



CITY OF WHITE SALMON
City Council Regular Meeting – Wednesday, March 17, 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
 Erika Castro Guzman, Associate Planner

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

All council members were present.

There were approximately 13 members of the public in attendance.

II. Consent Agenda

- A. Land Use Planner Job Description**
- B. Permit Technician/Finance Assistant Job Description**
- C. Approval of Meeting Minutes – March 3, 2021**
- D. 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 March, 2021.

Type	Date	From	To	Amount
Claims	3/17/2021	36918	36958	81,230.63
		EFT	EFT	10,496.04
			Claims Total	91,726.67
Payroll	3/19/2021	EFT	EFT	69,383.22
			Payroll Total	69,383.22
Manual Claims	3/11/2021	EFT	EFT	2,610,082.88
			Manual Total	2,610,082.88
			Total All Vouchers	2,771,192.77

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

III. Public Comment

There was no general public comment.

IV. Changes to Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

V. Presentations

Beverly Elsner made a presentation for Women’s History Month about Jeannie Waters Jewett a historical resident of White Salmon who was involved in the equal rights movement and women’s suffrage.

VI. Business Items

A. Ordinance 2021-03-1075, Amending WSMC 10.24 Stopping, Standing and Parking

Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer presented information regarding the proposed amendments to WSMC 10.24 Stopping, Standing and Parking. She noted that the only new “no parking” areas are to the west side of Main Street beginning at the intersection of Spring Street running north to the city limits and on the east side of 4th Avenue from Jewett Blvd. to the alley between Jewett and Wyers. Brending said there were two areas in the code that dealt with parking prohibitions and it was decided to combine the two sections into one section. She said property owners adjacent to the two new no parking areas were notified of the proposed amendments.

Marla Keethler, Mayor opened the public hearing regarding Ordinance 2021-03-1075, Amending WSMC 10.24 Stopping, Standing and Parking. She reminded the council members that the public hearing is a time to hear input and feedback on a specific issue and is not a time for back-and-forth dialogue.

Individuals who testified in person via teleconference:

Ruth Olin, White Salmon – suggested keeping traffic signage to a minimum and using only yellow curb paint to designate the no parking area on 4th Street because signage impacts the scenic beauty of the area.

Kevin Herman, White Salmon – concerned about sightline issues at Main and Spring but am also concerned that more parking is needed and the impact that the proposed no parking might have on the Grange and concerned that the proposed no parking ordinance is designed to impact one individual.

Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer read into the record public comments received by email:

Seth Gilchrist, White Salmon – Add an addition section of Main Street for no parking beginning at Cherry Street running north to the first driveway.

Amber Valenti Armstrong, White Salmon - add an additional section of Main Street for no parking beginning at Cherry Street running north to the first driveway.

Michael and Brandi Nelson, Dan and Carol Shaw, and Chuck and Jerri Jacobs, White Salmon – suggested making the proposed “no parking” area on Main a 24-hour parking limit and concern about enforcement when the no parking on the south side of Spring Street is not enforced and does not believe in punishing the majority to clean up derelict vehicles of one individual.

Julie Bergmeier, White Salmon – support no parking on 4th Avenue but oppose any “no parking” signage other than a yellow curb.

Shelley Baxter, White Salmon – support for no parking along the west side of Main Street running north from Spring street and suggested of not using “no parking” signage and just using a yellow curb to avoid sign cluttering.

Ryan Boroughs, White Salmon – do not support the addition of a “no parking” sign on the northern section of 4th Avenue but feel a painted curb would be a more practical solution.

Dorothy Herman, White Salmon – concern that limiting parking on Main Street would impact the Grange Hall, suggested adding a traffic mirror and adding yellow parking strip on the curb of Main street immediately north of Spring Street.

Gigi Pomerantz, Treasurer, Mt. View Grange #98 – concern that limiting parking access on Main Street will have an impact on the Grange.

Jim Smith, White Salmon – disagree with the proposed amendments to parking requirements and should rescind parking on the south side of Spring Street.

Lynn Mason, White Salmon – support for both no parking along the west side of Main Street running north from Spring Street and no parking on the south side of NW Spring.

Ashley Post, Council Member said that the input received via public comment was helpful. She said she agrees the proposed ordinance should be tabled and reevaluated as a whole. Post said it was also good to hear about the need for parking across from the Grange Hall. She said she does not know if a traffic mirror would work.

Jason Hartmann, Council Member said the city has been receiving complaints about the intersection at Main and Spring Street for years. He said he appreciates hearing the comments and agrees the amendments should go back to the City Operations Committee.

Mike Hepner, Police Chief said a yellow curb at the intersection of Main and Spring Street has been painted to designate the area where no parking is allowed due to the

intersection. He said that has helped and the issue is not as bad as it once was. Hepner said no parking area on 4th Street is necessary due to safety concerns.

The City Council discussed using painted yellow curb versus using both painted yellow curb and a “no parking” signage.

The City Council discussed rewording 10.24.010B ‘The public works director shall erect signs stating “No Stopping or Standing” in the above prohibited areas.’ Ken Woodrich recommended rewording the section to read “The public works director shall have discretion in using traffic control devices for no stopping or standing areas in the above prohibited areas.”

The City Council discussed moving ahead with the parking restriction on west side of 4th Avenue.

The City Council discussed on how to provide direction as to when signage should or should not be used. The administration noted that they hear the city council’s desire to minimize traffic signage where possible.

