

CITY OF WHITE SALMON
Council Regular Meeting Minutes – May 5, 2004

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor Jones called the council meeting of May 5, 2004 to order at 6:00 p.m. Councilmembers Benedict, Gaddis, Gookin, Marx, and White-Morris were present. Staff present consisted of Wil Keyser, Director of Public Works/Planning; Margie Ziegler, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer; Kelly Ingraham, Clerk-Treasurer; and Deborah M. Phillips, City Attorney. Public representatives included Robert Baker; Craig Howard and Tom Massart, Skyline Board members; Jesse Burkhardt, The Enterprise; and Mildred Lykens, The Monitor.

II. TOWN HALL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tom Massart, Board member from Skyline Hospital, spoke to Council regarding the City's website. He talked about the Hospital's financial problems. He wanted the City Council to know the board feelings about a link to Mid-Columbia Medical Center on White Salmon's website. Mayor Jones thanked him for attending the City Council meeting and informed him that a meeting has already been setup with CEO Mike Madden on May 14th at 10:00am. Mayor Jones asked if any of the City Council members would like to attend the meeting. C. White-Morris responded that she would like to attend.

City Clerk Ingraham explained to City Council the website was created in May of 2001 and that Mid-Columbia Medical Center (MCMC) and Hood River Memorial Hospital links were added at that time as information on our local governmental agencies. The addition of MCMC and HR Memorial were not intended as advertisements for those agencies or to cause the promotion of competition to Skyline. The City's website is not a place to advertise private business. Skyline is a non-profit who is audited by the Washington State Auditor's Office just like the City, but it operates as a business and must compete with MCMC and HR Memorial over their fees & charges.

Tom Massart told the Council that Janet Holen is the board member who originally complained to the Mayor requesting that MCMC be removed. He hoped that this did not become more of an issue since it's the ex-Mayor's wife.

C. Gookin heard nothing of a problem with the City's website until she received a letter from CEO Mike Madden. C. Gookin asked if the Enterprise should be removed since it is a private business. C. White-Morris was appalled at this question and stated that the Enterprise should absolutely stay on the City's website.

C. Benedict commented that if it is causing such a conflict, then the City should remove MCMC from the City's website. C. Benedict also stated that patients of Skyline would be referred to another medical facility by their physician if Skyline cannot provide the appropriate services.

C. Marx we should only have links to agencies located in our community.

C. White-Morris disagreed with the tone of Mayor Jones' letter in response to the first letter by CEO Mike Madden. Mayor Jones responded that C. White-Morris is caught in a difficult situation over the website issue because she is employed by Skyline and is also a City Councilmember.

Mayor Jones stated that staff will be drafting a website policy for discussion at an upcoming work session to act as a guideline for staff to follow in the future regarding what will/will not be added as a link to the City's website.

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)

1) **FINAL APPROVAL OF WHITE SALMON SHORT PLAT WS-SP-2004-002, ELMER AND BRENDA KINDER, APPLICANTS.** C. Gookin asked if there was any public comment regarding the Kinder short plat. PWD Keyser said no comment for or against has been received. C. Gookin made a *motion* to approve Short Plat WS-SP-2004-002, seconded by C. Marx, passed 5-0.

2) **ORDINANCE 2004-05-747, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WHITE SALMON, WASHINGTON, AMENDING WHITE SALMON MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 12.24 REGARDING VACATION OF CITY STREETS.**

City Attorney Phillips read and discussed the new vacation ordinance. C. Benedict Made a *motion* to table vacation ordinance until City Attorney Phillips presents a revised Ordinance with corrections as noted, seconded by C. White-Morris, motion to table Ordinance passed 5-0.

VI. DEPARTMENT HEAD/COMMITTEE REPORTS

VII. APPROVAL OF CHECKS

C. Marx made a *motion* to approve Claims Checks #31828 to #31861 in the amount of \$22,100.54; Manual Checks #31827 in the amount of \$60.00; and Payroll Checks #17708 to 17745/#889319-326 in the amount of \$79,859.25; seconded C. Gaddis, passed 5-0.

VIII. PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

C. Benedict talked about the Streamkeepers clean up of Washington Street Trailer Park during Community Pride Week. The Streamkeepers along with Underwood Conservation District are planning a "Mothers Day" hike in Mamie Gaddis Park. At the hike there will be presentations and people available to answer questions about plants, animals, and projects in the park.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION/ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Linda Jones
Mayor

Margie Ziegler
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer