



**CITY OF WHITE SALMON**  
**City Council Regular Meeting – Wednesday, March 3, 2021**  
**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  
 Bill Hunsaker, Building Official/Fire Chief

**I. Call to Order, Presentation of the Flag and Roll Call**

All council members were present.

There were approximately 24 members of the public in attendance.

**II. Consent Agenda**

- A. Approval of Meeting Minutes – February 17, 2021 and February 25, 2021
- B. Budget Reports – December 2020 and January 2021
- C. Recommendation of Jacob Lockman for AWC Center for Quality Communities Scholarship
- D. Task Order, Anderson Perry & Associates – Martin Road & Thornton Road Water Line Improvements (\$5,500)
- E. Appointment of Virginia Hartnett to Tree Board
- F. Proclamation 2021-001, Declaring March 20, 2021 as Arbor Day
- G. Proclamation 2021-002, Declaring March 2021 as Red Cross Month
- H. Letter to AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities
- I. 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 3<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2021.

Type	Date	From	To	Amount
Claims	3/3/2021	36887	36916	183,425.29
		EFT	EFT	5,352.00
			<b>Claims Total</b>	<b>188,777.29</b>
Payroll	3/5/2021	EFT	EFT	105,223.35

		36884	36886	1,032.34
			<b>Payroll Total</b>	<b>106,255.69</b>
<b>Manual Claims</b>	2/22/2021	36883	36883	1,419.34
	2/24/2021	EFT	EFT	7,559.45
	3/6/2021	EFT	EFT	1,704.08
			<b>Manual Total</b>	<b>10,682.87</b>
			<b>Total All Vouchers</b>	<b>305,715.85</b>

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

**III. Public Comment**

Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer read into the record (prior to the Consent Agenda vote) a comment from Tammara Toppel support the nomination of Jacob Lockman for the AWC Center for Quality Communities Scholarship.

**IV. Changes to Agenda**

There were no changes to the agenda.

**V. Presentations**

**A. Women’s History Month**

Marla Keethler, Mayor said the city has been doing educational presentations related to the city’s heritage months. She said a presentation will be made at the next meeting focusing on women making history in the Gorge. She said the city is also partnering with the Smithsonian through their traveling exhibits for rural areas. Keethler said the exhibit will go live outdoors in downtown White Salmon this weekend highlighting women’s historical achievements.

**B. Solid Waste Update – Ruby Irving, Klickitat County Solid Waste Director**

Ruby Irving, Klickitat County Solid Waste Director and Michelle Mulrony, Recycling Coordinator provided an update to the city council on recycling including addressing a recycling audit and the desire for glass and curbside recycling.

**C. Big River Community Land Trust Update – Anne Medenbach and Bill Irving**

Anne Medenbach and Bill Irving updated the city council on the work being done by Big River Community Land Trust. Medenbach said the organization has now obtained their 501c3 status with the mission of the organization to acquire and hold land for the benefit of the community and to provide secure and affordable access to home ownership for community residents.

Marla Keethler, Mayor thanked Big River for their presentation and noted that they will be listed as a stakeholder in the city's comprehensive plan update.

**VI. Business Items**

**A. Resolution 2021-03-517, Declaring a Global Climate Crisis**

Jim Ransier, Council Member provided an overview of the proposed resolution declaring a global climate crisis. He said the city council originally considered a resolution and then moved it to the Community Development Committee for further work. Ransier said the committee has met several times and taken input from city administration and community members as to the content of the resolution. He said one of the goals was to make the resolution specific to the community of White Salmon and to not be too prescriptive.

Marla Keethler, Mayor opened the public hearing regarding Resolution 2021-03-17 Declaring a Global Climate Crisis.

Individuals testifying in support for the resolution during the meeting were Ruth Olin; Michelina Roth; William (Bill) Weiler; Krystyna Wolniakowski, Columbia River Gorge Commission Executive Director; and Eric Strid.

Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer read into the record approximately 66 written comments in support of the resolution and 1 written comment in opposition to the resolution.

Marla Keethler, Mayor closed the public hearing.

City council members discussed the proposed resolution.

Marla Keethler, Mayor noted that she and the Community Development Committee are working on the development of a board that will provide broad representation of the community, whose job will be to look at things the city is doing to make sure that they are providing diversity and inclusivity and how those things might be impacting the community, community groups and individuals in the community.

Council members recommended that 2c be reworded to read "Prioritize the identification of current municipal greenhouse emissions in pursuit of a target reduction in municipal net greenhouse gas emissions of at least 45% by 2030 and net zero by 2050;" and to reword 5 to read "The City of White Salmon will continue to pursue opportunities and funding to address the climate and ecological emergency and its impacts through existing hazard mitigation and emergency management programs."

