

**WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL**  
**Work Session Minutes**  
**June 10, 2013**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

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

Absent: None

City staff in attendance: City Manager Nabel Shawwa, City Attorney Tim Donaldson, Police Chief Scott Bieber, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Parks & Recreation Director Jim Dumont, Public Works Manager Mori Struve, Finance Manager Jean Teasdale, Solid Waste Manager Damon Taam, Sustainability Coordinator Melissa Warner, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

**2. ACTIVE AGENDA**

A. Public Facilities & Bicycle Safety Review.

Police Chief Bieber reported that City buildings and facilities were reviewed for safety after the Sandy Hook school shooting. An "e-panic" program has been installed on fifty City computers. Workplace safety training has been held in numerous locations. Securing public buildings is a balance between accessibility and how much money to spend to provide security. The police department is working with the school district and the County Sheriff's office to ensure safe schools and that accurate floor plans and assessments are complete for each school.

The focus on bicycle safety has been in rewarding good behavior rather than trying to issue citations. The police have also been conducting foot patrols in the downtown area on weekends.

There was discussion on:

- Proactive efforts in handling potential problems with people dealing with mental illness. Staff explained they are working on bringing crisis intervention training to Walla Walla. There hasn't been any outreach to mental health organizations because of privacy laws protecting this information.

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- The number of citations given to cyclists. Staff indicated they will have to research and respond back.
- Efforts to manage youth "hanging out" downtown. These youth appear to be in their mid to late teens and don't have stable living arrangements. Two officers are patrolling the downtown area on foot on Fridays and Saturdays.

B. Friends of the Pioneer Park Aviary Fundraising status report.

City Manager Shawa reported this is the six month mark for a report on the Friends of the Pioneer Park Aviary fundraising efforts.

Parks & Recreation Director Dumont introduced Trina Judd, Treasurer for the Friends of the Pioneer Park Aviary. Ms. Judd reported they have raised approximately \$28,000 but their bigger focus has been on creating sustainable funding. The paperwork is prepared to file for their 501(c)(3) non-profit status. There is a non-refundable cost of \$850 to file this paperwork. A friendship campaign has been started for recurring donations. Grants are also being pursued. This is the thirty year anniversary of the aviary. The group is seeking confirmation and release of the insurance funds from the City Council before investing any more time and money. The aviary has many structural issues and for the safety of the birds needs to be rebuilt as soon as possible.

There was discussion on whether the ongoing efforts are sustainable and whether to release the insurance funds for the necessary capital improvements at the aviary. Councilmembers expressed their personal opinions on whether these capital funds should be released.

City Manager Shawa suggested allowing the group until December to obtain a minimum of four hundred friendship members without committing to the release of the capital improvement funds. Ms. Judd felt the improvements should be made because of the current hardship on the birds.

Parks & Recreation Director Dumont suggested another option would be to authorize the use of funds for construction drawings to move forward to going out to bid while allowing the Aviary friends to continue their sustainable funding efforts. There was discussion on the \$170,000 in insurance funds not available for use on any other projects.

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It was the consensus of a majority of Council to have staff proceed with a contract to have construction drawings prepared; and for the Friends of the Pioneer Park Aviary to bring back a business plan with specific goals for sustainable funding.

C. Sudbury Road landfill and Isaacs Avenue landfill.

Bill Joyce, Attorney, joined the meeting by conference phone.

Craig Schwyn, Schwyn Environmental, provided an informative PowerPoint presentation on the history, status and findings of these two landfill projects that are primarily funded by the Department of Ecology:

- The Agreed Order remedial investigation work at the Sudbury Road Landfill.
- The Integrated Planning Grant (IPG) work completed for the Burdine property on Tausick Way (adjacent to the old Tausick Way landfill). This study included the potential costs for developing the site into a car dealership or a large retail store.

Councilmember Cummins left the meeting at 5:34 p.m.

Council asked about stormwater capacity on the Isaacs Avenue landfill site if it were developed. Mr. Schwyn responded the site would be able to accommodate an event larger than a 25 year storm.

D. Whitman Students Aquaponics Greenhouse – development fee waiver.

Theo Ciszewski and Erica Longino, Whitman College students, explained the process of aquaponics and their vision to create an aquaponics greenhouse at property owned by Whitman College at 615 ½ Isaacs Avenue. Their ultimate goal is to develop an educational and meaningful experience in food production, in addition to a sustainable business and agricultural model. The products will be sold to the College's catering company, Bon Appetite. They are requesting the City waive the permit fee of \$400 to \$500 for development of this greenhouse.

There was discussion on:

- The structure of the club and whether it is an official college club.
- Smell and impact of the proposed business in a residential area and whether this would be an allowed use.

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- Concerns with waiving a fee that would put this operation in direct competition with small farmers.
- Whitman College is not providing any funding for this endeavor but various teachers and professors are providing assistance in reviewing ideas and offering suggestions.
- The greenhouse has not been purchased as there are various components that must also be researched and purchased.
- Ability to have a development agreement for repayment of any fee waiver and removal of structures if the project should be abandoned.
- This would be a potential educational project for the community at large and allows this technology to be viewed as a community experiment.
- Council suggested talking with small farmers to discern if they would support the requested action by the City Council and also contacting the Downtown Farmers Market for their input.

It was the consensus of a majority of Council not to consider a waiver of permit fees until the questions and concerns expressed are resolved.

### **3. OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was discussed.

### **4. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.