

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Council Retreat
Service Center Conference Room
55 Moore Street, Walla Walla
January 12, 2013

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Barrow called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m.

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

Absent: Councilmember Shane Laib.

City staff in attendance: City Manager Nabel Shawa, City Attorney Tim Donaldson, Police Chief Scott Bieber and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

2. AGENDA

Mayor Barrow reflected on positive achievements accomplished by the City during the past year.

A. 2013 Significant Projects/Issues:

1. Walla Walla Gang Initiative.

Police Chief Bieber reviewed the ongoing work and development of a strategy to address criminal gang activity. The three parts to operation ceasefire strategy are: Enforcement; Moral Voice; and Hope.

Enforcement must be based on behaviors that will not be tolerated by the community. The community has a zero tolerance for gang violence. Law enforcement by itself will not be effective towards reducing gang violence. The community must step forward with its moral voice and also offer hope for those trying to escape gangs. The next steps in the gang initiative will be to work with local organizations to develop a centralized "Clearing House for Hope."

There was discussion on:

- Gang members don't necessarily view being arrested as something negative.
- Holding parents accountable for the actions of their children.

- Focusing the message of hope through the media.
- Need for administrative support and reinstatement of a captain position without an increase in full-time employees at the Police Department.

Chief Bieber was excused from the meeting.

2. Annexation.

City Manager Shawa reported staff has done some analysis on the annexation of the south portion of the City's urban growth area. It is possible this area may be split into two separate annexations. The Sydney Heights development is not included in the urban growth area.

City Manager Shawa described the various methods for annexation. The City has signed utility extension agreements with over sixty percent of the assessed valuation of the property proposed for annexation. Next steps include:

- Financial analysis;
- Community engagement;
- Identifying specific concerns of residents in the proposed annexation area.

There is a significant amount of work that is required to annex this property before an August 1 deadline to have it appear on the City's tax roll. There was discussion on whether this is a realistic timeline and long term implications. This may also provide an opportunity for the City Council to amend current City policy regarding extension of utility services beyond City limits.

It was the consensus of a majority of Council to have staff move forward with the significant work necessary for annexation of property in the southern urban growth area.

The meeting recessed for a break at 10:00 a.m. and reconvened at 10:10 a.m.

B. Strategic Plan.

City Manager Shawa reviewed why cities should have a strategic plan and asked for a commitment from the City Council for this effort. There

was discussion on the role of the City Council in the strategic planning process and how the comprehensive plan fits within the strategic plan.

It was the consensus of a majority of Council to have staff develop and move forward with strategic planning in concert with the comprehensive plan; and then have staff bring the strategic plan before Council for consideration.

C. Communications.

City Manager Shawa reviewed the current efforts by the City to update its website and review of e-notification and apps for smart phones. The Library and Parks & Recreation are beginning to use Facebook and Twitter. There was discussion on continuing the monthly publication in the Union Bulletin and the programming on Charter government channel 17 versus other forms of communication; and televising City Council meetings.

A majority of Council indicated they were not interested in televising City Council meetings.

Staff was directed to develop a proposal for enhanced communications with associated costs.

D. Walla Walla Excellence.

City Manager Shawa reviewed ongoing efforts for the Walla Walla Excellence program (also known as Baldrige) and described future performance management efforts.

3. COUNCIL COMMENTS/ISSUES/WRAP UP

There was discussion on:

- Councilmember Laib has accepted an interim position as an aide to Senator Baumgartner of Spokane and anticipates being in Olympia through the legislative session. Council can excuse absences or allow participation by telephone. This is a big issue and would need to be adequately researched and an appropriate policy drafted for Council consideration. Currently the City Council has no policy on excusing absences or remote participation. It was the consensus of a majority of Council not to have staff develop a

policy at this time related to telephonic participation or Council absences.

- Function of the Finance Committee. A majority of the City Council indicated they were comfortable with the role of the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee was commended for the level of participation and activity in reviewing the 2013-2014 biennium budget.
- Enforcement of current animal control regulations and educating dog owners on the legal and financial consequences of keeping dangerous dogs.
- Allocation of time to address personal priorities as a Councilmember including attendance at board, commission and committee meetings, expectations, and selection based on interest and seniority.
- The Inland Octopus sign is an administrative issue with the City Manager responsible for enforcement.
- Council contact with staff members.
- Proposed legislation for formation of Municipal library districts and staff involvement after legislation is introduced.
- The number of non-resident library cards sold so far has been minimal.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:41 p.m.