

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Work Session Minutes
August 12, 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, and Mayor Jim Barrow.

Absent: Councilmember Chris Plucker

City staff in attendance: City Manager Nabel Shawa, Deputy City Manager Tim McCarty, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Public Library Director Beth Hudson, City Engineer Neal Chavre, Public Works Manager Mori Struve, Finance Manager Jean Teasdale, Solid Waste Manager Damon Taam, Public Works Administrative Support Coordinator Darci Bell, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

2. ACTIVE AGENDA

A. Introduction to City's new website – www.wallawallawa.gov.

Administrative Support Coordinator Darci Bell reviewed the new City website developed by Walla Walla Web Weavers and introduced Nanqi You, President of Walla Walla Web Weavers. Ms. You reviewed features of the new website and answered questions of the City Council.

B. Proposed 2013 Walla Walla Regional Bike Plan.

City Engineer Chavre reported the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee revisited and revamped the current 2005 Bicycle & Pedestrian plan. The total value of all the projects on this plan is approximately \$4,200,000. Funding has not been secured for these projects. The Committee attempted to put these projects in priority order.

Council commented that a hearing was held before the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee and it is intended that this project list will be incorporated into the City's six-year transportation improvement program. All of the projects are subject to finding funding.

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C. Update on the City's solid waste programs since the April 9, 2012 Council Work Session.

Public Works Director Bealey introduced Solid Waste Manager Damon Taam.

Mr. Bealey and Mr. Taam reviewed:

- Purpose: To update Council on efforts to improve landfill and sanitation operational efficiencies since April 2012 and to gain feedback and input from Council.
- Actions taken to improve efficiencies in both the sanitation and landfill services.
- Projects in the works include:
 - Finalize Sudbury Landfill remedial investigation and proceed with feasibility study.
 - Solid Waste Management Plan update.
 - Landfill Master Plan.
 - Compost process and marketing improvements.
 - Customer service improvements.
 - Developing new organizational structure for solid waste.
 - Evaluating a reduction in the hours of operation at the landfill.
 - Consider use of temporary help at the landfill to assist with peak season activities and maintenance.
 - Operational projects.

There was discussion on:

- Compost operation, including selection of consultant and marketing.
- Elimination of the surcharge for out of county users. This has increased tonnage at the landfill, mostly from users in Milton-Freewater, Oregon.
- Whether the City will have additional liability by accepting waste from outside the County.

D. Consider Code Amendment to allow alcohol consumption during special events at the Public Library and Carnegie Art Center.

Public Library Director Hudson reported there are occasions when the library may be hosting meetings or events where the organizers would like to serve alcohol. Currently, the Municipal Code does not allow for the consumption of alcohol at the library or the Carnegie Art Center.

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There was discussion on whether or not alcohol should be allowed to be served and consumed at the Public Library or Carnegie Art Center. 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 the City Council that they were not interested in considering a Municipal Code amendment to allow the consumption of alcohol at the Public Library or the Carnegie Art Center.

E. 2013-2014 Biennium Budget modification update.

Deputy City Manager McCarty reviewed the estimated revenues and expenses for the 2013-2014 biennium budget. It is not anticipated that the 2014 budget modification will require a significant reallocation of funds. Two areas of special note in 2014 will be the addition of funding for golf course operations and the use of cash in the landfill fund balance from the remediation grant funding.

There was discussion on landfill revenues and operating costs. The sanitation and landfill funds are two separate funds. The sanitation fund operations have been reduced by four full-time equivalent employees. This is leading to the higher fund balance in the sanitation fund despite the increase in landfill fees. This level of operation may not be sustainable. The landfill cash balance has money because of the remediation grants which will be spent down due to projected consulting fees.

Deputy City Manager McCarty reviewed the proposed budget calendar for the 2014 budget modification.

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

3. OTHER BUSINESS

Deputy City Manager McCarty reported the Orchard Street project is experiencing a delay due to the street lights.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.