

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Work Session Minutes
February 11, 2013

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Barrow called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

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

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

City staff in attendance: City Manager Nabel Shawa, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Sustainability Coordinator Melissa Warner, Utilities Engineer Frank Nicholson, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

2. ACTIVE AGENDA

A. Sustainability Plan Review.

City Manager Shawa reported the Sustainability Committee has been diligently working on development of a plan. This plan has been reviewed by directors. Departments support the plan with the caveat that it does not create additional work or use up existing employee resources.

Alex DeMambro, Sustainability Committee Chair, and Sandra Cannon, Sustainability Committee member, outlined:

- The mission of the Sustainability Committee.
- The three spheres of sustainability: environmental, economic, and social.
- The development of baseline measurements for areas of major expenditures.
- The purpose and benefit of the plan.
- Achievements are measured.
- Efforts to quantify achievements should not be an additional activity unless there is a business case for it.
- Goals for 2013 and next steps.

There was discussion on the components of the sustainability efforts; work of the committee; data collection and staff impact; benefits of the plan; and looking out for future generations.

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Council commended the work of the Sustainability Committee.

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

It was the consensus of a majority of Council to bring back the sustainability plan for consideration at the March 27 regular meeting.

B. Potential Community Solar Project at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Utilities Engineer Nicholson reported this project will install solar panels at the wastewater treatment plant. Willie Breshears, CH2M Hill wastewater treatment plant manager, commented they are excited with this project and the plant has no concerns with the proposed location.

Frederic Liebrand, representing the Walla Walla Community Solar Project, described:

- The purpose of the Walla Walla Community Solar Project.
- Their first installation at the airport.
- The proposed location and sample appearance of the proposed installation at the wastewater treatment plant.
- How program is funded through individual investments, and state and federal tax credits.
- WW-Free (Walla Walla Flat Roof Education & Energy) is a non-profit organization to fund scholarships for Walla Walla students to promote environmental sustainability, and opportunities to develop job training programs in renewable energy technology and environmental science.
- Maintenance and repair would be provided until 2020 at which time the City would be required to take over.
- Board members and sample economics of the program.
- Next step is for the City Council to consider a lease.

There was discussion on:

- Potential of the Tausick Way landfill site as a solar farm.
- Funding for the program.
- Use of public property for private investments and personal gain.
- Applicability of land use codes and visual restrictions.
- Governmental subsidy of electrical generation is part of our history and tradition.
- Reviewing the proposal with the Sustainability Committee.

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

It was the consensus of a majority of Council to have the City Attorney's office review the proposal.

C. Report on Legislative Advocacy Trip to Washington D.C.

City Manager Shawa reported he and Councilmember Cummins had a very rough start to their travel to Washington D.C. due to weather. While in Washington D.C., they focused on three main issues: LT2 water treatment improvements; reauthorization of the water resource development recovery act with an amendment to include Eastern Washington through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Phase 8 improvements to Highway 12 to begin project staging. At the State level, they focused on Phase 7 of Highway 12 improvements; State VA Long Term Care Facility; and demonstrating the partnership between the City, County, and Port of Walla Walla.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.