to pull the land from auction and discuss further acquisition of the property further with the city.

Keethler said the Hood River bridge is going through a load rating change that done due to a change in Oregon Department of Transportation grading and not due to any new problems with the bridge. She said the new rating change will have a severe impact on businesses on the Washington side. Keethler said Senator King is meeting with the Port of Hood River regarding the issue.

Keethler said that as part of the EIS being completed for the new bridge some homes on the bluff have been potential historical significance and that work is being done on that issue. She said legislation has been introduced for creating a bi-state bridge authority.

Keethler thanked Erika Castro Guzman for the PowerPoint presentation for the Slug's End Subdivision presentation

C. Department Heads

Russ Avery, Public Works Operations Manager applauded the public works crew for the snow removal this past weekend. He said there was equipment breakdowns but the crew was able to get it repaired and back into rotation.

Marla Keethler, Mayor said she wanted to recognize the Public Works team for maintaining the roads during the snowstorm.

Avery said he hopes to open the restrooms in Rheingarten Park in the first part of March. He said the public works crew has been working on cleaning the slow-sand filter system which is done yearly.

Jim Ransier, Council Member thanked the public works crew for the snow maintenance. He said the roads looked great.

Mike Hepner, Police Chief said he worked nights this last weekend and the roads looked the best he has ever seen them in years during a snowstorm. He said there were still a few collisions. Hepner suggested council members review the legislative bills associated with law enforcement to see what may be happening in the future.

Jason Hartmann asked if Hepner would provide some details.

Hepner said there is a proposed bill that would legalize heroin and cocaine similar to what was done in Oregon. He said his concern is that there needs to be assistance in place before legislation is enacted. He said another bill would not allow canine dogs and there are several bills regarding de-escalation.

Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer noted that AWC publishes a weekly legislative update that provides information on bills that might impact cities include public safety bills.

Bill Hunsaker, Building Official/Fire Chief said he met with Williams Pipeline and Northwest Natural Gas regarding the smell of gas in the area of their site. He said there was not leak found but there is an odor. Hunsaker said they are looking into rebuilding the station with additional security and protection.

Hunsaker said it is important to push forward with the bridge replacement. He said the weight limits will have an impact on public safety. Hunsaker said he could not take water tenders across the bridge unless they were empty.

Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer said the Personnel and Finance Committee will meet on February 22 to review the December 2020 and January 2021 budget reports and the initial 2021 budget amendment. She reminded the city council that the comments are continuing to be taken on the draft Comprehensive Plan elements and the Planning commission will meet on February 24 to continue their work on the plan update.


Marla Keethler, Mayor asked when the parklets would be brought back.

Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer said approximately March 15.

VIII. Executive Session (if needed)

No executive sessions was needed.

- IX. Adjournment**
The meeting adjourned 7:14 p.m.



Marla Keethler, Mayor



Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer