

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Work Session Minutes
October 21, 2014

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Barrow called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

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

Absent: Councilmember Conrado Cavazos, Jr.

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

2. ACTIVE AGENDA

A. Consideration of local implementation options for I-502.

City Attorney Donaldson reviewed:

- Initiative 502 does not have any local opt out provisions.
- U.S. Attorney policy statements regarding enforcement actions if State policies do not address specific federal enforcement priorities do not mean the federal government will not take any enforcement actions.
- Difficulty in drafting local regulations because of changes in State licensing rules.
- Current State guidelines allow two retail outlets within the City of Walla Walla and two additional retail outlets within Walla Walla County.
- Required buffer areas will preclude any retail locations within the downtown commercial area.
- Benefits to the interim zoning ordinance and why it offers more protection and stronger regulations to the City than a moratorium.
- Proposed interim zoning ordinance requires applicants to go through the conditional use process with notice requirements to surrounding property owners.

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- Next step is to hold a public hearing on October 23 and consider adoption of an ordinance.

There was discussion on:

- Licensing and potential of federal prosecution.
- Businesses would have to meet all building and safety regulations.
- The two retail facilities designated "at large" within Walla Walla County cannot be located within the City limits since the City of Walla Walla has been designated for two retail businesses.
- The City of Walla Walla has the right to set its own local permit processing fees but not for the processing of State Liquor Control Board permits.
- There are no provisions for imposition of local taxes. City Attorney Donaldson explained his concerns with the potential of federal forfeiture of taxation revenues collected by the City, especially if they were co-mingled with other City funds, since the Federal government still considers marijuana an illegal drug.
- A report has been submitted to the State legislature concerning regulation of medical marijuana.
- Recreational marijuana facilities will be subject to specific provisions imposed by the Washington State Liquor Control Board relating to security and other matters.

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

There were additional comments and discussion on:

- Commendations to the City Attorney's office and staff for their clear analysis and explanation of the need for interim regulations.
- Concerns with marijuana being a stepping stone in illegal drug use and likelihood of continuing problems with illegal marijuana sales.
- The inclusion of the Edith/Carrie neighborhood area, with its neighborhood community center, as a potential location for marijuana related processing and production facilities.
- The proposed interim zoning ordinance requires a conditional use permit and includes notice to property owners within 1,000 feet of the proposed use.

It was the consensus of Council to move forward with an interim zoning ordinance for consideration on October 23.

Councilmember Laib was excused from the meeting at 4:22 p.m.

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B. Draft Solid Waste Management Plan.

Sustainability Coordinator Warner introduced members and participants in the solid waste planning process. The update to the solid waste management plan was launched October 2012. The City of Walla Walla is the lead agency and has hired HDR Engineering to develop the new plan. Sustainability Coordinator Warner reviewed the highlights of the draft plan. This plan is currently in the public comment period.

There was discussion on:

- There is nothing in the plan that addresses control of County waste into the landfill.
- The plan only contains recommendations and goals. It does not impose any unfunded mandates or mandatory requirements. Partner agencies will not be able to dictate services to any jurisdiction.
- Council expressed appreciation for the work on the plan.

Mayor Barrow invited public input.

Paul Hartwig, 630 SW Evans, College Place, member of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee, commended the helpfulness of staff and representatives of the Department of Ecology. The Solid Waste Advisory Committee represents a broad range of the County and members have committed a significant amount of personal time. The Committee recommends the City Council review and approve the plan. The plan will assist in acquiring funding for solid waste management services.

C. Cemetery Improvement Updates.

Parks & Recreation Director Dumont reviewed the accomplishments and described the various repairs that have been made at the cemetery as a result of the generous Lamar bequest.

There was brief discussion on:

- Whether burial in the Catholic section of the cemetery is restricted to only Catholics.
- Challenges with cemetery irrigation due to the varying sizes of monuments and feasibility of partnering with the Community College for irrigation design.

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

D. AWC Self-Insured Agreement and AWC/City of Walla Walla Wellness Program.

City Manager Shawa reported the Association of Washington Cities Employee Benefit Trust is going self-insured to save a significant amount of money for its members. Because of this change, there will be no increase in premiums for employers and employees will not see any discernible change in benefits or claims processing. AWC is requiring all member agencies to sign an Interlocal agreement to participate in their program. This agreement is on the City Council's agenda for approval Wednesday night.

There was brief discussion on:

- AWC is going self-insured, in part, to save on the Federal taxes imposed by the Affordable Care Act. Employees will not see any change in benefits.
- AWC Employee Benefits Trust will insure for catastrophic claims so there will not be any additional liability to the City.
- There will be more of an emphasis on wellness programs.

City Manager Shawa reported the City is pursuing a two percent credit on health insurance premiums in 2015 by meeting certain wellness program criteria. There is currently \$49,000 in the employee wellness fund. Some of the City's wellness efforts include: establishing a fitness area in the basement of City Hall for employees to utilize before or after work and during break periods, monthly lunch and learn programs on wellness, on-site flu clinics, ongoing weight reduction/management program, and promotion and coordinator of wellness competitions.

There was brief discussion on working with the YMCA and ongoing wellness programs.

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

Council indicated their support of current and ongoing wellness activities.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

City Manager Shawa reported the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Rose Street TBD project and the 13th Avenue project will be November 1.

Mayor Barrow suggested the City Council consider starting Work Sessions and regular meetings at an earlier time.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:36 p.m.