



CITY OF WHITE SALMON
City Council Meeting – Wednesday, January 18, 2023
In Person and Via Zoom Teleconference

Council and Administrative Personnel Present

Council Members:

Ben Giant
 Patty Fink (Zoom)
 Jason Hartmann (Mayor Pro Temp)
 Jim Ransier
 David Lindley

Staff Present:

Jeff Broderick, Land Use Planner
 Jeff Cooper, Acting Public Works Manager
 Bill Hunsaker, Fire Chief/Code Enforcement
 Stephanie Porter, Clerk Treasurer
 Ken Woodrich, City Attorney (Zoom)

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Mayor Pro Temp Jason Hartmann called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m. There were approximately 9 members of the public in attendance in person and via teleconference.

II. Changes to the Agenda

Staff recommends the following changes to the agenda:
 Remove Consent Agenda Item – Approval of Meeting Minutes – January 4, 2023
 Remove 2022 Vacation Carryover for Mike Hepner – Chief Hepner has declined carryover.
 Amend Consent Agenda Item D to read “Approval of Vouchers”.

Moved by Ben Giant. Seconded by Jim Ransier.
Motion to accept changes as presented.

Discussion:

Ben Giant, Council Member noted that if Chief Hepner would like to request this time back at a later date, he would be open to that request.

CARRIED 5-0

III. Consent Agenda

- A. Personal Services Contract Amendment - Cameron McCarthy - Bid Specifications for Rheingarten Park Improvements
- B. Authorize Mayor to sign SCADA Scope of Work with Anderson Perry (\$102,000)
- C. Approval of City Council Minutes – January 4, 2023
- D. Approval of Vouchers

Type	Date	From	To	Amount
Claims	12/31/2022	38830	38856	104,315.38
	1/18/2023	38857	38870	212,184.16

			Claims Total	316,499.54
Payroll	1/20/2023	EFT	EFT	75,820.29
			Payroll Total	75,820.29
Manual Claims	1/11/2023	38799	38802	2,235.00
			Manual Total	2,235.00
			Total All Vouchers	394,554.83

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 18th day of January 2023.

Moved by Ben Giant. Seconded by David Lindley.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda as presented with voucher total in the amount of \$394,554.83.

Discussion:

Jim Ransier, Council Member Clarified the Cameron McCarthy contract is standard and will be phased.

Jim Ransier requested clarification on the higher-than-normal engineering cost related to the SCADA project.

Stephanie Porter, Clerk Treasurer noted that staff reached out for clarification on this issue as engineering costs are typically 10-25% of the total project cost and the project cost by Anderson Perry was closer to 40% of the total cost of the SCADA project. Anderson Perry justified by explaining that smaller construction project will often times have a larger percentage engineering cost, which the SCADA project is more design heavy than construction heavy.

CARRIED 5-0.

IV. Public Comment

There was no public comment in person or via zoom.

V. Presentation

Mid-Columbia Houseless Collaborative Presentation

Leslie Naramore, from Washington Gorge Action Programs presented information on a new collaborative effort between both the Washington State and Oregon State Gorge Communities to address Houselessness in the Columbia River Gorge.

The presentation detailed the Collaborative’s Strategic Plan including action items that would decrease the houseless population in the Gorge and bring sustainable practices to local agencies to make obtaining and sustaining reliable housing attainable for the gorge communities at large.

The four main goals of the Strategic Plan included:

1. Shelter – build better systems to provide placement services and sustainable funding to keep staff paid appropriately to avoid turnover.
2. Services – Improve access to resources, add more services to the gorge area to support those who need special help.
3. Housing – create at least 262 affordable, accessible housing units by 2027 and preserve existing long-term housing.
4. Advocacy – consistent communication with local and state leaders to encourage advocacy for attainable housing. Use data to dispel myths about houselessness and advocate for funding.

