

**WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL**  
**Special Meeting Minutes**  
**July 1, 2013**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Barrow called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Present: Councilmembers Conrado Cavazos, Jr., Barbara Clark, Mary Lou Jenkins, Shane Laib, Chris Plucker and Mayor Jim Barrow.  
(Councilmember Cavazos arrived at 1:06 p.m.)

Absent: Councilmember Jerry Cummins.

City staff in attendance: City Manager Nabel Shawa, City Attorney Tim Donaldson, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Finance Manager Jean Teasdale, City Engineer Neal Chavre, Engineer Monte Puymon, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

**2. ACTIVE AGENDA**

- A. Consideration of a resolution rejecting all bids for the Rose Street Improvement project or alternatively a resolution awarding the bid for the project, and additionally receiving public input and discussion of other matters relating to the project and potentially taking other action related thereto. (Resolution No. 2013-81)

Engineer Puymon reviewed the two options presented to the City Council:

1. Reject all bids and rebid the project next spring including the area from 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
2. Award the bid to Humbert Asphalt for the hot mix asphalt option.

Engineer Puymon reported the bids came in much higher than the engineer's estimate and reviewed the advantages and disadvantages of the two options. Staff recommends rejecting all bids and rebidding the project in six months.

There was discussion on:

- The engineer's estimate presented to the contractor's was \$1.6 million.
- Timing of receipt of transportation benefit district revenue is the primary reason why the project was not ready to go to bid earlier in the construction season.

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- The overall impact of the change in direction regarding the number of lanes on Rose Street had a very minor impact on the timing of the project.
- Humbert Asphalt has presented their opinion that they can have the road drivable, if not finished, by winter.

Mayor Barrow invited public input.

Troy Humbert, Humbert Asphalt, 1364 Watson Loop, Touchet, distributed copies of their work schedule if the contract is awarded to Humbert Asphalt. Construction would begin July 8. Humbert Asphalt has been in business for thirty-nine years and has never had to pay liquidated damages on a project. Mr. Humbert reported the project will go smoother and be safer with asphalt instead of whitetopping and described their traffic control and project staging. Mr. Humbert requested the City Council award the contract to Humbert Asphalt.

Don Ashley, College Place, asked Council to reconsider their decision regarding the number of lanes on Rose Street for the health and safety of the community.

Andy Pryor, PO Box 87, Dixie, asked at what point the six sycamore trees would be removed due to the decision to leave Rose Street four lanes.

Greg Basel, 1702 JB George Road, Walla Walla, felt the engineer's estimate for concrete was incorrect due to the staging work necessary. The existing concrete slab should be removed to do the project right.

Dominick Elia, 302 S Roosevelt, Walla Walla, member of the Transportation Improvement Advisory Board, reminded the City Council of the extensive discussion had last week during which the conclusion was to reject all bids and rebid the project early in 2014. One of the considerations was to extend the project to 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue. It was projected this larger project would garner better bids and save money. The current bid is \$250,000 over the engineer's estimate and nothing has changed since the discussion last week. Mr. Elia supported rejecting all bids.

Troy Humbert, Humbert Asphalt, clarified that their bid was only \$49,000 over the engineer's estimate for asphalt.

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There was additional discussion on:

- Potential problems with laying asphalt in inclement weather.
- Proportion of project costs for concrete versus asphalt.
- Likelihood of the bidding climate improving if the project is delayed.
- Anticipated cost savings if the project is extended instead of having two smaller projects.
- Asphalt will provide a longer life with proper maintenance.
- Need to begin project so citizens can see their tax dollars are being used for street repairs.
- Assurances provided by the contractor that the roadway will be drivable prior to winter weather.
- The College Place Rose Street project and the Rose Street project east of 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue will both be asphalt streets.
- Financial impact to the Transportation Benefit District and how quickly can payback of a loan be made so there are adequate funds for additional projects. Staff reported the auditor's have agreed to allow the City to loan funds at the same rate the money earns in the local government investment pool which is a very low interest rate.

**Councilmember Laib moved to adopt Resolution No. 2013-81.  
Councilmember Plucker seconded the motion.**

There were comments in support of the work by staff and the Transportation Improvement Advisory Committee members; and moving forward with the project on the aggressive schedule presented by Humbert Asphalt.

**The motion to adopt Resolution No. 2013-81 awarding the bid for the Rose Street Transportation Benefit District project to Humbert Asphalt unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

**3. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new or unfinished business.

**4. ADJOURNMENT**

**There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:52 p.m.**