

COUNCIL MEETING

**White Salmon City Council Meeting
Fire Hall, 119 NE Church Ave.
February 3, 2010
6:00 PM**

- I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL
- II. TOWN HALL
- III. PUBLIC HEARING (none)
- IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA
Approve city council minutes for January 20, 2010.
- V. ACTION ITEMS (Deferred)
- VI. ACTION ITEMS (New)
 - 1) Announce Citizen of the Quarter.
 - 2) Approve candidate for citizen position #1 on the Budget Committee.
 - 3) Discuss the hiring of an interim Public Works Director / City Administrator.
 - 4) Approve building inspection contract with Hood River County. **(Ken is working on this and we will send as soon as it is done)**
- VII. DEPARTMENT HEAD / COMMITTEE REPORTS
 - 1) Police
 - 2) Fire
 - 3) Clerk Treasurer
 - 4) Public Safety
 - 5) Public Works
 - 6) Richard Marx
 - 7) Mark Peppel
 - 8) Leana Johnson
 - 9) Bob Landgren
 - 10) Anthony Coulter
- VIII. APPROVAL OF CHECKS
- IX. PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS
- X. EXECUTIVE SESSION / ADJOURNMENT
Executive Session to review the performance of a public employee.

OTHER INFORMATION

**White Salmon City Council Meeting
Fire Hall, 119 NE Church Ave.
February 3, 2010
6:00 PM**

- 1. Business Partners meeting minutes for January 21, 2010.**
- 2. Information about open house to learn about scheduled SR 14 closures.**

CITY OF WHITE SALMON
City Council Regular Meeting – January 20, 2010

DRAFT

MAJOR BUSINESS ITEMS

- * Approved Ordinance 2010-01-845 for water forgiveness.
- * Approved 50% forgiveness of Grange Hall's outside water leak.
- * Tabled the purchase of two police cars.
- * Discussed charging for police services for Spring Fest and Huckleberry Festival.
- * Discussed establishing a vehicle and equipment replacement reserve fund.
- * Discussed establishing a vehicle and equipment replacement policy.
- * Approved Inter-Local Communications/Dispatch Services Agreement with KCSO.
- * Approved Reimbursable Agreement between the City of White Salmon and Klickitat County.
- * Approved tort claim form for damages made under chapter 4.96 RCW.
- * Approved agreement with Klickitat County for the use of the Adult Correction & Detention & Facility.

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL: Mayor Poucher called the council meeting of January 20, 2010 to order at 6:00 P.M. Council (C.) members Johnson, Peppel, Marx and Coulter were present. C. Landgren was absent. Staff members present were: Mayor (M.) David Poucher; Clerk Treasurer (C.T.) Lori Kreps; Police Chief (P.C.) Bruce Brending and (F.C.) Bill Hunsaker. Also present were City Attorney (A.) Ken Woodrich, Jesse Burkhardt of The Enterprise and approximately 35 members of the public.

II. TOWN HALL:

Mark Cox of White Salmon said he was upset about the PUD charging him for three years of back utility taxes for the City of White Salmon. He said it was not his fault that he was not billed. He said it was the cities responsibility to give the information to the PUD.

Lloyd McKay of the White Salmon Arts Council said the area needs a revitalization plan. We are on the National Geographic Map. We are in a sustainable area pertaining to geo-tourism. We have three areas in our favor. They are commerce, light industry and geo-tourism. We need to take advantage of this and revitalize our down town.

Lance Stryker of White Salmon made a plea to have the White Salmon Urban Growth Area withdrawn from Fire District 3. Several citizens have contributed \$4,500.00 of their own money to move this issue forward. Stryker asked for the Council's support.

Nancy Sliwa of White Salmon agrees that the Urban Growth Area needs to be covered by the city or a newly established Fire District.

