

**WHITEFISH CITY COUNCIL**  
**February 19, 2019**  
**SPECIAL SESSION 6:45 TO 7:00 P.M.**

**1.) CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Muhlfeld called the meeting to order. Councilors present were Hildner, Feury, Hennen, Hartman, Sweeney, and Williams. City Staff present was City Clerk Howke.

**2.) INTERVIEW FOR WHITEFISH HOUSING AUTHORITY**

City Council interviewed Addie Brown-Testa for the Whitefish Housing Authority Board.

**3.) PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**4.) APPOINTMENT**

**Mayor Muhlfeld appointed Addie Brown-Testa to serve on the Whitefish Housing Authority, term ending December 21, 2021. The Council ratified Mayor Muhlfeld appointment unanimously.**

**5.) Adjourn**

Mayor Muhlfeld adjourned the Special Session at 7:00 pm.

**WHITEFISH CITY COUNCIL**  
**February 19, 2019**  
**7:10 P.M.**

**1) CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Muhlfeld called the meeting to order. Councilors present were Hildner, Feury, Hennen, Hartman, Sweeney, and Williams. City Staff present were City Manager Hammatt, City Clerk Howke, City Attorney Jacobs, Assistant City Manager/Finance Director Smith, Planning and Building Director Taylor, Public Works Director Workman, Parks and Recreation Director Butts, Police Chief Dial and Fire Chief Page. Approximately 11 people were in the audience.

**2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Muhlfeld asked Craig Workman to lead the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3) COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC** – (This time is set aside for the public to comment on items that are either on the agenda, but not a public hearing or on items not on the agenda. City officials do not respond during these comments, but may respond or follow-up later on the agenda or at another time. The Mayor has the option of limiting such communications to three minutes depending on the number of citizens who want to comment and the length of the meeting agenda)

Brandi Peerman, 249 Wollan Way, Whitefish, owner of the Farmhouse Inn and Kitchen submitted a letter that is included in the packet and on the agenda, requesting to change the parking from three-hour parking to two-hours on Lupfer Avenue. After submitting the letter, she talked to other business owners and residents of Whitefish. A few people are concerned about the parking in the area to be unsafe and possibly inefficient. She is concerned about the safety of herself, her employees and the customers at the Farmhouse. A neighboring business was recently broken into in the middle of the night. She provided a copy of a crime prevention handbook, published by the National Institute of Justice, that is appended to the February 19, 2019 packet. The handbook lists cars left unattended for extended periods of time such as during the work day or overnight as a risk factor for car theft and other crimes. Cars are parked on the street for several days at a time without being

moved and piled up with snow. This also makes it difficult to plow that road which is another safety hazard. She has spoken to several people who would like to see the parking change to two hours on both side of Lupfer Avenue between First Street and Railway Street, and possibly add diagonal parking on both sides of the street. This would help her business and the other businesses on the street and improve safety and bring additional revenue to the City of Whitefish. The Farmhouse Inn is projected to bring in considerably more revenue than the prior business. She hopes the Council will consider these changes.

Steve Peerman, 249 Wollan Way, Whitefish, added to Brandi's comments, stating this change would also be a lot easier and more efficient to plow the street if the parking was rearranged. He knows currently they have a hard time plowing, especially with cars being left unattended for long periods of time. If there is a way to create diagonal parking on both side of the street limited to two hours, he thinks it would benefit not just them but also the City.

Jodee Smith, PO Box 343, Whitefish, is also a business owner and supports Brandi Peerman's request to change parking. Anything that will increase revenue is good for Whitefish and good for other businesses.

Malaki Peerman, 249 Wollan Way, Whitefish, also supports the Lupfer Avenue parking change request to two-hour parking. He knows this has been requested in the past but was denied. Now there is a parking garage and it seems reasonable to grant this request. The Farmhouse is his family's business, it is important to their family that the request is granted. The request change would not only benefit his family's business but other businesses in the area.

Jonah Talaga, 1131 Eagle View Ranch Road, Whitefish, supports the Peerman's request to change the parking to two-hours. This would reduce the crime in the area and help local businesses to bring additional revenue back to the City of Whitefish.

Vera Talaga, 1131 Eagle View Ranch Road, Whitefish, would also like to see both sides of Lupfer Avenue changed to diagonal parking. It would be much better with the traffic and snow removal.

Mark Talaga, 1131 Eagle View Ranch Road, Whitefish, supports the request from the Peerman family to change the parking on Lupfer Avenue to two-hour parking to help reduce the crime and bring additional revenue for the City.

#### **4) COMMUNICATIONS FROM VOLUNTEER BOARDS**

Councilor Sweeney reported the Park Board approved the proposed use of the Verizon Tower Funds for the Memorial Fields. They are going to improve lighting and some plumbing in the bathrooms. It was recommended to them to look into more energy-efficient and water saving methods or appliances. They took that under advisement. In the packet is the Resolution for improvements to the Armory Park and possible expansion of the Dog Park.

#### **5) CONSENT AGENDA**

- a) [Minutes](#) from February 4, 2019 Special Session (p.18)
- b) [Minutes](#) from February 4, 2019 Regular Session (p.19)
- c) [Consideration of approving](#) Final Plat for Alta Views, 166-lot subdivision located south of JP Road and north of the North Valley Hospital, zoned WB-2 (WFP 18-01 (p.22)
- d) [Consideration of approving](#) Armory Estates Subdivision, 3-lot subdivision located at 465 Armory Road, zoned WCR (Country Residential District) (WPP 18-10) (p.235)

Councilor Hildner had corrections to the February 4, 2019 Regular Session minutes. On page 2 of the minutes, first paragraph under 8a, change “vigilante” to “vigilant”; page 2, second paragraph under Council Comments, add “past” before “several weeks”; page 2, third paragraph under Council Comments, add “analysis” after “environmental”. **Councilor Hildner made a motion, second by Councilor Sweeney to approve the Consent Agenda as corrected. The motion passed unanimously.**

**6) PUBLIC HEARINGS** (Items will be considered for action after public hearings) (Resolution No. 07-33 establishes a 30-minute time limit for applicant’s land use presentations. Ordinances require 4 votes for passage – Section 1-6-2 (E)(3) WCC)

- a) **Resolution No. 19-02; A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Whitefish, Montana, to establish an increase in the public usage fee for recreation programs (p.277)**

Director Butts gave her staff report that is provided in the packet on the website. Councilor Hildner asked and Director Butts stated they have not received public comment. They have had internal staff conversations regarding the changes specifically to field trips. A field trip is still incorporated into the Summer Day Camp, but you could also choose to separately do field trips on Tuesdays and Thursday as a separate program. Those field trips begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at 4:30 p.m., and the only feedback they have received is some individuals who may need to get their children to a field trip sooner. Summer Day Camp is from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30p.m. A member could send their child to Summer Day Camp to get them to the field trip. The field trip would be an additional cost.

Mayor Muhlfeld opened the Public Hearing. There being no public comment, Mayor Muhlfeld closed the Public Hearing and turned the matters over to the Council for consideration.

**Councilor Sweeney made a motion, second by Councilor Hennen to approve Resolution No. 19-02; A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Whitefish, Montana, to establish an increase in the public usage fee for recreation programs.** Councilor Sweeney stated we are raising rates, but Maria has really worked this problem in managing the costs and price increases. She has really thought about the people that use this on a daily basis and need it. She has done a great job in coming up with a great idea do this the best and most economically. He and Mayor Muhlfeld thanked Director Butts for her great work. **The motion passed unanimously.**

**7) COMMUNICATIONS FROM PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR**

- a) **Resolution No. 19-03; A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Whitefish, Montana, to authorize application of Land & Water Conservation Fund assistance (p.306)**

Director Butts gave her staff report that is provided in the packet on the website.

**Councilor Hartman made a motion, second by Councilor Williams to approve Resolution No. 19-03; A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Whitefish, Montana, to authorize application of Land & Water Conservation Fund assistance. The motion passed unanimously.**

**8) COMMUNICATIONS FROM ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER/FINANCE DIRECTOR**

- a) **Review FY19 Second Quarter Financial Reports (p.332)**

Assistant City Manager/Finance Director Smith gave her staff report that is provided in the packet on the website.

**9) COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY MANAGER**

- a) **Written report enclosed with the packet. Questions from Mayor or Council? (p.342)**

Councilor Sweeney asked and Manager Hammatt stated in his report he mentioned meetings with the BNSF officials to discuss outstanding lease and easement requests and the underpass under the viaduct. After some discussion, Mayor Muhlfeld asked Manager Hammatt to expand on updates that are of significance.

**b) Other items arising between February 13th and February 19<sup>th</sup>**

Manager Hammatt mentioned the McGrath report was scheduled for this meeting. Due to a death in the family and corrections to the report, this will be pushed to a future meeting.

**10) COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR AND CITY COUNCILORS**

**a) Letter from Brandi Peerman, The Farmhouse Inn & Kitchen, requesting Council to consider changing parking on the even numbered curbside of Lupfer Avenue to 2-hour parking (p.344)**

Councilor Hildner would like Public Works to look at this proposal and get back to the Council what the impacts might be with both diagonal parking and limiting the parking hours. Councilor Sweeney agreed. Director Workman stated he doesn't see there is enough right-of-way between Railway Street and First Street on Lupfer Avenue for diagonal parking on both sides without making it a one-way street. Mayor Muhlfeld addressed Brandi Peerman to the podium for clarification.

Brandi Peerman, 249 Wollan Way, Whitefish, stated her original request was to change the time limit on the even-numbered side of the street. After some research she concluded to change the parking to two-hours on both sides of the street and add diagonal parking to both sides of the street. She doesn't think there will be an issue if made into one-way traffic.

Mayor Muhlfeld asked and Director Workman stated tonight is the first he has heard of the diagonal parking request. It will create a one-way road northbound on Lupfer Avenue between Railway Street and First Street. It may create some intersection issues at Railway Street and Lupfer Avenue. Mayor Muhlfeld stated Public Works can look at this in terms of feasibility of the request and come back to the Council with more direction.

**Council Comment**

Councilor Hildner stated he had the same response as the person who wrote the letter regarding the transition of refuse billing from North Valley Refuse to Republic Services. He is not sure the public fully understood the rollout of that transfer. Republic Services could have done some outreach. Director Workman stated a letter was mailed to all the customers. Director Smith stated Utility Billing Supervisor, Rose Elliott, has been in contact with the new General Manager for Republic Services. As soon as we were aware notification was placed on the website and the Public Works Facebook page. North Valley did send out a letter with a bill trying to inform people of the changes. Changes like this are always difficult. Some of Republic staff will meet with the Utility Billing Customer Service Clerks to go over the issues. She doesn't know that our contract with North Valley had any language addressing notification if bought out. That is something we need to consider in the future.

Mayor Muhlfeld stated he was saddened with the passing of George Gardner. George served on the Architectural Review Committee from 2003-2015, Growth Policy Ad Hoc Committee, Ad Hoc Whitefish City-Wide Transportation Plan Advisory Committee and the Future City Hall Steering Ad Hoc Committee. He always brought a flavor and unique perspective to the boards he sat on and the community was in his heart in all the decisions that he helped make. Mayor Muhlfeld extended thoughts and prayers to his family

February 19, 2019

Mayor Muhlfeld reminded Council the Council Retreat is March 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> and to draft any ideas and goals to discuss. He reminded the public of a few vacancies available on City Boards such as the Whitefish Lake and Lakeshore Protection Committee, Board of Appeals and the Board of Adjustments. He also reminded the Council, the public and Planning Board of the joint meeting Thursday February 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 pm, joined by the Inclusionary Zoning Steering Committee and the Affordable Housing Steering Committee to discuss the Inclusionary Zoning (IZ) policy and procedures.

He also addressed Director Workman regarding a letter that was received by Phyllis Sprunger of Re/Max. Director Workman stated the second public meeting for the Central Avenue project is in March. The recommended alternative to mitigate that slump on Central Avenue is to create a one-way northbound lane from Sixth Street to Fifth Street. The other alternative recommended by the geotechnical engineer was to close the road. It became clear at the first public meeting to maintain at least one-way traffic. Re/Max and other businesses are requesting we reconsider installing or reconstructing a two-way road. He will be presenting to Council all the details and the cost estimates in a work session.

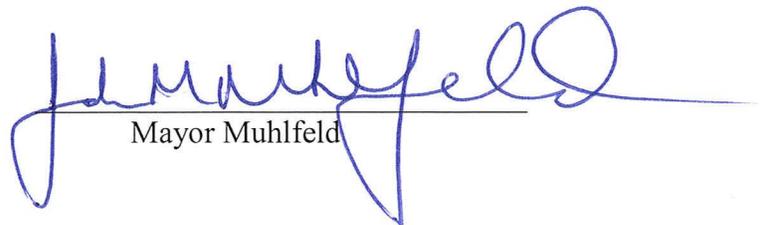
Mayor Muhlfeld stated he Manager Hammatt and Assistant Manager Smith attended the 2019 Executive Forum for Mayors, City Managers and Administrators. They had a very product and informative meeting with Senator Regier and House Representative Fern discussing a variety of topics of interest to the City and County, such as the Resort Tax, some local option sales tax bills that are being introduced, infrastructure, and ongoing support for AIS efforts state wide. He and Assistant Manager Smith attended a tax committee meeting regarding a proposed bill that would require all municipalities with Tax Increment Finance Districts to create citizen advisory steering committees. There were about ten public comments all voted strongly in opposition to the bill.

Mayor Muhlfeld congratulated Manager Hammatt for his two-year anniversary with the City as of February 15<sup>th</sup>.

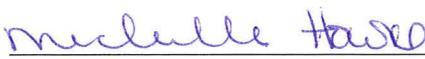
Councilor Hildner stated the fact that we have saved \$20,000 on the lighting is huge and is a start of better things to come.

**11) ADJOURNMENT** (Resolution 08-10 establishes 11:00 p.m. as end of meeting unless extended to 11:30 by majority)

Mayor Muhlfeld adjourned the meeting at 8:11 p.m.

  
Mayor Muhlfeld

Attest:

  
Michelle Howke, Whitefish City Clerk

PUBLIC HEARINGS

PLEASE SIGN IN TO SPEAK ON A SPECIFIC PUBLIC HEARING 2-19-2019

	A	B	C	D	E
1	<p>ITEM #10 ↓ ON ROGUNA</p> <p><b>NAME AND ADDRESS</b></p>	6a)Res 19-__; Establish an increase in public usage of fee for recreational programs			
2	Brandi Peerman 249 Wollan Way whitefish MT (10A)				
3	Steve Peerman 249 Wollan way whitefish MT (10A)				
4	Malakai Peerman 249 Wollan way whitefish MT (10A)				
5	Jodee Smith PO BOX 343 whitefish MT 59937 (10A)				
6	Kristen Stokes 920 Spolcane Ave whitefish				
7	TALANA MARK -11-				
8	TALANA VERA -11-				
9	TALANA JONAH -11-				
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