

**WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL**  
**Work Session Minutes**  
**May 14, 2012**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Barrow called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. in the Chuck Fulton Community Room, 54 East Moore Street.

Present: Councilmembers Barbara Clark, Jerry Cummins, Mary Lou Jenkins, Shane Laib, Chris Plucker and Mayor Jim Barrow.

Absent: Councilmember Conrado Cavazos, Jr.

City staff in attendance: City Manager Nabel Shawa, Parks & Recreation Director Jim Dumont, Parks Maintenance Supervisor Joan Schille, Public Works Manager Mori Struve, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

**3. OTHER BUSINESS**

A. Date to reschedule June 11 Work Session.

There was discussion on possible dates to reschedule the June 11 Work Session. Tentative agreement was reached to reschedule the June 11 Work Session to Tuesday, June 26, at 4:00 p.m.

**2. ACTIVE AGENDA**

A. Mountain View Cemetery Improvements.

City Manager Shawa reported staff is reviewing and prioritizing options for improvements using a large bequest left to the Mountain View Cemetery.

Parks & Recreation Director Dumont reported a significant bequest had been left to the Mountain View Cemetery from the estate of Julia C. Lamar. The City has already received \$250,000 and anticipates an additional \$625,000 from this estate. The only restriction is the money must be used for the cemetery. There are numerous items that need to be done relating to the cemetery infrastructure. Staff is asking for direction on improvements using the \$250,000. The following recommendations are in priority order:

1. Purchase cremation niches – estimated cost of \$150,000 for a fifteen year inventory and to provide consumer with choices.
2. Restore iron fencing and gates around property - \$6,000.

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3. Abbey Mausoleum repairs - \$3,300.
4. Repairs to Columbarium - \$31,000.
5. Purchase and install a lighted 35 foot flagpole in the Veteran's section - \$5,000.

There were comments on recognizing the generous gift to the cemetery by Julia Lamar such as a bronze plaque or naming a new cremation garden in her honor.

These initial estimates for these improvements are \$206,000 out of the \$250,000 received from the bequest. The following improvements are proposed after the remainder of funds are received from the estate:

6. Reset World War 1 Veterans headstones - \$100,000 in seed funding with additional funds sought from Veterans organizations. There was discussion on this proposal and concerns were expressed by Council with the disturbance to this area by purchasing and resetting new grave monuments.
7. Complete automatic irrigation system - \$250,000.
8. Repair/overlay cemetery streets - \$200,000.
9. Contracted tree maintenance - \$30,000.
10. Build storage bunker for soil storage - \$6,000.
11. Energy savings upgrades - \$2,500.
12. Purchase/install fence on Prospect Avenue - \$35,000.

There was discussion on:

- Working with veterans organizations toward purchase of a new flagpole.
- Move Items 10 and 11 up the list of priorities, and if funds remain from the initial \$250,000, include tree maintenance.
- Ensuring money remains for endowment.
- Upgrading the current cemetery office, including painting the building.
- The generosity of this gift to the cemetery and the thoughtful planning by staff on its use.

- B. Cross connection control update.

Council expressed concerns with not having any written information in their agenda packet on this subject.

Public Works Manager Struve provided an update on the number of notices sent to residential and commercial/industrial accounts; the

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number of residential and commercial/industrial accounts submitting testing results; total number of field surveys (primarily commercial/industrial); and the number of city-owned backflow devices tested. Notices are now being sent in April for residential accounts and June for commercial/industrial accounts. Staff has received less than ten emails or letters from residents asking why their irrigation system is being tested when others in their neighborhood are not. Staff has developed a form letter response to these inquiries. Staff will report in the fall of 2012 on program options for residential city-owned and tested backflow prevention devices/program.

**4. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:26 p.m.