III. PUBLIC HEARING

None

IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Approve City Council Minutes for January 6, 2010. C. Peppel made a *motion to approve*. C. Coulter *seconded*. **Motion passed 4-0.**

CITY OF WHITE SALMON
City Council Regular Meeting – January 20, 2010

DRAFT

V. ACTION ITEMS (Deferred)

- 1. Approve Ordinance 2010-01-845 for water forgiveness.** A. Woodrich said the Ordinance was a one-time forgiveness for half of the excess usage. The problem had to be corrected and it had to be underground or internal, not an indoor plumbing problem. *C. Coulter made a motion to approve. C. Johnson seconded. Motion passed 4-0.*
- 2. Approve 50% forgiveness of Grange Hall's outside water leak.** The amount to forgive is \$465.76 and it will be noted as a one-time forgiveness. *C. Johnson made a motion to forgive the Grange Hall for the amount of \$465.67. C. Peppel seconded. Motion passed 4-0.*
- 3. Approve the mayor to apply for LOCAL financing with appropriate Resolutions and Ordinance not to exceed \$15,640 per year for years 2010-2013 for the purchase of two police cars.** C. Johnson thanked Darlene Johnson for developing a 10 year replacement plan for the police cars and for crunching the numbers for buying 1, 2, 3, or 4 cars. She said the budget committee recommends purchasing two vehicles. **Darlene Johnson did a presentation on Life Cycle Budgeting.** The plan is to finance two cars now and then finance one car per year with the goal of purchasing all additional cars outright by 2014. This plan includes the establishment of a vehicle and equipment replacement fund and policy. The city must act now to participate in the March program which currently has interest rates at an all-time low. M. Poucher asked if the city was obligated if the paperwork was submitted. C.T. Kreps said no. *C. Peppel made a motion to authorize the mayor to submit the LOCAL paperwork with an amount of \$60,000. C. Marx Seconded.* The paperwork will be a nonbinding letter of intent. C. Coulter asked if there was more to learn before we make a decision. C. Peppel said the city should pay for the cars outright. Peppel said he believes we can find another \$27,000 in the police budget to purchase the second car. C. Johnson said the best option would be to go for a loan. C. Marx said he had a problem with fleet replacement and the budget. P.C. Brending said for the past several years he has put a car in the budget every year only to have them removed during the budgeting process. Brending needs two cars now. C. Marx said according to the AWC report we have the highest budget for a town our size. Brending said the council has been made aware of the need for new police cars. Officer Steve Shields put a chart on the blackboard of the police cars and their uses to visually show the need for more cars. C. Johnson stated that if the council had issues with the budget this should have been voiced before the budget was passed. Peppel said the budget was a working document. **Motion passed 3-1.** *C. Peppel made a motion to table the decision to buy two Police cars. C. Marx seconded. Motion passed 3-2 with the mayor's tie breaking vote.* A special meeting was set for Wednesday, Jan. 27th at 6:30 to discuss the purchase of two police cars.

VI. ACTION ITEMS (New)

- 1. Recognition of Valerie Leon for CHS clerk treasurer job shadow.** C.T. Kreps said Valerie is an advanced accounting student that has been with the city since the first of the school year. She has helped with accounting, payroll, on-line payments, bank reconciliations and numerous other tasks. Kreps presented her with a certificate.
- 2. Discussion about charging for police services for Spring Fest and Huckleberry Festival.** Festival Chairs Sally Tallman and Amanda McDonald voiced concerns about

CITY OF WHITE SALMON
City Council Regular Meeting – January 20, 2010

DRAFT

paying for police services. P.C. Brending said his job is to be prepared for the worst. Brending recommends having three officers on duty during entertainment hours. The festival chairs said they want to work with the city to keep the two annual festivals. Local merchants donate significantly to the events. Clyde Knowles asked if county officers respond when there is a problem. Brending said they help when they are available. C. Marx said he does not agree with charging festivals for police services. The matter will go to the human resource committee. The next meeting is February 1, 2010. The next joint police committee meeting is the 1st Monday of March.

- 3. Discussion about establishing a vehicle and equipment replacement reserve fund.** C. Johnson said this is a draft of an Ordinance we will be working on. This gets us on track for the replacement of police vehicles. We want to incorporate this into future vehicle and equipment purchases for all departments in the city.
- 4. Discussion about establishing a vehicle and equipment replacement policy.** C. Johnson said this will insure that the city follows the ordinance. We would like this to go through committee before coming to council.
- 5. Approve Inter-Local Communications/Dispatch Services Agreement.** P.C. Brending said there are few changes and no cost increases. *C. Coulter made a motion to approve the Inter-Local Agreement. C. Johnson seconded. Motion passed 4-0.*
- 6. Approve Reimbursable Agreement between the City of White Salmon and Klickitat County.** Jan Brending of Bingen said if Klickitat County does some maintenance for the city, this is what will dictate how the city reimburses the County. *C. Coulter made a motion to accept the agreement. C. Peppel seconded. Motion passed 4-0.*
- 7. Approve tort claim form for damages made under Chapter 4.96 RCW.** A. Woodrich said the city is required to have this form available if someone wants to sue. *C. Coulter made a motion to approve the form. C. Peppel seconded. Motion passed 4-0.*
- 8. Approve agreement with Klickitat County for the use of the Adult Correction & Detention & Facility.** *C. Johnson made a motion to approve. C. Coulter seconded. Motion passed 4-0.*

VII. DEPARTMENT HEAD / COMMITTEE REPORTS

F.C. Hunsaker said the agreement and the training officer from Fire District 3 is working out well. The working relationship is good.

P.C. Brending said with the help of the police dog the department obtained a search warrant for a burglary suspect's house. Officer Gines has tentatively accepted a position with the Skamania County Sheriff's Office. Gines is leaving and P.C. Brending said that all of his training is money that has gone to another agency. P.C. Brending has a list from civil service that he is proceeding with and trying to find someone to fill the position. This is going to create extra hours that are necessary to maintain 24/7 coverage. C. Marx suggested the contract with the new officer needs to be changed to protect the city. C. Peppel said there is a police lieutenant in Hood River looking for work. P.C. Brending said that with our current political situation he did not think we could attract a lateral officer to come to work for us. The work environment is not conducive to someone wanting to come to work here. We conducted a civil service test a few weeks ago and we

CITY OF WHITE SALMON
City Council Regular Meeting – January 20, 2010

DRAFT

opened it up to lateral officers and no lateral officer applied. P.C. Brending said this speaks something to wages and environment.

C. Coulter said the business partners meeting will be at 6:00 pm on January 21st at the Fire Hall. Discussion will cover what is to be accomplished in 2010.

C. Johnson said the Finance/Audit Committee discussed the police cars. The pool committee is working on establishing procedures for tracking donated money. The deadline for the applications for the vacancy on the budget committee has been extended to February 1, 2010. The budget committee will be going through forms and documentation requirements that will be used by department heads during the 2011 budgeting process.

C.T. Kreps said the city is implementing a health and wellness program. In doing this the city will save 2% on our medical premiums. She will be talking with the human resource committee regarding some additional plans for this program.

C. Peppel said the new street lights with 75 watts instead of 250 watts will cut our power costs substantially. One of these new lights is at the tennis court and one is at the PUD. We are waiting for another garbage can vendor to contact us before we purchase the garbage cans. We are talking about installing compression brake warning signs. P.W.D. Mike Wellman is working on security cameras at Buck Creek. We met with Solitol at Buck Creek to discuss options when the power is out. Park lighting will be completed in 5 weeks. The Buck Creek storage tanks are complete and the fencing is done. We are talking with Pacific Core about the 14" water line across the bridge at Northwestern Lake. City Ops is looking into tree topping. We have a pine beetle problem. The pool bucks are done. The pool committee is split into two committees. A timer on the lights at the tennis courts needs to be done.