VI. Business Items

A. Public Hearing for Ordinance 2023-01-1121 Assuming the Powers of the Transportation Benefit District

Stephanie Porter, Clerk Treasurer presented the information for the Public Hearing of Ordinance presented. She explained that because the establish Transportation Benefit District (TBD) has the boundaries of the White Salmon City Limits that the City Council is automatically designated the governing board. The adoption of the presented Ordinance would allow the City Council to absorb the TBD powers and it would cease to exist as a separate entity from the City Council. This process allows the City Council the authority to discuss TBD business in the regular council meetings. If this Ordinance is not adopted, the City Council would need to hold separate regular meeting for the TBD.

Mayor Pro Temp Jason Hartmann opened the Public Hearing at 6:55pm.

There was no public comment.

The public hearing was closed at 6:56pm.

Moved by Jim Ransier. Seconded by Patty Fink.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-01-1121 Assuming the Rights, Powers, Functions and Obligations of the White Salmon Transportation Benefit District Pursuant to RCW 36.74.

Discussion:

David Lindley, Council Member clarified the next steps of the TBD process including the ordinance options that will come before City Council in future meetings regarding the funding options for the district.

CARRIED 5-0.

B. Resolution 2022-01-555 Adopting the 2023 Legislative Priorities

Stephanie Porter, Clerk Treasurer presented the Mayor’s 2023 State Legislative Priorities.

Jim Ransier commented on the excellent formatting and presentation. He suggested that the priorities listed under Infrastructure, include the word Infrastructure.

Ken Woodrich reminded council of their responsibility as elected officials in relation to electioneering. There are specific guideline of how the council may legally make an endorsement.

**Moved by Ben Giant. Seconded by Jim Ransier.
Motion to adopt the Mayor's 2023 State legislative Priorities.
CARRIED 5-0.**

~~C. 2022 Vacation Carryover – Mike Hepner~~

VII. Reports and Communications

A. Department Heads

Jeff Broderick, Land Use Planner

Jeff Broderick clarified the intent of charging for staff time noted in his department update.

Patty Fink requested the City Operations committee review the Transportation System Plan survey and review the plan moving forward.

Stephanie Porter, Clerk Treasurer

Stephanie Porter gave a brief update on the TIB Garfield Street Paving project and how it is moving forward.

B. Council Members

Patty Fink, Council Member

Patty Fink gave an update on the Transit Authority Conversation. She noted that she gave comment on the City's behalf.

David Lindley, Council Member

David Lindley highlighted a meeting between the Mayor, Karen Black-Jenkins (Tree Board Member) and himself regarding the Sweet Gum Tree. He noted that the pruning outline has been provided to staff and is out to bid.

Jeff Broderick, Land Use Planner asked about the properties on the north side of the Sweet Gum Tree.

David Lindley suggested that an established threshold would need to be determined to avoid extensive damage to the neighboring properties by the trees root system.

Ben Giant, Council Member

Ben Giant commented that he likes the department reports.

He noted that he attended the viewing of “Raising of America” and it gave him a new perspective on the need for sustainable and affordable childcare. He noted that the movie clarified that childcare is more than an individual issue, it is a community issue.

Jim Ransier, Council Member

Jim Ransier reiterated the newly established chain of command between Council Members and City Staff. He noted that Council Members are to relay requests to the Mayor and the Mayor will take them to City Staff. City Staff is to relay requests to the City Administrator who will take them to the Mayor. He noted that committees may communicate directly with designated City Staff in regards to committee business.

Jason Hartmann, Council Member

Jason Hartmann relayed information discussed by the City Operations Committee. He highlighted that the committee is looking to schedule time with Republic Services Representative to come and speak to the committee about yard debris pick up and the potential of getting recycling bins rather than using the non-recyclable blue bags.

B. Mayor

No update.

VIII. Executive Session

No Executive Session.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:44p.m.

Marla Keethler, Mayor

Stephanie Porter, Clerk Treasurer