

CITY OF WHITE SALMON
Council Regular Meeting Minutes – March 1, 2006

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor Holen called the council meeting of March 1, 2006 to order at 6:00 p.m. Councilmembers Benedict, Gaddis, Roberts, Marx and Keene were present. Staff members present were: Allen Nelson, Deputy PW Director and Margie Ziegler, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer. Public present: Ron and Voncille Armstrong, Mary Voigt, Tim Hearn, Ben Harvey, Garique Clifford, Jim Andrig, Donna Marx, Barbara Hylton, Bob & Helen Baker, Derek Krentz, Ray and Sherry Ogden, Jason Erwin, Richard and Sue Hepner, Lisa Willis, Bob Stanton, Marti Kantola, Aaron and Shelly Nickelson, Jeff Bruce, Travis Anderson, Barbara Anderson, Tracy Franklin, Judy Henry, Mike Morris, John Abkin, Linda Jones, Donna Zitur, Mike Zitur, Roy and Betty Barnes, Steve Koontz, Jay Holtmann, Randy Anderson, Gene & Pat Baumgarden, Kari Abken, Bob Landgren, Jim Herman, Steve Gussick, Judy Farrell, Susan and Ron Gookin, Jessy Wardwell, Ray Lyons, Mike Morris, and Debbie Schneider.

II. TOWN HALL

Deputy Clerk-Treasure read a letter from former city council member Penny White-Morris expressing her support for the appointment of Bruce Brending as Police Chief.

Bob Landgren, White Salmon, said the citizens of White Salmon are concerned about the removal of Chief Cortese and the citizens are not going to keep quiet about it.

Mike Zitur, Elk Horn, White Salmon, said it is not ethically correct for the Mayor to remove Chief Cortese. He is concerned that the police force is now smaller with the crime in White Salmon. Mayor Holen informed him that the date to test the new applicants is set for March 18th, 2006.

Randy Anderson, Bingen, said the civil service has only met once in three years. Randy said Bruce Brending was not tested by Civil Service.

Ned Kindler, 310 SW Purkin Ln, said he hired and promoted Bruce Brending and he was tested by the Civil Service.

Bob Stanton, 163 SE Oak St, read a portion of his letter to the editor in the Enterprise and said Mayor Holen was re-elected by the community to right wrongs caused by Mayor Linda Jones.

Steve Koontz, 1498 NW Richards Ln, said he spoke at a Bingen City Council Meeting. He said he is in disagreement of Linda Jones decision to hire Chief Cortese and he his also in disagreement of how Chief Cortese was removed. He said we have a wonderful small community and some of our citizen's personal agendas are affecting our community. He would like to see the City of White Salmon's and Bingen's Mayors and Council Members rise above their own personal and public agendas and work this out. He said Ned Kindler put together a fine police department and he does not want to see it destroyed. This makes great press but bad publicity.

Roy Barnes, Bingen, said Mayor Holen has an opportunity to set a lot of wrongs right. He stated he has not seen the Mayors actions to set this right and, said Mayor Holen seems to be part of the problem. Wanted to know if the Mayor's decision to hire and fire department heads has to have the approval of the council.

Linda Jones, former Mayor of White Salmon, said she agrees with Mayor Holen policy to promote from within and she had the same policy. She stated Bruce

Brending disqualified himself from position of chief because he obtained a DUI and that he could not be made chief until the five year state requirement time period had passed on 3/29/06.

Mayor Holen said he received the advice and consent from Bingen Mayor Brian Prigel and 5 of the 7 city council members (Penny White-Morris and Susan Gookin) prior to the decision to remove Chief Cortese. Ricky Marx and Brad Roberts were not on the Council Personnel Committee or the Council Police Committee and were not contacted.

Marti Kantola, Six Rivers Community Mediation, she said she works with community members to resolve neighbor to neighbor issues and acts as a mediator to help people resolve issues without having to involve lawyers and going to court. She gave examples of cases she has resolved. She answered questions regarding her qualifications and salary. She is currently doing a pilot program with Klickitat County for two years.

III. PUBLIC HEARING

IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of City Council Regular Meeting February 1, 2006 and Minutes of City Council Work Session February 21, 2006.

Timi Keene wanted a change under the Town Hall section, Dotty Devaney presentation was on zoning and subdivisions not land use. Under Action Item new #5, remove the d on approved.

Ricky Marx wanted a change under public hearing, he wanted it recorded that he said he disagreed with Mayor Holen's decision to remove Chief Cortese. Under department head/committee reports he wanted it added that Ron Gookin inquired about why the Ordinance that amended and finalized 2005 was not brought back to council. Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Ziegler stated the State Auditor's Office was contacted and they advised not to continue to try and get approval of the tabled amendment and to continue onto the 2006 budget. Under public comments, add that Brad Roberts asked Mayor Holen to clarify on an article written by the Enterprise regarding water rights.

V. ACTION ITEMS (Deferred)

5) Approved Ordinance 2006-03-770, Amending the 2006 Budget for the City of White Salmon, Washington, for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2006.

C. Keene made a *motion* to approve, *seconded* C. Gaddis. C. Keene, C. Gaddis and C. Roberts voted to approve and C. Marx and C. Benedict opposed. Mayor Holen stated he vetoed the passing of this ordinance because it cripples the city's ability to operate. He has ten days to inform council of his decision. C. Marx asked for clarification on expenditures. Mayor Holen stated that approved budget allocations can only be removed by an approved budget amendment ordinance.

VI. ACTION ITEMS (New)

1) Final approval of White Salmon Short Plat WS-SP-2006-005, Gregory Harms, Applicant. C. Roberts made a *motion* to approve Short Plat WS-SP-2006-005, *seconded* by C. Keene, passed 5-0.

2) Approve Ordinance 2006-03-771, rescinding portions of Ordinance No. 1984-12-425. C. Keene made a *motion* to approve Ordinance 2006-03-771, *seconded* by C. Gaddis, passed 5-0.

VII. DEPARTMENT HEAD/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Deputy PW Director Allen Nelson said an RFP for leak detection has been mailed out and should be returned by March 17, 2006.

VIII. APPROVAL OF CHECKS – Vouchers audited and certified as required by RCW 42.24.080 and expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090 as of this date March 1, 2006. C. Gaddis made a *motion* to approve Claims Checks #34216-34221 in the amount of \$32821.26; and Claims Checks #34222-34263 in the amount of \$48,735.83; *seconded* by C. Benedict, passed 4-1. C. Marx voted no.

XV. PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

C. Keene thanked Sergeant Brending and Deputy PW Director Nelson for preparing the parking report.

C. Marx made comments regarding his understanding of the city budget.

Ron Calvin, White Salmon, addressed an article in the Enterprise regarding a meeting with a water right holder in Walla Walla, WA.

Bob Stanton, White Salmon, said he was confused about C. Marx comments regarding the budget and the money C. Marx said that just appeared.

Shirley Cox, Chairman of the Budget Committee, we had a very productive budget meeting on February 23rd, 2006 and wanted to know about the Town Hall Meeting for water rates analysis that was proposed for March 8th, 2006. She wanted to know if the Park Center or another location could be used. Mayor Holen said the meeting will be rescheduled and we will look into a different location.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION/ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Roger Holen
Mayor

Margie Ziegler
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer