

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2014

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Barrow called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Councilmembers Barbara Clark, Jerry Cummins, Mary Lou Jenkins, Dick Morgan, Chris Plucker, Allen Pomraning and Mayor Jim Barrow.

Absent: None.

City staff in attendance: City Manager Nabel Shawa, City Attorney Tim Donaldson, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Fire Chief Bob Yancey, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/MOMENT OF SILENCE

Councilmember Plucker led the pledge of allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

3. OATH OF OFFICE FOR RE-ELECTED AND NEWLY-ELECTED COUNCILMEMBERS

City Clerk Hill delivered the oath of office for Jim Barrow, Dick Morgan, and Allen Pomraning.

4. ELECTION OF MAYOR AND MAYOR PRO TEM

Mayor Barrow, with the consensus of Council, reported he will be conducting the election for Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem.

Councilmember Plucker nominated Jerry Cummins for Mayor.

Councilmember Jenkins nominated Barbara Clark for Mayor.

Councilmembers Clark and Cummins outlined their accomplishments during previous terms as Mayor and their goals if they are elected to serve as Mayor.

Mayor Barrow asked for a show of hands for Barbara Clark as Mayor. Councilmembers Clark, Jenkins, and Morgan voted in favor of Barbara Clark as Mayor.

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Mayor Barrow asked for a show of hands for Jerry Cummins as Mayor. Councilmembers Cummins, Plucker, Pomraning, and Mayor Barrow voted in favor of Jerry Cummins as Mayor.

Mayor Barrow declared Jerry Cummins elected as Mayor by a majority vote of the Council.

Mayor Barrow invited nominations for the position of Mayor Pro Tem.

Councilmember Morgan nominated Allen Pomraning for Mayor Pro Tem.

Councilmember Pomraning nominated Mary Lou Jenkins for the position of Mayor Pro Tem.

Councilmember Cummins nominated Chris Plucker for the position of Mayor Pro Tem.

Mayor Barrow announced that the Mayor Pro Tem would be elected by a plurality of Council.

Mayor Barrow asked for a show of hands for Mary Lou Jenkins as Mayor Pro Tem. Councilmembers Clark and Jenkins voted in favor of Mary Lou Jenkins as Mayor Pro Tem.

Mayor Barrow asked for a show of hands for Chris Plucker as Mayor Pro Tem. Councilmembers Cummins, Plucker and Mayor Barrow voted in favor of Chris Plucker as Mayor Pro Tem.

Mayor Barrow asked for a show of hands for Allen Pomraning as Mayor Pro Tem. Councilmembers Morgan and Pomraning voted in favor of Allen Pomraning as Mayor Pro Tem.

Mayor Barrow declared Chris Plucker elected as Mayor Pro Tem by a plurality of the Council.

The gavel was passed to Mayor Cummins to conduct the meeting. Mayor Cummins thanked Jim Barrow for his service as Mayor and pledged to support and promote openness and collaboration among Council members.

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5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kenneth Moen, 2 East Birch Street, Apartment 412, Walla Walla, asked what the City Council has planned regarding the marijuana distributor proposed on Rose Street.

Brent Baldwin, 22 East Tietan Street, Walla Walla, expressed concerns with the 18th Street graffiti not getting removed or covered up in a timely fashion. Most of this graffiti falls within the City's lower socio-economic neighborhoods.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

City Clerk Hill introduced the Consent Agenda, Items A through H, as follows:

- A. Washington State Liquor Control Board: Special occasion license for St. Basil Academy on January 26, 2014 at Assumption Catholic Church Parish Hall, 2098 E. Alder Street.
- B. Washington State Liquor Control Board: Special occasion license for Bluewood Blazers' on February 4, 2014 at Assumption Catholic Church Parish Hall, 2098 E. Alder Street.
- C. Washington State Liquor Control Board: Change of corporate officers/stockholders for La Ramada, 1708 Isaacs Avenue.
- D. Washington State Liquor Control Board: Change of location for the Lanai Solution, 1102 Dell Avenue, subject to permitting by the Joint Community Development Agency.
- E. Resolution No. 2014-01 approving and authorizing the City Manager to execute an amendment to a professional services agreement with HDJ Design Group, PLLC, and taking such further action needed therewith. (Pleasant-Home-Fern-Statesman IRRP project)
- F. Resolution No. 2014-02 designating the City's delegate and alternate delegate to the Washington Cities Insurance Authority. (Deputy City Manager McCarty and Finance Manager Teasdale)

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G. Resolution No. 2014-03 authorizing an amendment to the employment agreement with Nabel Shawa and taking other action related thereto.