A recess was called at 7:57pm. Meeting was called back in session at 8:08pm.

VIII. APPROVAL OF CHECKS: Vouchers audited and certified as required by RCW42.24.080 and expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW42.24.090 as of this date January 20, 2010. *C. Johnson made a motion to approve claim checks 22618-22675 for a total of \$166,881.28, C. Peppel seconded. Motion passed 3-1.*

IX. PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Jackie Dietsch asked about the Parks and Rec. district. C. Peppel said the Phase Two committee has the map finished and the petition drive to get on the ballot begins March 15. Contact Bill Ward, Tom Wooding or Laura Mann if you have any questions.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION / ADJOURNMENT

Executive session for potential litigation under RCW 42.60.110 started at 8:12pm. Mayor Poucher said they would be out ten minutes with no discussion after the session. Meeting was called back to order at 8:22pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22pm.

City of White Salmon Business Partners meeting, January 21, 2010

Open: Meeting called to order at 6:00pm with Councilman Anthony Coulter (chair), Councilman Richard Marx, Lloyd DeKay, Marsha Holliston, Brad Roberts, Jim Kacena, Don Tackley, and Bill Werst present.

Reports: Lloyd DeKay provided a list of suggestions for future consideration by the committee. See *Community Revitalization: Renewal Strategies for the City of White Salmon*, attached.

New business:

1. **Web page:** There is a general understanding that a new city web page will be created that does not have “doodlekit” in its domain name. It was asked that the site store more city information (e.g. the municipal budget) than the current one does. Proper use of a content management system (CMS) like Drupal was strongly encouraged so that the site could be maintained by multiple people. Of particular significance to the committee is that the site should link to local businesses and provide a calendar of upcoming local (not necessarily government) events. Soliciting suggestions from local businesses was considered and postponed until a new host is found and the CMS is in place. **Action items:** Councilman Coulter will present an itemized list of estimated costs at the next meeting and a tentative plan for securing funding. Lloyd DeKay offered to help with this process.

2. **Signs on SR14:** Jim Kacena presented a rough proposal by the Mt. Adams Chamber of Commerce to put signs on Highway 14 to direct passing motorists up Dock Grade to the city. It has been found that the words “Community Entrance Marker” are more appealing to state officials than the word “sign.” Progress with this task has been slow, primarily because of the number of entities involved. There has also been difficulty determining the ownership of a prime location for such a sign at the base of the hill. It was noted that this sign may cause contention with the city of Bingen. The committee considered requesting the formal support of the White Salmon mayor or City Council but postponed such action until a specific proposal is available. **Action items:** Councilman Marx will determine the ownership of the property at the base of the Dock Grade Hill. The Chamber of Commerce will continue its preexisting efforts on this front.

3. **Parking:** Several committee members reported that many local businesses are concerned about a shortage of downtown parking and that residents in nearby areas have expressed concern about cars parking near them. Ricky Marx had previously surveyed local businesses and found that they overwhelmingly wanted better enforcement of parking laws. It was noted that the City’s parking signs and ordinances may be out of date, but that the City does have plans to enforce parking rules soon. It was also determined that a more thorough parking solution will probably be needed eventually, but that it is unproductive to debate alternatives until the effects of parking enforcement can be seen. The possibility of encouraging local businesses with large plots of land to develop excess parking space was brought up. **Action items:** C. Coulter will ask the police chief and the city attorney about what is needed for signs and ordinances, respectively, and will ask an experienced planner for insight into incentivizing businesses to create additional plots of land.

4. **Geotourism:** Lloyd DeKay reported that National Geographic has ranked the Columbia River Gorge as the eleventh “sustainable geotourism destination” in the world and the second in the United States, and suggested that the city website provide a link to *thecentralcascades.com* to raise public awareness of this fact. It was noted that free maps are available from that project, and that the Chamber of Commerce is already taking action with these. **Action items:** C. Coulter will link the current website to *thecentralcascades.com*. The Chamber of Commerce will continue its preexisting efforts.

5. **Lodging taxes:** Deferred to the next meeting for lack of time.

6. **Empty lots downtown:** Deferred to the next meeting for lack of time.

7. **Water bill calendars:** It was asked whether the city could send calendars or newsletters in the same envelopes as its water bills, and if so, what the constraints are for such mailouts. **Action items:** C. Coulter will ask City Hall about said issue.

8. **Grants:** It was noted that the City should seek out grants. No action items were created at this time; the issue will be revisited at the next meeting.

9. **Ombudsman:** It was suggested that the business partners committee officially adopt the role of ombudsman and listen to business owners’ complaints and issues. While it was agreed that the committee would hear any complaints that were brought before it, no action was taken towards making this role official.

Close: Meeting closed at 7:43pm.

Community Revitalization Renewal Strategies for the City of White Salmon

Improve Civic Appearance

- Use tax incentives and redevelopment funds to encourage new businesses and rebuilding on vacant lots
 - Look to outside funding sources (see below) to support these incentives
 - Advertise economic and quality-of-life advantages of WS & WA
 - Closer to outdoor venues
 - Smaller town
 - No individual income taxes
- Discourage vacant lots and shops
 - Develop ordinances regulating appearances of downtown storefronts
 - Penalize owners of vacant lots and empty storefronts
 - Charge owners for city clean-up of sidewalks , empty lots & empty storefronts
 - Enforce appearance ordinances, penalize violators
 - Coordinate with downtown business organization(s) to avoid penalizing active stores
- Install quality signage opposite the bridge, Dock Grade and Bingen
 - Much of the scoping work is already done by Mt Adams Chamber, requires follow-up
 - Remove negative signage (water warnings) at White Salmon entrance
- Install new, good looking, efficient street lights
 - Capable of supporting changeable (seasonal?) pennants, hanging plants, etc.
 - Capable of supporting gateway banners
- Rehab and improve Jewett, rebuild and widen south-side sidewalks, relandscape curbside plantings
 - Level and narrow Jewett Blvd (should be a state-funded and executed project)
 - Install water and electrical outlets at regular intervals along the curbside areas
 - Go to parallel parking, design attractive raised planters and stairs, similar improvements to north side
 - Add planting areas and planter boxes along the curbside areas, redo and maintain curbside landscaping

Support and Encourage Tourist Activities and Events

- Participate in Regional Advertising
 - Work with WA & OR tourism boards
 - Contribute to collective advertising efforts
- Support and encourage festivals
 - Liaise with state and county agencies (WSDOT, WSLCB)
 - Reduce organizer hassles (minimize required services)

Pursue Revitalization Funding

- Utilize Grant Writing Consultants
 - Leigh Hancock
 - Consulting Groups (i.e., Cardno TBE)
- Pursue Government/Private Redevelopment Funding Sources
 - WEDA, WEDC, WEDFA, WSBDC, WSDFI
 - Innovation Partnership Zones
 - Main Street National Trust for Historic Preservation
 - Recovery Act Grants
 - Arts
 - Education
 - Energy & Technology
 - Health & Human Services
 - Jobs & Economy
 - Public Safety
 - Rural & Community Development
 - Transportation

Submitted January 21, 2010 by Lloyd DeKay – President, White Salmon Arts Council



Washington State
Department of Transportation

SR 14 closures start next month

Rockfall work along SR 14 near Dog Mountain and White Salmon starts next month. Work will close the highway for long durations.

Come to the open house for closure schedules and alternate routes, and to learn about other projects along the corridor.

Feb. 18, 2010
4 - 7 p.m. (stop by anytime)
White Salmon Valley Library
77 NE Wauna Ave
White Salmon, WA 98672

For more information, please visit:
www.wsdot.wa.gov/regions/southwest/events