Moved by Jim Ransier. Seconded by Jason Hartmann.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-03-1075, Amending WSMC 10.24 Stopping Standing and Parking removing #11 of 10.24.010A and renumbering the remaining items in A and amending 10.24.010B to read “The public works director shall provide traffic control devices establishing no standing or stopping areas as prescribed in the above prohibited areas.” CARRIED 5-0.

The City Council referred additional amendments back to the City Operations Committee for a more comprehensive review.

B. Critical Areas Ordinance Heritage Tree Variance Request 2020-001, Chris Moore and Crissy Trask

Marla Keethler, Mayor opened the public hearing and provided information to the city council and applicants regarding appearance of fairness and ex parte contact. All council members noted they have not had any ex parte contact and are able to fairly make a determination on the variance request. There were no objections to any of the council members participating in the procedures.

Pat Munyan, City Administrator presented information on the critical areas ordinance heritage tree variance request submitted by Chris Moore and Crissy Trask. He said the property is located at 328 SE Wyers. Munyan said the request is not to remove any heritage trees but to be allowed to build within the buffer areas.

Crissy Trask presented information on the proposed variance request. She noted that as property owners they want to protect the trees. Trask said that meeting the city’s codes regarding protection of heritage trees provides a hardship because it would only allow use of 12% of the property. She said that most property owners are allowed to use up to

50% of the property. Trask said that with the variance they would be using approximately 20% which they feel is reasonable and that being allowed to use 12% is not reasonable. She said granting the variance would not be materially detrimental to the property and would actually correct some setback problems.

Council Members discussed the variance request and the arborist's recommendations.

Moved by Jim Ransier. Seconded by Jason Hartmann.

Motion to approve the Critical Areas Heritage Tree Variance request submitted by Chris Moore and Crissy Trask with the condition of following the arborist's recommendations to protect the trees, finding that without the variance the applicant does not have a reasonable use of the property and that denial of the variance would present a hardship.

Council Members and the applicants discussed how to reference the arborist's recommendations and how they should be implemented.

Moved by David Lindley. Seconded by Jason Hartmann.

Motion to amend original motion adding a condition of requiring a construction plan submitted by ISA certified arborist with periodic review to confirm compliance with he construction plan.

Crissy Trask said she is confused with the amendment as following the arborist's recommendations is already part of the original motion.

David Lindley withdrew his motion amending the original motion. Jason Hartmann agreed to withdraw the motion.

The original motion CARRIED 5-0.

VII. Reports and Communications

A. City Council Members

Jim Ransier, Council Member said the Community Development Committee met on March 15 and finalized the language for the CityLab Board which will be coming before the city council at a future meeting.

Joe Turkiewicz, Council Member said the Gorge Farmer's Alliance will possibly be using the Grange Hall as a delivery location in White Salmon.

Jason Hartmann, Council Member said the City Operations Committee met on March 16 with Fire District 3 making a presentation about their desire to collaborate with White Salmon and possibly collocated a fire headquarters at the city's existing fire hall. He said committee indicated support in principal and look forward to moving the conversation forward. Hartmann said the committee also discussed the Loop Trail and ways to move the trail off of Jewett Blvd.

Ashley Post, Council Member said the Tree Board met and talked about Arbor Day which will be celebrated on Saturday with the city handing out mulch and tree seedlings. She said the board is looking at the city's Heritage Tree code possibly using the City of Sammamish's code as a possible model.

David Lindley, Council Member said the Tree Board has discussed removing the Heritage Tree code from the city's critical area ordinance and placing it as it's own chapter within the Environmental Title of the city's code. He said the Board thought it might be best to look at other models instead of reworking the existing language.

B. Mayor

Marla Keethler, Mayor said that information has been added to the city's website that allows individuals to file a report online related to conditions of city streets. She said the submittals will be reviewed weekly with Pat Munyan and Russ Avery. Keethler said specific Phase 3 guidelines have not yet been released. She said the state has entered into a new vaccine phase as of today. Keethler said the city will begin advertising for the land use planner. She said parklets will be installed on Friday for those businesses who have requested them. Keethler said COVID19 funding will be coming to the city and that she and staff will be bringing suggestions on how to use the funding. She said that the virtual Gorgeous Nights Out had a good turn with legislators from both side of the river in attendance.

C. Department Heads

Bill Hunsaker, Fire Chief/Building Official thanked the City Operations Committee for listening to the Fire District 3's presentation. He said there are a lot of new construction starts including the new apartments on main Street. Hunsaker said Skyline Hospital is almost done with their construction.

Russ Avery, Public Works Operations Manager said that any potholes that have been currently repairs are temporary and when hot mix asphalt is available permanent repairs will be made.

Ashley Post, Council Member asked if crosswalks are on the schedule for painting.

Avery said they are on the schedule but are dependent on weather.

Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer said that the budget provides for the crosswalks in the downtown area being redone twice in the year.

Pat Munyan, City Administrator said he has been working with Department of Natural Resources regarding easements for the city's 14-inch main line repair project. He said the majority of it has been resolved but there continues to be a few things that still need to be addressed.

VIII. Executive Session

At 8:27 p.m. Marla Keethler, Mayor announced the City Council will meet in Executive Session to discuss acquisition of real estate pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(b) for 20 minutes.

At 8:47 p.m., the city council resumed regular session. Staff was directed to proceed as discussed.

Ashley Post, Council Member reminded everyone that the Executive Session discussion is confidential.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Marla Keethler, Mayor

Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer