

CITY OF WHITE SALMON

Council Work Session Minutes – February 18, 2003

The work session was called to order at 6:03 p.m. Councilmembers White-Morris, Gaddis, Gookin, Benedict and Stone were present. Also present Roger Holen, Mayor; staff Kelly A. Ingraham, CPA, & Wil Keyser. Other employees present included Tom Smith & Ross Lambert. Public present consisted of one person.

C. Stone inquired about the proposed road on the short plat application. He also inquired about the AFLAC agreement and stated he would be willing to answer any questions related to the proposed anti-war Resolution.

C. Benedict inquired about the removal of the trash can at Mamie Gaddis – Jewett Springs Park. She also inquired about the city limits along Barnett Road. Wil responded that it is very hop-scotch along that stretch based on a map KC recently completed. She briefly commented on the proposed Noise Ordinance and inquired about the Annexation issue. The Clerk-Treasurer provided a handout on HB 1231 which just passed the House on 2/14/03 and has been forwarded to the Senate who is expected to adopt it and the Governor to sign it before the end of the month.

C. Gookin inquired about the timelines specified in the Noise Ordinance. Wil responded that they were standard business practice times (7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.). C. Gaddis inquired whether police officers had the proper equipment to measure violations. The Mayor responded that we did not and we would have to purchase several to get us started and eventually have one in every vehicle.

Roger commented on some available grant money for fire prevention along the bluff. Tom commented on this program.

C. Gookin inquired about the City's policy on the protection of officer's firearms while at home. Roger will do some checking with Ned Kindler.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the proposed anti-war Resolution.

The Clerk-Treasurer briefly commented on the proposed Internet Banking program with Columbia River Bank. This will allow automatic withdrawals for utility payments and automatic deposits for payroll checks plus many other features. The cost is \$55/month for this service or \$550 for the remainder of 2003. She will be asking for the Council consensus at the regular meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

CITY OF WHITE SALMON

Council Regular Meeting Minutes - February 19, 2003

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor Holen called the council meeting of February 19, 2003 to order at 6:05 p.m. Councilmembers White-Morris, Gaddis, Gookin, Benedict, and Stone were present. Staff present consisted of Wil Keyser, Director of Public Works/Planning; Kelly A. Ingraham, CPA, Clerk-Treasurer; Deborah M. Phillips, City Attorney; and Mike Hepner, Police Officer. Public representatives included David Duncombe; Stacy Shaw; Travis Limelight; Beatrice Wilson; Rod Allen; Jim Herman; John Wood; Mike Gibney; Jim Farrell; Timmy Keen; Amy Mann; Corry Nye; Kirby Dallent; Paul Moyer; Shirley Cox, Planning Commission Chair; and Jesse Burkhardt, The Enterprise. Many other residents were present also, but did not comment.

II. TOWN HALL PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Mayor reviewed the "Rules of Engagement" for tonight's meeting. Only residents of White Salmon city limits are going to be allowed to speak because their voices are the ones the City Council and Mayor are elected to represent. Each person will be given three minutes to comment. Please keep your comments non-repetitive – if you agree with a previous speaker, than say so. The two questions before City Council are 1) Is this issue appropriate for White Salmon City Council to make a decision on? and 2) Should the Council oppose a US led invasion? Once the public comment period has been closed, there will be no further comments allowed during deliberation of the motion by City Council. Any violations of these rules will result in expulsion from the chambers.

David Duncombe spoke in favor of the Resolution. His reasons are the economic implications. The best case scenario would be in and out in one month and would cost \$60-\$70 billion/year with an estimated occupation of 3-4 years. The country cannot afford a war like this even at the best case scenario, let alone the worst case scenario. White Salmon cannot afford it.

Stacy Shaw spoke in favor of the Resolution. Her reasons were also economic in nature. She has also heard \$50 billion, but a more accurate figure is \$100 billion. The Gulf War cost \$61 billion or in today's dollars \$81 billion. We do not have the additional support from other countries like we did with the Gulf War which will make the cost even higher. This is money we are taking away from our schools. The impact to Washington is estimated to be \$500 million. This money would be better spent on schools and fire trucks. The impact to Klickitat County would also be significant

considering we have one of the highest unemployment rates in the state. White Salmon is not alone in considering this type of Resolution – there are other cities and counties who have done so or have this issue on their agendas.

Travis Limelight spoke against the Resolution. He is a Desert Storm veteran and our military forces need the full support of its citizens. This issue is close to home because his brother is over there right now. If we are in bad straights economically, then why didn't anyone complain when George W. gave everyone a tax rebate? That's when everything went wrong, but you didn't hear anyone complaining over getting some money.

Beatrice Wilson spoke against the Resolution. Her husband Ken was just recently deployed to Iraq. He has been in the military for 20 years and is a Gulf War veteran. She is in full agreement with Travis's comments. The White Salmon City Council is not speaking for every citizen.

Rod Allen spoke in favor of the Resolution. He is a Vietnam veteran, but he believes there must be a better way to resolve things than with war. The City Council Chambers is the right place to begin these discussions – it must start at the local level. Washington D.C. (George W.) has already shown that it (he) doesn't care about public opinion.

Jim Herman spoke against the Resolution. He is against more taxes. The Council must run the City within the constraints of resources we have available. Our officials were elected to run the City, not the country. He is also a Vietnam veteran.

John Wood spoke against the Resolution. He is a WW II veteran. There was the same mentality in the 1930's as there is now 'Peace, not war'. In the meantime, Hitler was building a military machine. Czechoslovakia was given to the Germans to keep peace, and instead they marched on Poland. We need to act now, not wait. Hussain is a terrorist and he supports suicide bombers. You say we need to save money? To do that we need to attack now and fast before Hussain sets off a mushroom cloud or a germ cloud which will cost even more to clean up.

Mike Gibney spoke against the Resolution. The Mayor asked him to step down since he did not live inside the city limits.

Jim Farrell spoke against the Resolution. The Councilmembers were elected to represent its citizens on local issues. There is a different set of officials who have been elected to represent the citizens on a National level. Also, he doesn't believe the Council represents the majority opinion of the residents.

Timmy Keen spoke in favor of the Resolution. She does not believe the Council represents the majority opinion of the residents and she agrees with the comments that others have made before her.

Amy Mann spoke in favor of the Resolution. She supports peace which does not mean that she doesn't also support our armed forces. She does support both.

Corry Nye spoke in favor of the Resolution. She only stated she was in favor of the Resolution.

Kirby Dallent spoke in favor of the Resolution. He is a high school teacher and does not like the violence exhibited by teenagers. We are setting a bad example by being too quick to jump into war. He feels honored to live in White Salmon – we are such a small community and yet we are willing to deal with this tough issue.

Paul Moyer spoke in favor of the Resolution. He applauds the City Council for their courage in tackling this tough issue.

The Mayor made some closing remarks. No one present here tonight is in favor of war. Please don't interpret the vote of the City Council as a statement in favor of war. Each Council member will be given an opportunity to state their comments beginning with the author of the Resolution.

V. ACTION ITEMS (New)

1) RESOLUTION 2003-02-260, OPPOSING A US LED INVASION OF IRAQ. C. Stone explained that his support of this Resolution stems from an economic viewpoint. We cannot afford a war. We are member of the United Nations (UN) and we need to stand by our word and go along with what they decide. The UN has not been shown sufficient evidence to support a war. He encouraged everyone to attend other Council meetings and let their opinion be known. We appreciate their comments.

C. Benedict supports our armed forces regardless of her support for the Resolution.

C. Gookin believes that each Councilmember's opinion is personal and should not be related to city business. She thanked everyone for coming and feels that a more proper form of voicing our collective opinion is via petition, not Resolution. It is not the Council's job to decide matters of national security.

C. Gaddis thanked everyone for coming and encouraged them to come more often.

C. White-Morris also thanked everyone for coming, but stated that this is not an appropriate issue for City Council to decide.

C. Stone made a *motion* to approve Resolution 2003-02-260, seconded by C. Benedict, failed 2-3 with C. Gookin, C. Gaddis, and C. White-Morris opposing.

The Mayor thanked everyone for coming and if anyone was interested in organizing a Town Hall to gather signatures either for or against (not on the same evening), the City would be willing to host such an event.

III. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

The Mayor briefly reviewed the items on the Consent Agenda. There were no removals from or corrections to the Consent Agenda, therefore the Mayor declared the Consent Agenda approved.

IV. ACTION ITEMS (Deferred)

V. ACTION ITEMS (New)

2) APPROVE ADOPTION AGREEMENT FOR AFLAC, FLEXIBLE BENEFITS PLAN (SECTION 125). C. White-Morris made a *motion* to Approve the Adoption Agreement for AFLAC, seconded by C. Gookin, passed 5-0.

VI. DEPARTMENT HEAD/COMMITTEE REPORTS

1) EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR – 2002, JIM ANDRING & JOE BALSIGER. This item has been deferred to the next regular meeting on March 5, 2003 because the items to be presented are not back from the engravers.

The Clerk-Treasurer asked for the Council consensus to continue with the Internet Banking, which will facilitate electronic withdrawals for utility payments and electronic deposits for payroll as well as many other benefiting features. The City's cost for this service is \$55/month or \$550 for the remainder of 2003. The Council members agreed to move forward with this opportunity.

VII. APPROVAL OF CHECKS

C. Benedict made a *motion* to approve Claims Checks #30231 to #30291 in the amount of \$55,673.21; Manual Check #30230 to #30230 in the amount of \$9,950.00; and Payroll Checks #16720 to #16740 in the amount of \$15,737.94; seconded C. Gookin, passed 5-0.

VIII. PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

C. Stone inquired about the Animal Control project. The Mayor explained that the EDA did not fund the Animal Control project, but they did fund the after-school project. The Council members expressed their displeasure with the method we followed this year by co-supporting projects with Bingen and then only ending up with one of them being funded. He also commented on the amount of truck traffic on SR 14. He experienced an overturned lumber truck in the tunnel between White Salmon and Carson. Traffic was being redirected up and through Cook. These trucks are driving on Washington highways to avoid the additional cost of driving on Oregon highways. Wil Keyser commented that he would communicate with WSDOT regarding this issue since we are talking about a state highway and we have no authority over such a road.

C. Benedict inquired about the date of the proposed Joint Planning Commission/Council Meeting. Wil responded April 30th.

C. Gaddis commented that the closing of SR 14 was broadcast on the local radio station and that illegal truck traffic is normally caught heading north of Vancouver.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION/ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Roger Holen
Mayor

Kelly A. Ingraham, CPA
Clerk-Treasurer