**Moved by Jim Ransier. Seconded by Joe Turkiewicz.**

**Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-03-0517, Declaring a Global Climate Crisis changing #2c to read "Prioritize the identification of current municipal greenhouse emissions in pursuit of a target reduction in municipal net greenhouse gas emissions of at least 45% by 2030 and net zero by 2050;" and to #5 to read "The City of White Salmon will continue to pursue opportunities and funding to address the climate and ecological**

**emergency and its impacts through existing hazard mitigation and emergency management programs.”. CARRIED 5-0.**

- B. Acceptance of Utility Easements – Jerry Anson and Gregory & Melissa Perala**  
Pat Munyan, City Administrator said a short plat for Jerry Anson had been approved a number of years ago that required utility easements to be dedicated to the city. He said the two easements before the city council completes that process. He said he recommends the city council the utility easements from Jerry Anson and Gregory & Melissa Perala.

***Moved by Jason Hartmann. Seconded by Jim Ransier.***

***Motion to accept utility easements from Jerry Anson and Gregory & Melissa Perala. CARRIED 5-0.***

- C. Ordinance 2021-03-1074, Amending the 2021 Budget**  
Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer reviewed the proposed budget amendment. She said the majority of the amendments change beginning balances to reflect actual amounts and brings forward project budgets from 2020 that were not completed. Brending said the major changes are the following
- Providing \$14,000 for bias training
  - Provide \$75,000 to hire a consulting firm to develop options for a multi-use community center on city-owned property across from Whitson Elementary
  - Provide \$75,000 to update the city’s park plan
  - Provide an additional \$45,000 for a Transportation Plan (increasing the budget from \$50,000 to \$95,000)
  - Providing \$15,000 for additional disability insurance for firefighters
  - Provide \$81,909 for the purchase of a public works truck
  - Provide funding of \$71,329 to cover the cost of the emergency repairs on the Vine Street sewer line

***Moved by Jason Hartmann. Seconded by Ashley Post.***

***Motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-03-1074 Amending the 2021 Budget. CARRIED 5-0.***

**VII. Reports and Communications**

**A. City Council Members**

***Jim Turkiewicz, Council Member*** said a newly organized Gorge Farmers Cooperative is looking for space to setup on Wednesdays where they could locate a small refrigerated storing unit.

Jan Brending, Clerk Treasure recommended using the parking lot located across from Harvest Market where Bubba’s Brew is located. She noted the property is owned by SDS Lumber.

***Jason Hartmann, Council Member*** said Community Pride will be held this year on May 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. He said flyers should be coming out soon about the event.

**David Lindley, Council Member** said the Personnel and Finance Committee met and focusing mainly on the budget amendment.

**B. Mayor**

Marla Keethler, Mayor said she issued the proclamation declaring March as Red Cross month because she feels the Red Cross relationship is very important in our community.

Keethler reported the city will experience a water outage tomorrow. She said information will be pushed to the website and Facebook as soon as the outage is over. Keethler said there is an emphasis on vaccinations with all teachers and childcare workers being added into the current level eligible for vaccines. She said there is also an effort to try and reach underserved communities.

Keethler reported that council members have been invited to a virtual Gorgeous Night involving the legislature from both states. She said the event will happen on March 10.

Keethler reported a virtual townhall will be held by Representative Gina Mosbrucker and Representative Chris Corry on March 17.

Keethler reported that the parklets will be returning to downtown White Salmon noting that the Washington Department of Transportation will require an agreement between the city and WSDOT this year.

Keethler said the EIS working group will be meeting to review a summary of the public comments and responses to the draft EIS. She said legislation regarding the bi-state operation of the bridge continues to move forward.

**C. Department Heads**

**Mike Hepner, Police Chief** said that Josh Lewis is not working on his own. Hepner reviewed a Washington State Supreme court decision involved the possession of a controlled substance that has a serious impact on the ability to charge individuals for the possession of controlled substances.

**Bill Hunsaker, Building Official/Fire Chief** thanked the city council for the additional funding to provide disability insurance to the volunteer firefighters. He noted that Williams and Northwest Natural appear to have fixed the problem related to the smell of gas at the facility near the Hood River Bridge.

**Russ Avery, Public Works Operations Manager** said he hopes the water shutdown will not take all day. He said the most critical aspect of the project is the depressurization of the main line. Avery said the new 20 mph signage has been installed and the new automatic locks have been installed at restrooms in Rheingarten Park and at the Park and Ride.

**Pat Munyan, City Administrator** said he has been working on issues related to the 14" main line replacement project. He said the city council may need to meet in executive session in the future to discuss potential litigation. Munyan said he has been working on land use applications and code updates.

**Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer** reviewed the committee meetings scheduled in March and noted the Planning Commission continues to seek public comment on the draft plan elements.

- VIII. Executive Session (if needed)**  
No executive sessions was needed.

**IX. Adjournment**  
The meeting adjourned 8:49 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Marla Keethler, Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer