

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 20, 2013

1. CALL TO ORDER

City Clerk Hill 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 Chris Plucker.

Absent: Mayor Jim Barrow.

City staff in attendance: City Manager Nabel Shawa, City Attorney Tim Donaldson, Deputy City Manager Tim McCarty, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Parks & Recreation Director Jim Dumont, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

2. SELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEM

City Clerk Hill reported that Mayor Pro Tem Cavazos has submitted a request to be relieved from the duties of Mayor Pro Tem and it would be appropriate for the City Council to select another Mayor Pro Tem to serve through December 31, 2013. Nominations were declared open for the position of Mayor Pro Tem.

Councilmember Plucker nominated Jerry Cummins as Mayor Pro Tem. There being no further nominations, Councilmember Cummins was selected as Mayor Pro Tem by unanimous consent.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/MOMENT OF SILENCE

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

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sharon Schiller, 1414 Topaz, Walla Walla, expressed concerns with the lack of pedestrian crossings on Rose Street, Poplar Street, and The Dalles Military Road. The lack of highly visible pedestrian crossings could be a deterrent for walkers.

**WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
NOVEMBER 20, 2013
PAGE 2**

Elizabeth Moss, 757 Lewis Street, Walla Walla, commended the City for the chipseal work on Melrose Street and expressed concerns with the handicap bulb-outs at certain intersections.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Acceptance of resignation of Cathie Antle from the Resident Commissioner position on the Walla Walla Housing Authority Board.
- B. Resolution No. 2013-126 authorizes a property tax increase for fiscal year 2014 to meet debt service obligations on voter approved bonds (police and fire bonds).

Ordinance No. 2013-31 fixing the amount of the excess ad valorem property tax levy necessary to raise the amounts needed to meet the debt service obligation associated with improvements to fire station facilities; levying the annual excess ad valorem taxes for fiscal year 2013 for that purpose; and apportioning the same to certain funds for certain purposes.

Ordinance No. 2013-32 fixing the amount of the excess ad valorem property tax levy necessary to raise the amounts needed to meet the debt service obligation associated with improvements to police station facilities; levying the annual excess ad valorem taxes for fiscal year 2013 for that purpose; and apportioning the same to certain funds for certain purposes.

- C. Resolution No. 2013-127 ratifying the sale of Unlimited Tax General Obligation Fire Station Refunding Bonds, Series 2013.
- D. Resolution No. 2013-128 authorizing the purchase of five fully-equipped police Interceptor all-wheel drive vehicles from Columbia Ford of Longview.
- E. Resolution No. 2013-129 rejecting bids for green waste grinder rental services.

Staff provided a brief report on Items B and D.

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

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

The City Council expressed their thanks for Ms. Antle's service as a resident commissioner on the Housing Authority Board.

6. ACTIVE AGENDA

- A. Resolution No. 2013-130 authorizing the purchase of an ambulance from Braun Northwest and taking such further action needed therewith.

City Manager Shawa reported this is an early purchase of a replacement ambulance due to engine failure on this vehicle. Funds are available in the equipment replacement fund.

There was discussion on:

- The average lifecycle of an ambulance is eight years. Staff is proposing to purchase a new cab and chassis and have the "box" remounted on this vehicle. This new vehicle and remounted box will be good for eight years.
- Warranty issues with the engine. Deputy Fire Chief Morris described the ongoing problems while this engine was under warranty and the ineligibility for qualifying under the "lemon law." This engine is no longer under warranty and needs to be replaced at a cost of approximately \$20,000. Rather than replace the engine, staff is proposing the early purchase of a replacement vehicle.
- There are no other large purchases in the equipment replacement fund that will compete with this purchase. Replacement fire trucks are not included in this fund.
- The status of the disposal of a surplus fire truck. Staff is evaluating the one proposal of approximately \$7,000 for the purchase of the surplus fire truck.

**WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
NOVEMBER 20, 2013
PAGE 4**

Mayor Pro Tem Cummins invited public input. No one in the audience chose to address the City Council on this item.

Councilmember Laib moved to adopt Resolution No. 2013-130. Councilmember Plucker seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

B. Public hearing on 2013-2014 budget modification.

City Manager Shawa reported that pursuant to the direction provided at the November 18 Work Session, the \$70,000 for Council Chamber improvements was removed and \$50,000 has been added to the street fund.

Deputy City Manager McCarty reviewed the proposed budget modification for 2014 of the 2013-2014 biennium budget. There were comments on the additional \$87,000 for new police vehicles.

Mayor Pro Tem Cummins declared the public hearing open at 7:42 p.m. There being no comments from the audience, the public hearing was closed.

No action was taken.

C. Resolution No. 2013-125 authorizing a regular property tax increase for the City of Walla Walla pursuant to RCW 84.55.120.

Ordinance No. 2013-33 fixing the amount of the regular ad valorem tax levy necessary to raise the additional amounts needed between estimated revenues from sources other than ad valorem taxes for certain funds; levying the regular annual ad valorem taxes of the City for the year 2014 of the 2013-2014 biennium; and apportioning the same to certain funds for certain purposes.

City Manager Shawa reported that this resolution will authorize a one percent levy increase in addition to the amount for new construction and improvements. In accordance with Council direction, staff has allocated an additional \$50,000 to the street fund with the remaining property tax increase from new construction going into the general fund.

**WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
NOVEMBER 20, 2013
PAGE 5**

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

**Councilmember Clark moved to adopt Resolution No. 2013-125.
Councilmember Jenkins seconded the motion.**

Councilmember Laib indicated he cannot support the proposed one percent tax levy increase due to a number of reasons.

The motion to adopt Resolution No. 2013-125 carried with 5 yes votes and 1 no vote by Councilmember Laib.

City Manager Shawa reported that Ordinance No. 2013-33 will actually impose the property tax levy for 2014.

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

**Councilmember Clark moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2013-33.
Councilmember Jenkins seconded the motion. The motion carried with 5 yes votes and 1 no vote by Councilmember Laib.**

D. Approval of minutes of the regular meeting held November 6, 2013.

Councilmember Laib moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held November 6, 2013. Councilmember Plucker seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 5 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 1 abstention by Councilmember Cavazos.

E. Approval of the October 31, 2013 accounts payable register containing check numbers 177819 through 178190, 990580 through 990587, and 8077 through 8099 in the amount of \$5,149,212.35.

Councilmember Jenkins moved to approve the October 31, 2013 accounts payable register containing check numbers 177819 through 178190, 990580 through 990587, and 8077 through 8099 in the amount of \$5,149,212.35 with the exception of the checks to Blue Mountain Action Council and Conrado Cavazos. Councilmember Laib seconded the motion.

**WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
NOVEMBER 20, 2013
PAGE 6**

There were questions on check number 177974 for \$300 for safety boots; and the payment of portable lights for the Orchard Street project. Staff was asked for the funding source for payment of the portable lights on Orchard Street and the period the lights were rented for. City Manager Shawa responded the lights were rented because it was determined the contractor would not have the street lights installed on Orchard Street in time for the fair. The contractor did make good progress and the street lights were activated on Thursday of fair week. Because the portable lights were rented due to the fair activities, the payment was made from the hotel/motel taxes as a special event cost. Councilmember Laib expressed objections to the payment of the portable street lights from hotel/motel taxes and felt the portable lights could have been returned for a savings.

Councilmember Laib moved to amend the motion to also exclude payment of check number 178100 to US Bank for the rented street lights on Orchard Street. Councilmember Jenkins seconded the motion. The motion to amend the motion to also exclude check number 178100 to US Bank for the rented street lights on Orchard Street unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

The motion to approve the October 31, 2013 accounts payable register containing check numbers 177819 through 178190, 990580 through 990587, and 8077 through 8099 in the amount of \$5,149,212.35 with the exception of the checks to Blue Mountain Action Council, Conrado Cavazos, and US Bank for the rented street lights on Orchard Street unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

Councilmember Laib moved to approve the payment of the checks to Blue Mountain Action Council and Conrado Cavazos. Councilmember Plucker seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 4 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 2 abstentions by Councilmembers Cavazos and Jenkins.

Councilmember Clark moved to approve payment of check number 178100 to US Bank for the rented street lights on Orchard Street from lodging tax funds. Councilmember Plucker seconded the motion.