H. Resolution No. 2014-04 authorizing an amendment to the employment agreement with Tim Donaldson and taking other action related thereto.

Council requested Items G and H be removed from the Consent Agenda for separate consideration.

Mayor Cummins invited public input. No one in the audience chose to address the City Council on any of these items.

Councilmember Jenkins moved to adopt Consent Agenda Items A through F. Councilmember Barrow seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

G. Resolution No. 2014-03 authorizing an amendment to the employment agreement with Nabel Shawa and taking other action related thereto.

Councilmembers Plucker and Jenkins expressed concerns with granting a salary increase after raising property taxes. This is not a reflection of the good job performance by City Manager Shawa.

Councilmembers Barrow and Clark felt the increase was warranted as good employees must be paid good wages. The proposed increase is within the salary range for the position. City Manager Shawa has done an outstanding job and this is a fair salary increase.

Councilmembers Morgan and Pomraning indicated they would be abstaining on voting on Items G and H as the performance reviews were performed by the prior City Council.

There was discussion on the requirements of the Municipal Code regarding voting by Councilmembers and the impact of an abstention.

Mayor Cummins invited public input.

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Brent Baldwin, 22 E. Tietan Street, Walla Walla, felt it was important for the City to pay a fair wage and encouraged the City Council to approve the salary increase for both the City Manager and City Attorney.

City Attorney Donaldson clarified that the Municipal Code requires members to vote except when the member has a personal financial interest, a conflict of interest, or approval of minutes when the member was not in attendance. An abstention is regarded as having been cast with the majority of those council members present and voting; or in the case of a tie vote, an abstention is recorded as a negative vote.

Councilmember Barrow moved to adopt Resolution No. 2014-03. Councilmember Clark seconded the motion. The motion carried with 5 yes votes and 2 no votes by Councilmembers Jenkins and Plucker.

- H. Resolution No. 2014-04 authorizing an amendment to the employment agreement with Tim Donaldson and taking other action related thereto.

Council commented that City Attorney Donaldson is underpaid and his salary is on the low side of average City Attorney salaries in comparable communities.

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

Councilmember Pomraning moved to adopt Resolution No. 2014-04. Councilmember Clark seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

7. ACTIVE AGENDA

- A. Approval of minutes of the regular meeting held December 18, 2013.

Councilmember Plucker moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held December 18, 2013. Councilmember Jenkins seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 5 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 2 abstentions by Councilmembers Morgan and Pomraning.

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8. COUNCIL MEMBER MEETING REPORTS

Councilmember Morgan had no meetings to report.

Councilmember Jenkins reported attendance at the Work Session held December 9; and the Sustainability Committee meeting held January 7.

Councilmember Barrow reported attendance at the Work Session held December 9; the Blue Mountain Action Council Board meeting held December 19; a meeting held January 4 with a pastor moving his congregation from Hillsboro, Oregon to Walla Walla; and the Joint Community Development Agency Board meeting held January 6.

Councilmember Plucker reported attendance at the Historic Preservation Commission meeting held December 16; the Valley Transit Board meeting held December 19; and the birth of his son on January 7.

Councilmember Clark reported attendance at the Library puppet theater presentation held December 12; the Work Session held December 9; the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee meeting held December 10; the City employee awards ceremony held December 13; the Valley Transit awards ceremony held December 15; the Valley Transit Board meeting held December 19; a meeting with the new operator of the Veterans' Memorial Golf Course held December 28; and the Sustainability Committee meeting held January 7.

Councilmember Pomraning had no meetings to report.

Mayor Cummins reported attendance at the Public Works Trust Fund Board meeting held December 6; the Work Session held December 9; the Valley Transit awards ceremony held December 15; the Borleske Stadium Association Board meeting held December 16; the Valley Transit Board meeting held December 18; and the Walla Walla Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization meeting held January 8.

9. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Cummins asked City Council members for a quick return on their preferences for committee assignments and made several clarifications to the list.

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Mayor Cummins reported the Council retreat is scheduled for January 11 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.