

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 27, 2013

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

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

Absent: Councilmembers Conrado Cavazos, Jr. and Shane Laib.

City staff in attendance: Acting/Deputy City Manager Tim McCarty, City Attorney Tim Donaldson, Fire Chief Bob Yancey, Parks & Recreation Director Jim Dumont, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Police Chief Scott Bieber, WESCOM Manager Steve Ruley, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/MOMENT OF SILENCE

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

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Richard Pankl, 54 Baumeister, Walla Walla, representing Helpline, presented the Mayor with a certificate of appreciation for the proclamation issued recognizing the work of Helpline within the community.

Jim Stovall, Walla Walla Professional Firefighters, commented on the Union's benevolent fund and the uses of the money in the fund. On June 1, the Walla Walla Sweets will be hosting the Fire versus Police baseball game. Sixty percent of the proceeds will go to the winning team's charity and forty percent of the proceeds will go to the losing team's charity so there are no losers. The Firefighter's Union has selected the YMCA and Blue Mountain Girls Softball as their charity recipients. The Police Union has selected the Walla Walla Area Crime Watch.

Jean Dolling, 208 Detour Road, Walla Walla, expressed concerns with Council not allowing Council participation in meetings by telephone conference call and asked the City Council to reconsider this position. Mayor Barrow explained this item had been previously discussed and due

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to technology issues and the broadcast of the meetings, the City Council was not interested in pursuing.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Resolution No. 2013-21 authorizing the City Manager to execute an emergency medical services agreement with Walla Walla County.
- B. Resolution No. 2013-22 authorizing the City Manager to sell or otherwise dispose of certain surplus property of the City.
- C. Resolution No. 2013-23 awarding the bid for an emergency back-up generator to Walla Walla Electric. (WESCOM)
- D. Resolution No. 2013-24 awarding the bid for an uninterruptible power supply (UPS) and bypass switch to Walla Walla Electric. (WESCOM)
- E. Resolution No. 2013-25 making nomination for appointment to the Walla Walla Solid Waste Advisory Committee. (Damon Taam, Solid Waste Manager)
- F. Resolution No. 2013-26 authorizing the City Manager to execute a local agency federal aid project prospectus and local agency agreement to receive funds for the traffic signal project at Rose Street and 13th Avenue and taking other necessary action with respect to such funding program.
- G. Resolution No. 2013-28 ratifying acceptance of a grant from the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation to fund a technology lab at the Public Library and taking other necessary action with respect to such grant program.

There was brief discussion regarding the purchase and installation of a new emergency generator at the dispatch center.

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

Councilmember Plucker moved to adopt Consent Agenda Items A through G. Councilmember Jenkins seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 5 yes votes and 0 no votes.

5. ACTIVE AGENDA

- A. Resolution No. 2013-20 authorizing the City Manager to execute a professional services agreement with the Downtown Walla Walla Foundation for operation of a Farmers Market.

Staff outlined the positive aspects of the proposed agreement with the Downtown Walla Walla Foundation for operation of the Farmers Market. There was brief discussion.

Tom Baffney, member of the Downtown Walla Walla Foundation, responded to questions regarding the payment of fees for the operation will be based on the fees for stall rental and not sales.

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

Mayor Barrow announced he would be abstaining as he represents the City on the Downtown Walla Walla Foundation Board.

Councilmember Clark moved to adopt Resolution No. 2013-20. Councilmember Jenkins seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 4 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 1 abstention by Mayor Barrow.

- B. Resolution No. 2012-27 authorizing the execution of a professional services agreement with DKS Associates to provide design and other services related to construction of traffic signal improvements at the intersection of Rose Street and 13th Avenue, and taking such further action needed therewith.

Staff reviewed the proposed contract and project.

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

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**Councilmember Cummins moved to adopt Resolution No. 2013-27.
Councilmember Plucker seconded the motion. The motion unanimously
carried with 5 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

- C. Resolution No. 2013-29 fixing a time to determine whether the City will accept, reject, or geographically modify a proposed annexation of approximately 871 acres of property, being generally located between southern Walla Walla City limits and Langdon and Cottonwood Roads between Kendall Road and the railroad right-of-way between 3rd Avenue and Plaza Way and to determine other matters related thereto.

Staff reported this resolution will set a meeting for April 10 to discuss the potential annexation of property on the south side of town. Notices will go out to all affected property owners. The City Council, on April 10, will determine whether to accept, reject or geographically modify the boundaries of the proposed annexation. The action before the City Council tonight is only to initiate the public meeting and process.

Mayor Barrow invited public input.

The following spoke in opposition to annexation of their property:

- Mary Campbell, 336 McCorkle Lane, Walla Walla.
- Barbara Hetrick, 395 Yellowhawk, Walla Walla.
- Gerwin Jones Jr., 411 Caldwell Road, Walla Walla.
- Tom Osborne, 976 Langdon Road, Walla Walla.
- Sandra Richardson, 2499 Cottonwood, Walla Walla.
- Jon Campbell, 336 McCorkle Lane, Walla Walla.

Don Lovell, 703 Washington Street, Walla Walla, asked the City to ensure an environmental impact statement is completed and the right steps are followed before proceeding.

Jean Dolling, 208 Detour Road, Walla Walla, expressed concerns with taking away revenue from the County and suggested the City look at annexing property on the north side.

James Veatch, 289 Ransom Road, Walla Walla, asked how the City's fact finding process works. Staff responded the proposed annexation is under internal review by departments.

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There were comments on:

- The City is not considering purchasing property and can only consider annexation for property within the City's urban growth area.
- Council has been provided a copy of an email from Councilmember Laib expressing his position on the proposed annexation.
- Willingness to find out whether to pursue annexation and importance of listening to what people have to say on the subject.

Councilmember Plucker moved to adopt Resolution No. 2013-29. Councilmember Jenkins seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 5 yes votes and 0 no votes.

Council suggested staff seek a larger location, such as the High School Commons, as the venue for the annexation hearing.

D. Approval of minutes of the Work Session held February 11, 2013.

Councilmember Clark moved to approve the minutes of the Work Session held February 11, 2013. Councilmember Jenkins seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 4 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 1 abstention by Councilmember Cummins.

E. Approval of minutes of the regular meeting held February 13, 2013.

Councilmember Plucker moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held February 13, 2013. Councilmember Clark seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 4 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 1 abstention by Councilmember Cummins.

6. COUNCIL MEMBER MEETING REPORTS

Councilmember Jenkins reported attendance at the Senior Citizen Center Board meeting held January 24; the Work Session held February 11; and the Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting held February 21.

Councilmember Cummins reported he had spent four days in Olympia, Washington and three days in Washington D.C. speaking with legislators about the City's legislative priorities.

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Councilmember Plucker reported attendance at the Parks, Recreation & Urban Forestry Advisory Board meeting held February 4; the Water Partnership Board meeting held February 5; the Work Session held February 11; the Public Library Board of Trustees meeting held February 20; the Valley Transit Board meeting held February 21; the Transportation Improvement Advisory Committee meeting held February 22; and the Historic Preservation Commission meeting held February 25.

Councilmember Clark reported attendance at the Sustainability Committee meeting held February 5; the Work Session held February 11; the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee meeting held February 12; the LEOFF 1 Disability Board meeting held February 12; the Water & Wastewater Advisory Committee meeting held February 20; the legislative meeting with U.S. Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers hosted by the Chamber of Commerce on February 21; and the Valley Transit Board meeting held February 21.

Mayor Barrow reported that the by-laws of the Benton Franklin Walla Walla County Regional Transportation Planning Organization do not allow staff appointments to the policy committee and the action by the City Council to appoint Public Works Director Bealey as an alternate representative is void. If there are no other volunteers from the City Council, he is willing to serve as the alternate representative.

Mayor Barrow reported attendance at the Downtown Walla Walla Foundation Board meeting held January 31; the Joint Community Development Agency Board meeting held February 4; the town hall meeting hosted by the Community Council held February 6; the LEOFF 1 Disability Board meeting held February 12; the Work Session held February 11; the legislative meeting hosted by the Chamber of Commerce held February 12; the Chamber of Commerce Annual Balloon Stampede kickoff meeting held February 12; the Metropolitan Planning Organization meeting held February 13; the Emergency Management Board meeting held February 20; a meeting with a constituent held February 21; coffee with Police Chief Bieber on February 21; the Blue Mountain Action Council Board meeting held February 21; the Infrastructure Improvement Committee meeting held February 25; the Blue Mountain Land Trust Board planning meeting held February 26; and a meeting of the Washington Student Achievement Commission held February 26.

7. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Cummins requested a report at a future meeting regarding implementation of radio read water meters.

Councilmember Cummins asked Mayor Barrow for a copy of the statistics from the Washington Student Achievement Commission meeting.

Ordinance No. 2013-05 adding Section 2.05-015 to the Municipal Code related to council member absences from regularly scheduled council meetings; and

Resolution No. 2013-30 establishing guidelines to determine whether or not to excuse a council member absence from a regularly scheduled city council meeting.

City Attorney Donaldson reported the City Council had talked about policies regarding City Council absences. Other cities have adopted procedures for City Council absences. Staff has prepared Ordinance No. 2013-05 which memorializes a process for City Council absences. The statute doesn't require additional City Council action and automatically vacates the seat upon three unexcused absences.

In addition, Resolution No. 2013-30 provides some guidelines to determine whether or not to excuse an absence. This is at the discretion of the City Council.

There was discussion by the City Council on the proposed ordinance and resolution including:

- Voting on each absence individually.
- Requiring a reason for the absence.
- The guidelines reserve discretion of whether to approve an absence.
- Whether work-related or planned vacations should be included in the guidelines.
- Importance of administering the guidelines transparently and equally.

It was the consensus of the City Council to formally consider an amended Ordinance No. 2013-05 and an amended Resolution No. 2013-30 at the next City Council meeting.

Councilmember Plucker moved to excuse the absences of Councilmembers Cavazos and Laib. Mayor Barrow seconded the motion.

There was discussion on the need to have a policy in place to make council members aware of when an absence will likely be considered an excused absence.

The motion to excuse the absences of Councilmembers Cavazos and Laib unanimously carried with 5 yes votes and 0 no votes.

Mayor Barrow requested the City Council reconsider excusing the absences from the last City Council meeting.

Councilmember Plucker moved to excuse Councilmembers Cavazos, Cummins, and Laib from the February 13 City Council meeting. Councilmember Clark seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 4 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 1 abstention by Councilmember Cummins.

Acting City Manager McCarty commented the report on radio read meters is scheduled for the April 8 Work Session.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Barrow announced the City Council would be recessing to Executive Session to discuss with legal counsel litigation or potential litigation to which the City is a party or is likely to become a party pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i). The Executive Session is expected to last no more than one hour and no further business will come before the City Council in open session.

The meeting was recessed at 9:26 p.m. The Executive Session convened at 9:42 p.m.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:33 p.m.