

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Work Session Minutes
March 11, 2013

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Barrow called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Present: Councilmembers Barbara Clark, Jerry Cummins, Mary Lou Jenkins, and Mayor Jim Barrow.

Absent: Councilmembers Conrado Cavazos, Jr., Shane Laib, and Chris Plucker.

City staff in attendance: City Manager Nabel Shawa, Parks & Recreation Director Jim Dumont, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, City Engineer Neal Chavre, Water Treatment Supervisor Tom Krebs, Finance Manager Jean Teasdale, Utilities Engineer Frank Nicholson, Engineer Monte Puymon and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

2. ACTIVE AGENDA

A. Splash pad water feature at a park.

Parks & Recreation Director Dumont introduced members of the Walla Walla Rotary Club and Sherwood Trust 2013 Leadership Class. The Walla Walla Rotary Club and Sherwood Trust Leadership Class have stepped forward toward development of a splash pad at Washington Park. They are calling this campaign "Fountains for Youth." A splash pad is a low-cost solution for hot summer days. The Walla Walla Rotary Club has committed \$30,000, has applied for a grant from the Sherwood Trust, and will take on the fundraising for the project. The Sherwood Trust Leadership Class is interested in adding ancillary components to the project such as seating, landscaping or colored cement.

There was discussion on:

- Reasons for the proposed location of the splash pad at Washington Park.
- Ages of anticipated participants.
- Alternatives for water usage and recycling.
- Proposed budget.
- Timeline.
- Adding a timeline for a second or third splash pad to show the community the improvements are not focused on a socio-

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economic basis, although no firm commitments have been made beyond a single splash pad.

- Operation of the splash pad is anticipated to run Memorial Day through September, depending on weather.
- A flashing crosswalk is being explored for the intersection at Ninth and Cherry.

There were comments by the Rotarians that it is the club's intention to make this a community project, not just a Rotary Club project. Fundraising will continue and is not capped at the cost for just one splash pad.

It was the consensus of a majority of Council to support the "Fountains for Youth" plan and move forward.

Council asked the Public Works staff to work with the Parks & Recreation Department to identify the most efficient and effective system for water use and reuse for the splash pad.

B. Review of the 2013 Water System Plan.

Public Works Director Bealey provided an overview of the 2013 water system plan. There were no significant comments or issues submitted by anyone other than the Department of Health. There was discussion on the water loss identified and corrected through the repair of lines and installation of new meters in the Vista Terrace neighborhood. A report on radio read water meters is scheduled for the Council's May Work Session.

It was the consensus of Council to have staff present a scaled down version of this presentation for the public hearing on March 13.

C. Review and discussion of Rose Street channelization.

Public Works Director Bealey introduced Monte Puymon, Rose Street Transportation Benefit District project manager, and Eric Zitterkopf from Anderson Perry and Associates.

Mr. Puymon reported this subject is actually a discussion about restriping Rose Street from a four-lane roadway to a three-lane roadway with a center turn lane. There is a fairly significant accident history on Rose Street. Staff is proposing to restripe Rose Street between 9th Avenue and Myra Road, primarily for safety and the addition of a traffic signal at Rose and 13th. The collision data shows the rate is fifty percent higher than

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what it should be for this road classification. Reducing the street from four-lanes to three-lanes reduces the points of conflict and improves truck turning movements. Valley Transit does have concerns with reducing the lanes and staff is working with them regarding the location of bus stops.

There was discussion on:

- The reduction in lanes and effect on traffic flow with buses stopping and blocking traffic.
- Putting in a bicycle lane when there is an existing bicycle and pedestrian path along Rose Street.
- Impact of the new traffic signal at Rose Street and 13th Avenue on the medical clinic.
- Volume of traffic on Rose Street does not warrant four lanes.
- Road configuration as Rose Street transitions into College Place. Staff indicated they have been collaborating with staff in College Place and explained the lane configuration.
- Valley Transit is not in favor of bus turnouts due to difficulties reemerging with traffic.
- Traffic volume on Rose Street would have to double before capacity would become an issue.
- Working with law enforcement to lower average speeds on Rose Street.
- A State safety grant was received for the Rose Street/13th Avenue traffic signal and the reduction to three-lanes was a part of this grant project. Staff will have to explore the impact to this grant if the City Council determines not to reduce the number of lanes.

Councilmembers expressed their individual preference between three or four lanes. There was no clear consensus so staff was directed to bring the three absent Councilmembers up to speed on the proposal and then bring it to the whole Council for a decision.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

Staff presented Council with the list of planned street work for 2013-2014.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:56 p.m.