There was discussion on whether the use of lodging tax funds to pay for the portable street lights was appropriate.

**WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
NOVEMBER 20, 2013
PAGE 7**

The motion to approve payment of check number 178100 to US Bank for the rented street lights on Orchard Street from lodging tax funds failed with 0 yes votes and 6 no votes.

Councilmember Laib moved to approve payment of check number 178100 to US Bank for the rented street lights on Orchard Street from the general fund. Councilmember Cavazos seconded the motion.

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

The motion to approve payment of check number 178100 to US Bank for the rented street lights on Orchard Street from the general fund unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

7. COUNCIL MEMBER MEETING REPORTS

Councilmember Laib reported attendance at the ad hoc aviary design committee meeting held November 14; the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee meeting held November 14; the Borleske Stadium Association board meeting held November 18; and the Work Session held November 18. Councilmember Laib publicly thanked Tim Duncan for his 20th year of service in maintaining the Borleske Stadium facility.

Councilmember Jenkins reported attendance at the Sustainability Committee meeting held November 5; the Chamber of Commerce legislative luncheon held November 13; the Work Session held November 18; a meeting with the director of the Trilogy Recovery Community on November 19; and the Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting held November 20.

Councilmember Plucker reported attendance at the Historic Preservation Commission meeting held October 28; the Finance Committee meetings held October 29, October 30, and November 4; the Water Partnership Board meeting held November 5; the Parks, Recreation & Urban Forestry Advisory Board meeting held November 4; and the Work Session held November 18.

Councilmember Clark reported attendance at the Finance Committee meetings held October 29, October 30, and November 4; the Chamber of Commerce broadband conference held October 30; the Rose Street

**WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
NOVEMBER 20, 2013
PAGE 8**

ribbon-cutting ceremony held November 1; the Sustainability Committee meeting held November 5; a webinar hosted by the Environmental Protection Agency held November 6 regarding scenario planning for water utilities; the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee meeting held November 12; the LEOFF 1 Disability Board meeting held November 12; the Chamber of Commerce legislative luncheon held November 13; the Work Session held November 18; the awards ceremony held November 19 for young entrepreneurs; and the Water & Wastewater Advisory Committee meeting held November 20.

Councilmember Cavazos had no meetings to report.

Mayor Pro Tem Cummins reported attendance at the Finance Committee meetings held October 29, October 30, and November 4; the Metropolitan Planning Organization regional meeting held October 30; the Rose Street ribbon-cutting ceremony held November 1; the Community Council meeting for review of projects held November 6; an interview on KUJ radio on November 8; the Public Works Trust Fund Board retreat held November 13; the Borleske Stadium Association board meeting held November 18; the Work Session held November 18; the Chamber of Commerce review of student glass projects held November 19; the Valley Transit Finance Committee meeting held November 20; and the Civil Service Commission meeting held November 20.

8. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Laib moved to appoint Todd Oleson as the resident commissioner to the Walla Walla Housing Authority Board for a term expiring June 30, 2015. Councilmember Jenkins seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

Councilmember Laib moved to appoint Ted Cohan, representing the Borleske Stadium Association, to the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee for a term expiring December 31, 2015. Councilmember Jenkins seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

Councilmember Laib asked when the reusable signs for the Go Walla Walla campaign would be removed. City Manager Shawa reported the signs will be removed in the next couple of weeks. Staff hopes to have Myra Road open for travel on November 27.

**WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
NOVEMBER 20, 2013
PAGE 9**

Councilmember Cavazos reported there is construction activity going on at the Blue Mountain Mall site.

Councilmember Laib moved to direct staff to prepare a resolution requiring an annual one percent transfer from the general fund to the street fund. Councilmember Plucker seconded the motion.

There was discussion on prioritizing funds for streets and whether this is an appropriate action without knowing the full impact to the general fund.

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

The motion to direct staff to prepare a resolution requiring an annual one percent transfer from the general fund to the street fund carried with 5 yes votes and 1 no vote by Councilmember Clark.

City Manager Shawa reported Myra Road will be opening to through traffic on November 27; and the importance of Public Works Trust Fund loans to ratepayers and communities across the state.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Councilmember Laib moved to adjourn at 8:44 p.m. Councilmember Jenkins seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.