

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL

Work Session Minutes

April 8, 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, Chris Plucker and Mayor Jim Barrow.

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

City staff in attendance: City Manager Nabil Shawa, Deputy City Manager Tim McCarty, Fire Chief Bob Yancey, Police Chief Scott Bieber, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Assistant Development Services Director Brian Walker, Utilities Engineer Frank Nicholson, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

2. ACTIVE AGENDA

Mayor Barrow, with the consensus of Council, introduced an additional item for discussion regarding Police Department administrative office hours.

City Manager Shawa reported that a records clerk position had been eliminated, yet the workload has been increasing. Staff is proposing to adjust the hours of the Police Department administrative hours to 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The entrance to the Police Department would be locked and staff would use the hour from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. to catch up on time sensitive work without interruptions from the public.

Police Chief Bieber reviewed the various scenarios that have been tried in an attempt to keep up with the workload and the critical records needs such as entering restraining and protection orders.

There was discussion on:

- Nature of the majority of public business conducted from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. Council asked staff to keep an informal survey of the business conducted during this last hour of the day.
- Whether there was any ability to shift positions to have coverage for the public and ensure the most effective utilization of staff.

A. Annexation review.

City Manager Shawa previewed the presentation for the April 10 public meeting on the south side annexation. Staff is proposing the boundaries of the proposed annexation area be limited to those shown on Exhibit "K" in the agenda packet.

There was discussion on:

- Transfer of utility warranties to the City.
- Whether there are any latecomer agreements in the proposed annexation area.
- Whether to include the smaller urbanized lots along Ransom Road.
- Preparation of a cost analysis for the area identified in Exhibit "K".
- If the annexation is approved, staff will likely be asking for a six month moratorium to study the issue of providing utility services outside of the City limits.

Mayor Barrow invited public input.

Richard McFarland, 3731 Middle Waitsburg Road, Walla Walla, had comments on the appearance of manipulating the annexation area boundaries based on the percentage of signed utility agreements.

It was the consensus of a majority of Council to have staff focus their April 10 presentation and discussion to the area depicted on Exhibit "K".

B. Rose Street Parking.

City Manager Shawa reported there is a new five suite itinerant lodging business at 51 East Main Street. The owner, Ron Dunning, would like to lease three off-street parking spaces in the City-owned parking lot off Rose Street. Staff understands the Council has concerns with establishing precedent and the pressure on downtown parking. It is suggested this be viewed as a pilot project with a two-year limited duration contract at the same rate the City charges for the permitted parking under the Farmers Market structure.

Mr. Dunning commented they are imposing on the neighboring businesses to currently accommodate their guests. They are requesting three dedicated parking spaces.

There was discussion on:

- The request is for three dedicated parking spaces twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week.
- A limited duration two-year period will allow Mr. Dunning to continue to explore and seek other options to accommodate his guests.
- This request needs to be identified as a pilot program on a two-year trial basis. It is only for the three spaces adjacent to Rose Street in the City's public parking lot and only applies to the itinerant lodging business.

It was the consensus of a majority of Council to move forward with a two-year limited duration contract for the lease of three public parking spaces adjacent to Rose Street in the public parking lot with the caveat that the rental of these spaces is specific to the itinerant lodging business.

Mayor Barrow invited public input.

Mary Campbell, 336 McCorkle Road, Walla Walla, felt there could be a big backlash on the part of the retail businesses over the dedication of public parking spaces for a private business. Mr. Dunning indicated he is still exploring other options and working with the adjacent businesses.

There were comments on the dumpster located in the parking lot and the businesses paying for its cost.

C.Draft Shoreline Master Program Interlocal Agreement.

City Manager Shawa reported the City is required to update its master shoreline program. The Department of Ecology is encouraging communities with shared shorelines to work together and is providing grant funding for collaborative efforts. Walla Walla County would be the lead agency for the grant funding.

There was discussion on:

- Ensuring the City is able to have separate standards if necessary. Assistant Development Services Director Walker reported that City Attorney Donaldson will ensure the City's rights and interests are preserved in any Interlocal agreement.
- The plan will be specific for the portion of the Mill Creek channel within the City limits.
- Planning efforts without having the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as a partner.

It was the consensus of a majority of Council to have staff move forward with drafting an Interlocal agreement with Walla Walla County for participation in the shoreline master program update.

3.Other Business

No other business was discussed.

4.ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m.