

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 8, 2012

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Barrow called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Councilmembers Conrado Cavazos, Jr., Barbara Clark, Jerry Cummins, Mary Lou Jenkins, Shane Laib, and Mayor Jim Barrow. (Councilmember Laib arrived at 7:01 p.m.)

Absent: Councilmember Chris Plucker.

City staff in attendance: City Manager Nabel Shawa, Deputy City Manager Tim McCarty, Assistant City Attorney Preston Frederickson, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Fire Chief Bob Yancey, Police Chief Scott Bieber, Public Library Director Beth Hudson, Public Works Manager Mori Struve, Water Distribution Supervisor Adrian Sutor, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/MOMENT OF SILENCE

Councilmember Cavazos led the pledge of allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Barrow invited public input. No one in the audience chose to address the City Council at this time.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

City Clerk Hill introduced the Consent Agenda, Items A through I, as follows:

- A. Washington State Liquor Control Board: Special occasion license for Blue Mountain Humane Society event at the Power House Theatre on August 8, 2012.
- B. Washington State Liquor Control Board: New application for Huas Mongolian BBQ, 1642 Plaza Way.

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- C. Washington State Liquor Control Board: Change of location for Salumiere Cesario from 20 N. 2nd Avenue to 12 E. Main Street.
- D. Washington State Liquor Control Board: Assumption of license for Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar, 1604 Plaza Way.
- E. Resolution No. 2012-56 accepting crime victim service center program grant funding and taking other action related thereto.
- F. Resolution No. 2012-57 awarding the bid for repair of the maintenance shop roof at the Wastewater Treatment Plant to Elsom Roofing, Inc.
- G. Ordinance No. 2012-13 vacating a north/south alley right-of-way between Jefferson and Burns Streets which is perpendicular to West George Street.
- H. Approval of minutes of the regular meeting held July 25, 2012.
- I. Approval of minutes of the Work Session held July 16, 2012.

Mayor Barrow invited public input. No one in the audience chose to address the City Council on any of these items.

Councilmember Laib moved to adopt Consent Agenda Items A through I. Councilmember Jenkins seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

5. ACTIVE AGENDA

- A. Communications: The City is in receipt of a July 31, 2012 letter from the Library Users Coalition.

LeaAnn Hughes, 3457 Morrison Lane, Walla Walla, and Alan Kopf, 1221 Yellowhawk Place, Walla Walla, reported they represent a group of City and County library users that formed after it became apparent communications had broken down between the City and the Rural Library District Board. The library user's coalition has held several public meetings to educate the community and study the various issues. They have concluded that consolidation of library services through annexation of the City into the Rural Library District under equitable governance is in

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the best interests of all library users. An equitable governance structure would be a five-member Board comprised of elected officials from the respective jurisdictions based on population, with no more than two elected officials from the same jurisdiction. This would make the proposed board accountable to the voters. If annexation is successful, the City would be asked to reduce the general fund property tax levy by the amount currently allocated to the library. The Library Users Coalition is asking the City Council to put the issue of annexation into the Rural Library District on the February 4, 2013 ballot and also requested the Work Session for August 13 be rescheduled to begin at 3:00 p.m.

There was discussion on:

- A letter from the Chair of the Rural Library District dated August 8, 2012 indicating they will not support any annexation proposal by the City. Assistant City Attorney Frederickson reviewed RCW 27.12.360 which requires the Rural Library District to concur with any annexation proposal. City Attorney Donaldson will be preparing a report for Monday's Work Session that includes alternatives.
- A letter from County Commissioner Greg Tompkins asking the Rural Library District to cease from purchasing property or entering into a contract for construction of a new library facility.

Mayor Barrow invited public input.

Beth Call, 102 Otis Street, Walla Walla, asked the City Council to allow the City residents to vote on whether to annex to the Rural Library District or not.

Dorothy Knudson, 1108 Figueroa, Walla Walla, commented on the folly of the decision by the Rural Library District to build another library branch and compared this decision to the biblical story of the sacrifice of Jephthah's daughter.

There was further discussion on:

- The letter from the Chair of the Rural Library District dismissing any further discussion on annexation. Optimism was expressed with the proposal from the Library Users Coalition even though there is a lack of accountability and equity on the current Rural Library District governing board. Annexation would have all residents paying the same rate for library services and the Library Users Coalition's proposal includes provisions for an equitable governing board.

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- Cost for a special election depends upon the number of jurisdictions sharing the cost but is estimated at between \$8,500 and \$30,000. It is not prudent to spend money on an election without the concurrence of the Rural Library District Board of Trustees for annexation.

After discussion, it was the consensus of Council to leave the August 13 Work Session set for 4:00 p.m.

- B. Resolution No. 2012-58 authorizing the City Manager to purchase water meters from Ferguson Waterworks, declaring water meters, registers, and strainers surplus, and taking other action related thereto.

Public Works Director Bealey explained the City has been offered a trade-in credit of approximately fifty-nine percent of the original purchase price of the Sensus meters currently in the City's inventory. These meters do not meet the new "no lead rule" and the proposed trade-in of existing meters is a proactive approach for implementation of this new rule. The new meters will allow the City to implement a pilot project in the Vista Terrace neighborhood to evaluate the reliability, cost effectiveness, accuracy, and performance of these meters and provide good data to the consultant. These new meters are not only compliant with the "no lead rule," but also surpass the technology of the current meters in accuracy and are smart metering capable.

There was discussion on:

- Compatibility of new meters with a smart metering program and compliance with the "no lead rule." Staff explained this will allow the meters to be tested in a pilot program area and provide valuable data. Waiting will not ensure the City receives any value for the current meters in inventory.
- When the current meters were purchased.
- The need to maintain a certain level of inventory for efficient operations.
- Existing meters are unable to be retrofit to meet new standards.
- The new meters will not have backflow prevention devices as a part of the meter. Not all meters require backflow prevention devices, generally only those residential properties with underground sprinkler systems.

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- Current meters may be contributing to the City's water loss. The proposed meters contain new technology and will be looked at to determine if they fit the City's new standard.
- The trade-in of the majority of the existing water meters in inventory will maximize the value of the current stock. If the City waits, the existing inventory may be worthless. Staff is trying to eke out the best value with several variables in play and will keep bringing proposals forward if they may sense.
- Proposal appears to make sense if the new meters comply with the "no lead rule" and the City is able to get some value out of the existing inventory.
- Concerns were expressed with the number of meters currently in inventory and having to "purchase back" obsolete meters. Staff explained that a number of these meters will need to be retained for current operations.

Mayor Barrow invited public input. No one in the audience chose to address the City Council on this issue.

**Councilmember Laib moved to adopt Resolution No. 2012-58.
Councilmember Clark seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

C. Resolution No. 2012-59 supporting the Stiller Pond aquifer recharge project.

Mayor Barrow reported the Water Partnership Board has requested the support of the City of Walla Walla for the Stiller Pond aquifer recharge project. There is no direct impact on the City's water use or any financial impact to the City.

There was discussion on:

- Requirements in the Washington Administrative Code for approval. Greg Kinsinger, Project Coordinator with the Walla Walla County Conservation District, reported they have met the requirements of the Washington Administrative Code and have received consensus recommendations from all agencies except the City of Walla Walla and Columbia County.
- The technical advisory group is the water resources panel and they have issued the required report.

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- Mr. Kinsinger indicated this matter is not time sensitive and action by the City Council can be delayed for further review.
- It is anticipated the proposal will be brought before the Columbia County commissioners within the next few months.

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Councilmember Cummins moved to table Resolution No. 2012-59 until the August 22 City Council meeting to have a copy of the prepared technical evaluation as required by the Washington Administrative Code. Councilmember Laib seconded the motion. The motion carried with 4 yes votes and 2 no votes by Councilmember Clark and Mayor Barrow.

6. COUNCIL MEMBER MEETING REPORTS

Councilmember Laib reported attendance at the "Bark in the Park" event at the Walla Walla Sweets game on July 26; and the National Night Out event held August 7. Staff was commended for their work on the National Night Out event.

Councilmember Jenkins reported attendance at the Center at the Park Board meeting held July 26; the police officer promotion and recognition ceremony held July 31; and the National Night Out event held August 7. Councilmember Jenkins also reported the Senior Roundtable will be holding a salmon dinner fundraiser on August 17.

Councilmember Cummins reported attendance at the Finance Committee meeting held August 2; the Public Works Trust Fund Board meetings held July 27 and August 3; and the National Night Out event held August 7.

Councilmember Clark reported attendance at the "Bark in the Park" and City employee event at the Walla Walla Sweets game on July 26; the Finance Committee meeting held August 2; and the National Night Out event held August 7.

Councilmember Cavazos reported attendance at the police officer promotion and recognition ceremony held July 31.

Mayor Barrow had no meetings to report.

7. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Clark suggested the Parks, Recreation & Urban Forestry Advisory Board look at other alternatives to an aquatic center to provide wet, cool recreational activities in the summer and offered the following suggestions: Lease Memorial Pool to a private, non-profit agency; wading pools; zero depth water features; and fountains. There were comments by Council.

City Manager Shawa reported the City has received a request from Boise, Inc. to dispose 7600 tons of beef tallow in the City's landfill at a rate of \$22 per ton. Staff from Boise, Inc. is looking for the cheapest disposal cost and the City is looking at this as an opportunity for additional revenue in the amount of \$171,000. The City's current landfill tipping rate is \$67 per ton but this provides an opportunity to sell some of the existing landfill capacity. Currently, revenue at the landfill is down about ten percent and this would help defray the financial impacts and need to raise rates and set aside funds for closure and post closure costs.

There was discussion on:

- The need to resolve and provide an answer to Boise, Inc. as soon as possible.
- The impact of the ten percent reduction in revenue.
- The number of active cells at the landfill.
- A reluctance to sell landfill capacity at \$22 per ton when the City's own residents pay more. If the landfill is losing money, perhaps the City should not be in the landfill business.
- The City's expense in accepting this beef tallow is the capital cost of the space and would not have an adverse impact on operations. The estimated 7600 tons is approximately sixteen percent of the total annual volume of waste.
- Feasibility of using the beef tallow in the compost operation. Staff indicated this option had not been explored. It is not known if the waste material contains any toxic material other than the information provided by staff at Boise, Inc.
- Council indicated they may be willing to consider acceptance of the material if it can be used for compost. Representatives of Boise, Inc. indicated the waste can be taken to Boardman, Oregon but they are seeking less expensive alternatives.

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Public Works Manager Struve reported the City currently has surplus compost material and is going through a public process to determine the sale of the surplus material to the highest bidder.

No action was taken.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Barrow announced the City Council would be recessing to Executive Session to discuss the strategy or position to be taken by the City Council in the course of collective bargaining, professional negotiations, or grievance or mediation proceedings and to review proposals made in negotiations pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(b), and to discuss litigation and potential litigation, in which the City is a party or is likely to become a party, with legal counsel representing the City pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i).

No further business will come before the City Council in open session and the Executive Session will last no more than two hours. The meeting was recessed at 8:56 p.m.

The Executive Session convened at 9:03 p.m.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.