

**WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**June 12, 2013**

**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, Chris Plucker and Mayor Jim Barrow.

Absent: None.

City staff in attendance: City Manager Nabel Shawa, City Attorney Tim Donaldson, Fire Chief Bob Yancey, Police Chief Scott Bieber, Parks & Recreation Director Jim Dumont, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Deputy Fire Chief Brad Morris, Engineer Monte Puymon, 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. PROCLAMATIONS**

- A. Proclamation declaring June 16, 2013 as "Diversity Day in Walla Walla."

Mayor Barrow read and presented the proclamation to Andrew Dankel-Ibanez. Mr. Dankel-Ibanez reported the community has been celebrating Diversity Day for over twenty years and invited the community to the Diversity Day activities at Pioneer Park on June 16.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Scott Bieber, Police Chief, reported the Police won the first Battle of the Badges baseball game at Borleske Stadium but the community was the big winner with over \$24,000 raised for charity.

Tim Bennett, 245 Austin Street, Walla Walla, reported he had purchased a home in the Triple Creek Subdivision and was required to sign forms agreeing to be annexed and was in favor of annexation. This

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neighborhood is paying a fifty percent surcharge on City utilities. Mr. Bennett asked the Council to either: reconsider their April 24 decision not to annex south end property; put a measure on the next general election ballot to allow residents in the proposed annexation area to vote; or remove the utility surcharge. Mr. Bennett submitted a petition signed by residents of the Triple Creek Subdivision.

**5. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- A. Washington State Liquor Control Board: Change of location for Trust Cellars to 14 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue.
- B. Washington State Liquor Control Board: New application for Seven Hills Winery, 65 George Street #A.
- C. Washington State Liquor Control Board: Special occasion license for Midsummer Musical Retreat Society at Fouts Center on August 6 through August 9, 2013.
- D. Washington State Liquor Control Board: Washington State Liquor Control Board: Application in lieu of current privilege for Canoe Ridge Winery, 1102 W. Cherry Street.
- E. Resolution No. 2013-76 authorizing the purchase of an ambulance from Braun Northwest and taking such further action needed therewith.
- F. Resolution No. 2013-77 requesting approval from the Washington State Department of Retirement Systems to allow city employees to participate in a deferred compensation plan and taking such further action needed therewith.
- G. Resolution No. 2013-78 awarding the bid for the 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue project from Abadie Street to Cherry Street to Premier Excavation, Inc. and taking such further action needed therewith.
- H. Approval of minutes of the Work Session held May 20, 2013.

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- I. Approval of minutes of the regular meeting held May 22, 2013.

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 Cummins seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

**6. ACTIVE AGENDA**

- A. Resolution No. 2013-73 awarding the contract to Walla Walla Electric for improvements to the City Hall electrical system and taking such further action needed therewith.

City Manager Shawa reported this item had been tabled from the last City Council meeting. This resolution will authorize a contract for electrical upgrades to City Hall. City Manager Shawa described the scope of the project and the existing violations and safety issues in the basement. This proposed use of the bond funds from the police station is what was agreed upon by the citizens committee.

Doug Bayne, 850 Clay Street, Walla Walla, police bond committee leadership member, thanked the City Council for their sensitivity and concern. The scope of this project is what was identified and agreed upon for use of the \$300,000 in bond proceeds set aside for renovations to the space in the City Hall basement previously occupied by the police department. Mr. Bayne indicated he supports this proposal and asked the City to move forward so excess bond proceeds can be returned to the citizens.

There was discussion by Council on:

- Importance of being cognizant of the perception of the public.
- The electrical work proposed is not due to an imminent hazard but represents clear safety concerns.
- The work being done is a result of both the police vacating the basement and the fact that City Hall is over one hundred years old.
- If the City were to do any modifications to City Hall, this work would be required to meet current electrical codes.
- If the Council authorizes this project and some proposed repainting and re-flooring in the basement in the near future, Staff will be

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seeking direction from the City Council on the disposition of the excess bond funds later this summer.

Mayor Barrow invited public input.

Jon Dewey, 152 W. Tietan, Walla Walla, suggested the emergency electrical shut-off be located on the outside of the building rather than the inside.

There were additional comments by Council on the legitimate use of the police bond funds; support by the citizens committee for this use; and the need for due diligence in reviewing the funding for this project.

**Councilmember Clark moved to adopt Resolution No. 2013-73. Councilmember Cavazos seconded the motion. The motion carried with 6 yes votes and 1 no vote by Councilmember Plucker.**

- B. Resolution No. 2013-74 authorizing the purchase of a water distributor truck from Freedom Truck Centers, and taking such further action needed therewith.

City Manager Shawa explained the need for this replacement vehicle and the efforts in attempting to find a used vehicle without success. Staff recommends approval.

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. 2013-74. Councilmember Cummins seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

- C. Resolution No. 2013-75 awarding the bid for the Orchard Street sidewalk improvement project to Anchor Construction Contractors, LLC, and taking such further action needed therewith.

City Manager Shawa reported the City Council had previously rejected the one bid received for this project. Staff worked on the specifications and quickly turned the project out for rebid. This is a very complex project due to the various grant and funding sources. The County Fair Board has

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sent an email offering to pay for bid alternate #3, nine street light foundations and junction boxes.

Monte Puymon, Project Engineer, reported the difficulty in managing the seven separate funding sources and project components eligible for payment under these separate funding sources. There is also an outstanding grant application that may be awarded. The Transportation Improvement Board is willing to fund the cost of illumination with a 30.9 percent match. The risk will be borne by the Fair Board for the street light foundation and junction boxes if the grant is not successful. There is no contractual obligation between the City and County Fair Board.

There was discussion on the offer made by the County Fair Board; the ultimate risk to the City is a maximum of \$12,000 for alternate #3 if not covered by the County Fair Board; potential for full funding of the nine light fixtures; and the standard LED light fixtures proposed for installation.

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

There were comments by Council on the limited funding being provided by the County and School District, the two parties with the most to benefit from this project; and the allocation of \$25,000 from the City of College Place for funds they were unable to obligate for their own projects.

**Councilmember Laib moved to adopt Resolution No. 2013-75 including additive alternates #1, #2, and #3. Councilmember Plucker seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

## **7. COUNCIL MEMBER MEETING REPORTS**

Councilmember Laib reported attendance at the Work Session held June 10; and a meeting regarding the use of the ladder truck as a front line vehicle held June 10.

Councilmember Jenkins reported attendance at the Senior Citizens Center meeting held May 23; the Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting held May 23; the Senior Citizens Center pancake breakfast held June 1; the recognition ceremony at the Police Department held May 31; the Sustainability Committee meeting held June 4; the dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony held at the VA Medical Center on May 28; the

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Transportation Benefit District Board meeting held June 12; and the Work Session held June 10.

Councilmember Cummins reported attendance at the Port of Walla Walla Economic Development Committee meeting held May 28; the dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony held at the VA Medical Center on May 28; the Metropolitan Planning Organization meeting held June 5; the Public Works Trust Fund Board meeting held June 7; and the Work Session held June 10.

Councilmember Plucker reported attendance at the grand opening of the Crew Space lab at the Public Library held May 31; and the Work Session held June 10.

Councilmember Clark reported attendance at the Port of Walla Walla Economic Development Committee meeting held May 28; the dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony held at the VA Medical Center on May 28; the website committee meeting held May 29; the recognition ceremony at the Police Department held May 31; the grand opening of the Crew Space lab at the Public Library held May 31; the Battle of the Badges baseball game held June 1; the Sustainability Committee meeting held June 4; the Work Session held June 10; and the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee meeting held June 11.

Councilmember Cavazos reported attendance at the Housing Authority Board meeting held May 27; and the Work Session held June 10.

Mayor Barrow reported attendance at a tour of the construction of the Crew Space lab at the Public Library on May 24; the grand opening of the Crew Space lab at the Public Library held May 31; the Port of Walla Walla Economic Development Committee meeting held May 28; the ribbon-cutting ceremony held at the VA Medical Center on May 28; a meeting with the Association of Washington Cities President and Pacific Power management representatives on May 30; the retirement celebration for an Umatilla County Commissioner held May 30; the recognition ceremony at the Police Department held May 31; greeted and met with representatives from Umbria, Italy on June 3 and June 4; a Pacific Power reception held June 4; a meeting regarding the use of the ladder truck as a front line vehicle held June 10; the Work Session held June 10; the Transportation Benefit District Board meeting held June 12; and the elected officials forum in Dayton on June 11.

**8. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS**

Councilmember Laib moved to make the following reappointments:

- Elizabeth Humphrey to the Walla Walla Housing Authority for a term expiring June 30, 2018;
- Sandra Cannon to the Sustainability Committee for a term expiring June 30, 2016; and
- Art Coulombe to the Water & Wastewater Advisory Committee for a term expiring June 30, 2016.

Councilmember Jenkins seconded the motion.

Councilmember Laib reported there are ten open positions on various City Boards, Commissions, and Committees and asked the media to help get the word out.

**The motion to reappoint unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

Councilmember Cummins disclosed he was a member of the Public Works Trust Fund Board and reviewed the activities of the Public Works Trust Fund in funding infrastructure throughout Washington State. The Public Works Trust Fund was one of Governor Gregoire's "back to work" programs, in addition to providing agencies with low interest loans for funding critical infrastructure improvements. These funds are now in jeopardy as part of the State's ongoing budget negotiations. Councilmember Cummins requested a letter be sent by the Mayor to the officials in the 16<sup>th</sup> Legislative District in support of continued funding for the Public Works Trust Fund. Councilmember Laib suggested the letter be sent to both of the budget committee chairs, in addition to the 16<sup>th</sup> District Legislators.

There was discussion on the timing of the letter and the vital infrastructure improvements for healthy living conditions funded by the Public Works Trust Fund.

It was the consensus of Council to have staff draft a letter for immediate signature by the Mayor.

City Manager Shawa reported:

- The Myra Road – SR125 to Garrison Creek bid was awarded to Culbert Construction in the amount of \$2,771,000.

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- The court has signed a motion for dismissal by Key Bank on the Blue Mountain mall property. Staff is hopeful that something will be announced shortly.
- The City is creating a new communication effort to keep the community apprised of public works projects.
- Representatives of the State Auditor's office have requested an entrance conference on June 14 at 11:00 a.m. It was determined there would not be a majority of Council present and for those able to attend, 11:30 is a preferable start time.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

**There being no further business, Councilmember Laib moved to adjourn at 8:40 p.m. Councilmember Jenkins seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.**