

CITY OF WHITE SALMON
Special City Council Regular Meeting Minutes
November 26, 2007

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor Gaddis called the Council Meeting of November 26, 2007 to order at 6:00 p.m. Council members Roberts, Keene, Marx, and Gookin were present. C. Mayo was excused.. Staff members present: Deputy Clerk-Treasurer – Judi Culp, Deputy PWD Tom Smith,, Fire Chief Bill Hunsaker, Police Chief – Bruce Brending and Attorney Deborah Phillips. Public Representatives included; Donna Marx, Ruth Winner, Jan Brending, Dave Poucher, Jacob Andersen, Susan Svensson, Leana Johnson, Shelly Baxter, Mark Peppel, Jaci Dietsch, Mike Morneault, Shirley Cox and Jesse Burkhart, The Enterprise.

II. TOWN HALL

Jaci Dietsch, Vice Chair of the Budget Committee said she was in favor of the 1% Ad Valorem Tax and including the banked capacity as well.

Donna Marx, 260 NW Lincoln said she was in favor of the 1% Ad Valorem Tax and the banked monies also.

III. PUBLIC MEETING

The Public Hearing to consider the Ad Valorem Tax to be levied for the year 2008 opened at 6:12pm.

Jan Brending said Ordinance 2007-11-805 and Resolution 2007-11-805 are required by the state each year stating the amount to be levied by Ad Valorem Taxes. The Ordinance provides for 1% or \$2,714.00. It also includes the banked capacity amount of approximately \$33,000 for a total 6% increase. The City is in need of the tax increase to fund Current Expense. To date Current Expense is in the red and will most likely need to borrow from another fund (inter-fund loan) to balance. Ordinance 2007-11-806 is an ordinance proving for the Annual Levy of Ad Valorem Taxes for the unlimited General Obligations Bond, previously approved by the voters for the Fire Hall and a fire engine.

Donna Marx, 260 NW Lincoln asked how long the City has to pay back an inter-fund loan? Brending said Council would determine the loan duration but is generally from 2 to 5 years.

Shelly Baxter asked if the City would have to shut down City services before the end of 2007. Brending said no, the City would most likely do an inter-fund loan.

C. Roberts asked if the B&O Tax could be used to fund current expense exclusively. Jan Brending said she is looking into it. A Current Resolution states the City's Utilities B&O Tax is used to fund Streets. Public hearing closed at 6:35pm.

IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

1) Minutes, City Council Meeting – November 7, 2007. C Roberts made a *motion* to approve the minutes of November 7, 2007, C. Keene *seconded* the motion, *Approved* 4-0.

V. ACTION ITEMS (Deferred)

1. Approval of Ordinance 2007-11-805, An Ordinance Determining the amount to be raised by Ad Valorem Taxes to be levied for the Year 2008. C. Roberts made a *motion* approve Ordinance 2007-11-805, C. Gookin *seconded* the motion. *Approved* 4-0.

2. Approval of Resolution 2007-11-298, A Resolution of the City of White Salmon, Washington regarding property tax increase. C. Gookin made a *motion* to approve Resolution 2007-11-298, C. Roberts *seconded* the motion. *Approved* 4-0.

3. Approval of Ordinance 2007-11-806, An Ordinance providing for the annual levy of Ad Valorem taxes for the unlimited General Obligation Bonds, 1996, as previously approved by the

voters of the City of White Salmon. C Keene made a *motion* to approve Ordinance 2007-11-806, C. Gookin *seconded* the motion. *Approved 4-0.*

4. Approval/Denial of WIRA 29B Watershed Planning Letter for Klickitat County. C. Keene asked that WIRA 29B Watershed Planning letter for Klickitat County be tabled to the December 5, 2007 Council Meeting, due to the absence of the Public Works Director.

VI. ACTION ITEMS (New)

1. Approval of Fire Protection Mutual First Aid Agreement. Fire Chief Hunsaker said both Bingen and White Salmon work together and assist in fire response. C. Keene made a *motion* to approve the Fire Protection Mutual First Aid Agreement with the City of Bingen, C. Roberts *seconded* the motion. *Approved 4-0.*

2. Discussion of Letter of Endorsement for Hood River Bridge Environmental Impact Study. C. Keene said in 1999 Congress approved a funding of \$547,000 for an Environmental Impact Study for a replacement of the Columbia Crossing Bridge between White Salmon and Hood River. The immediate decision ranges from doing nothing and returning the \$547,000. proceeding with the Environmental Impact Study. The FEIS will require more money and the scope to be further refined by the state to determine the actual cost. C. Keene asked (6) six questions requested by WSDOT. 1) Is the Hood River Bridge important to the local transportation network and economy of the region? 2) Should the community begin now to plan for the future replacement of the existing Hood River Bridge, even if the replacement is not financially feasible for years to come? 3) What do you see as the most critical problems associated with the Hood River Bridge, today and in the future? 4) Do you see a difference between problems on the bridge itself versus problems at the terminal of the bridge, and if so what are they? 5) What specific roles does the bridge play in the economic future of the region and is it different between the Washington and Oregon sides? 6) If a new bridge were to be built, what would be the most important elements of the new bridge? Council and audience members responded that a replacement bridge is important for safety, width and weight limitations and pedestrian/bicycle reasons, agreeing that the FEIS should proceed.

VII. DEPARTMENT HEAD/COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Discuss Ordinance of the City of White Salmon, Washington Amending Chapter 5.04 of the White Salmon Municipal Code Relating to Business Licenses. Attorney Phillips said Section 5.04.210 Use of Business License Fee Revenues for Community Development should be removed. Jan Brending said all revenues should go to Current Expense until the Funds are balanced. C. Keene said Section 5.4.080 D. Day Care Centers, should include adult day care centers also. Attorney Phillips will prepare a final draft for approval at the December 5, 2007 City Council Meeting.

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 November 26, 2007. C. Gookin made a *motion* to approve Claim Checks 36320-36348 and Manual Checks 36317-36319 in the amount of \$54,346.17; Payroll Checks 20203,20335-20348 in the amount of \$8,731.82; *seconded* by C. Roberts, *Approved 4-1, Opposed, C. Marx*

IX. PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Jaci Dietsch thanked City Council for passing the Ad Valorem tax increase.

C. Marx said Fire Department should consider lifting the burn ban during fall season, so residents could burn leaves.

C. Keene suggested Public Works contact Enterprise to inform Public of the City's Leaf Pickup charges.

Jesse Burkhardt said he enjoyed working with the departing Mayor and Council Members.

Jaci Dietsch thanked Mayor Gaddis and Council Member Susan Gookin for their service to the City.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION/ADJOURNMENT

No Executive Session. Meeting Adjourned at 8:15pm.

Francis Gaddis
Mayor

Judi Culp
Deputy Clerk Treasurer