

Village of West Salem
Public Hearing
January 21, 2025

Public Hearing called to order at 6:50 p.m. by Village President Scott Schumacher. Trustees present: Anderson, Curtis, Hennessey, Lautz, Leicht, and Twining. Also Present: Public Works Director Loren Schwier, Police Chief Scott Alo, Joe Pingel of Cedar Corporation, Village Administrator Teresa DeLong, and Village Clerk/Treasurer Ashley Bohl.

Ordinance No. 535, if adopted, would Amend Chapters 1, 2, and 6 of the Village of West Salem Code of Ordinances to Update Fair Housing, Offenses Endangering Public Safety, Offenses Endangering Public Peace and Good Order, Offenses Endangering Public Morals and Decency, Offenses Against Public and Private Property, and Noise Caused by Vehicles. There were no citizens present to speak for or against the proposed Ordinance No. 535.

Motion by President Schumacher, seconded by Trustee Anderson to close the Public Hearing at 6:53 p.m. Approved by unanimous voice vote.

Ashley M. Bohl
Clerk/Treasurer

Village of West Salem
Regular Meeting
January 21, 2025

Regular meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Village President Scott Schumacher. Trustees present: Anderson, Curtis, Hennessey, Lautz, Leicht, and Twining. Also present: Public Works Director Loren Schwier, Police Chief Scott Alo, Joe Pingel of Cedar Corporation, Village Administrator Teresa DeLong and Village Clerk/Treasurer Ashley Bohl.

Minutes

Motion by Trustee Anderson, seconded by Trustee Twining to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2025, regular meeting as written. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Claims

Claims were presented for payment totaling \$296,362.68.

Motion by Trustee Leicht, seconded by Trustee Curtis to approve the payment of all claims as listed. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye.

Ordinance No. 535

Motion by Trustee Leicht, seconded by Trustee Twining to approve Ordinance No. 535 - Amending Chapters 1, 2, and 6 of the Village of West Salem Code of Ordinances to Update Fair Housing, Offenses Endangering Public Safety, Offenses Endangering Public Peace and Good Order, Offenses Endangering Public Morals and Decency, Offenses Against Public and Private Property, and Noise Caused by Vehicles as presented. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Memorandum of Understanding

Motion by Trustee Anderson, seconded by Trustee Hennessey to approve the Memorandum of Understanding Between the Presbyterian Church of West Salem and the Village of West Salem for use of Fellowship Hall for 2025 Elections. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Utilities Committee

Chair Twining reported on the January 15, 2025 Utilities Committee meeting. Public Works Director Loren Schwier and Water Utility Operator Lee Schwier presented a proposed 2025 Water Utility Budget. The proposed budget includes an increase in maintenance of meters, as 200 meters will be exchanged out in 2025 per required maintenance every 10 years. Maintenance of water hydrants shows a continued budgeted amount of \$10,000 as years' previous. Capital outlay includes \$30,031 being set aside for well maintenance as required. The Village has three wells that each must undergo maintenance once every 10 years, with one of the wells having been maintained in 2024, one to be maintained in 2025 and the third in 2026. Water Utility Operator Schwier shared that he was able to find a used water meter reader for under \$150 versus \$8,000 for the cost of a new one. Public Works Director Schwier and Waste Water Treatment Plant Operator Robert McDowell presented a proposed 2025 Sewer Utility Budget. An increase of \$5,000 in budget for maintenance of general plant structures was requested to be used to obtain a new maintenance software program that helps monitor the new treatment plant. The old treatment plant ran on an on/off program and was either constantly on or shut off. The new treatment plant runs as needed and is based on demand. The new software helps determine exactly how much the plant has been running and bases maintenance on this data, reducing maintenance costs. It was also noted that salaries increased due to re-allocation of salaries between the utility funds. \$25,000 was earmarked for a carry-over to purchase a sludge hauling trailer in the future. Public Works Director Schwier presented the 2025 Storm Water Utility Budget and noted that the increase of \$53,367 in salaries was also due to reallocation of salaries between the utility funds. \$10,000 was set aside to replace curb and gutters on Leonard Street where old water laterals were located and have caused the ground to become unlevel.

Motion by Trustee Twining, seconded by Trustee Anderson to approve the Utilities Commission meeting minutes of January 15, 2025 as present. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Motion by Trustee Anderson, seconded by Trustee Curtis to approve the proposed 2025 Water Utility Budget as presented. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Motion by Trustee Twining, seconded by Trustee Anderson to approve the proposed 2025 Sewer Utility Budget as present. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Motion by Trustee Twining, seconded by Trustee Anderson to approve the proposed 2025 Storm Water Utility Budget as presented. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

President Schumacher reported on recent Committee meetings he had attended. The Public Transit Commission relayed that as of November 2024, the number of year-to-date trips was 50,778, of which 1,035 were for West Salem residents. The County quarterly meeting focused on hemp-derived drink products and their minimal regulation, as the State of Wisconsin does not have statutes governing these products and it is up to the municipalities to create ordinances to regulate. The Emergency Medical Services Commission discussed recent dispatching issues between fire districts. The La Crosse Area Planning Commission announced a significant grant opportunity to expand the Safe-Routes to School initiative. President Schumacher also reported that he has future meetings scheduled to explore avenues to qualify for rural funding.

Public Works Director Loren Schwier reported that his department is working on routine maintenance and cleaning of the upper shop, including upgrading lighting from fluorescent to LED, and the department recently finished four hours of safety training.

Police Chief Scott Alo reported that his department is currently updating the field training program and will not be renewing the virtual training academy contract, as he would like to see the training program move towards a more hands-on approach. Chief Alo also announced the hiring of a new officer who will be starting on or around February 3, 2025. Chief Alo commended Public Works Director Loren Schwier for how quickly his department was able to address the safety issues at Hamlin and Leonard Streets.

Joe Pingel of Cedar Corporation reported on the monthly site inspections he had recently conducted and was happy to announce that the majority were in compliance, with a minor issue arising that was quickly addressed.

Motion by Trustee Leicht, seconded by Trustee Curtis to convene in closed session at 7:36 p.m. pursuant to Wis. State Sec. 19.85(1)(e) for the purpose of deliberating or negotiation the purchase of public properties, investment of public funds, and transfers of public properties, to-wit: discuss potential offer-to-purchase and development agreement.

Motion by Trustee Leicht, seconded by Trustee Anderson to reconvene in open session at 7:54 p.m. Motion approved by voice vote.

Motion by Trustee Twining, seconded by Trustee Hennessey to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m. Approved by voice vote.

Ashley M. Bohl, Clerk/Treasurer