

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 14, 2014

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

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

Absent: None.

City staff in attendance: City Manager Nabel Shawa, City Attorney Tim Donaldson, Deputy City Manager Tim McCarty, Parks & Recreation Director Jim Dumont, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, and Deputy City Clerk Jodi Stephens.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/MOMENT OF SILENCE

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

3. PRESENTATIONS

- A. Proclamation declaring May 18 through May 24 as "National Public Works Week."

Mayor Cummins read and presented the proclamation declaring May 18-24, 2014 as "National Public Works week in Walla Walla" to Public Works Director Bealey and thanked the Public Works Department for their work. Public Works Director Bealey thanked the City Council and citizens for the recognition.

- B. Proclamation declaring the month of May 2014 as "Older Americans Month."

Mayor Cummins read and presented the proclamation declaring May 2014 as "Older Americans Month" to Marlene Howard of the Walla Walla County Advisory Council on Aging and Long Term Care. Ms. Howard thanked the City Council for the proclamation and commented on the importance of the work of the Walla Walla County Advisory Council on Aging and Long Term Care.

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- C. Proclamation declaring the month of May 2014 as "Building Safety Month."

Mayor Cummins read and presented the proclamation declaring May 2014 as "Building Safety Month" to Walla Walla Joint Community Development Agency Building Inspector Dave Collette. Mr. Collette thanked Council for this award and commented on the importance of building safety.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Stacy Alexander, 1325 Melrose St., Walla Walla, spoke of being a proud parent of a child in the military. Ms. Alexander asked the citizens of Walla Walla to honor and support our local military with banners through the "Blue Star Banner Program." There are currently twelve other cities in Washington that are participating in this program.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Deputy City Clerk Stephens introduced the Consent Agenda, Items A through R, as follows:

- A. Washington State Liquor Control Board: Change of LLC member for Walla Walla Sweets, Borleske Stadium, 409 E. Rees.
- B. Washington State Liquor Control Board: New application for Birdies Restaurant, 201 E. Rees Ave., Suite A.
- C. Washington State Liquor Control Board: Special occasion license for Walla Walla Valley Wine Alliance event at Reid Center, Whitman College, 280 Boyer Avenue on June 20, 2014.
- D. Washington State Liquor Control Board: Special occasion license for Walla Walla Valley Wine Alliance event at Reid Center (outside seating area), Whitman College, 280 Boyer Avenue on June 20, 2014.
- E. Washington State Liquor Control Board: Special occasion license for Walla Walla Valley Wine Alliance event at The Marcus Whitman Hotel & Conference Center, 6 W. Rose on June 20, 2014.

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- F. Washington State Liquor Control Board: Special occasion license for Walla Walla Valley Wine Alliance event at The Marc Restaurant, 6 W. Rose on June 21, 2014.
- G. Washington State Liquor Control Board: Special occasion license for the Walla Walla Valley Wine Alliance event at Foundry Vineyards, 1111 Abadie Street on June 21, 2014.
- H. Washington State Liquor Control Board: Special occasion license for Walla Walla Valley Alliance event at Charles Smith Wine Tasting Room, 35 S. Spokane Street on June 21, 2014.
- I. Washington State Liquor Control Board: Special occasion license for Walla Walla Valley Wine Alliance event at Whitehouse-Crawford Restaurant, 55 W. Cherry Street on June 21, 2014.
- J. Resolution No. 2014-48 authorizing the City Manager to purchase one new cab & chassis truck with service body from Legacy Ford of Pasco, for a total of \$40,788.59; and one new service cargo body van from Bud Clary Chevrolet of Longview for a total of \$23,893.25 for the Water Division.
- K. Resolution No. 2014-49 declaring 5,800 cubic yards of compost as surplus for 2014 and authorizing the City Manager to sell it at wholesale.
- L. Resolution No. 2014-50 authorizing the City Manager to renew an agreement with Tait North America or their local representative service company for replacement of remaining legacy radio infrastructure for WESCOM Public Safety Communications Systems in an amount not to exceed \$40,000.00.
- M. Resolution No. 2014-51 authorizing reimbursable work from Walla Walla County for the 2014 chip seal projects.
- N. Resolution No. 2014-52 authorizing expenditure of lodging tax revenues and authoring the City Manager to execute tourism promotion agreements.
- O. Resolution No. 2014-53 authorizing the City Manager to execute an enterprise license agreement with Environmental Systems Research

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Institute (ESRI) for \$107,250.00 plus tax over the three-year term of the agreement.

P. Ordinance No. 2014-09 restricting public use of the Veterans Memorial Golf Course.

Q. Approval of Minutes of Work Session held on April 14, 2014.

R. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on April 23, 2014.

Mayor Cummins announced that Item P would be removed from the Consent Agenda for separate consideration.

There was brief discussion on Items K and N.

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

Councilmember Plucker moved to adopt Consent Agenda Items A through R with the exception of Item P. Councilmember Barrow seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

6. ACTIVE AGENDA

P. Ordinance No. 2014-09 restricting public use of the Veterans Memorial Golf Course.

City Manager Shawa reported the new golf course operators are requesting that the Veterans Memorial Golf Course be restricted to golfers for safety and enjoyment. At the Work Session, liability concerns were discussed. The Washington Cities Insurance Authority (WCIA) has indicated the liability for walkers and runners is the same as with golfers. WCIA recommends the installation of appropriate signage.

There was discussion on:

- Reported injuries to joggers or walkers on the golf course. Staff does not have any record or knowledge of injuries resulting from golf activities.
- Obligation of the City to post signage or inform the public of a reasonable or known risk.

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- Golfers run the same risks of injury on the golf course as runners or pedestrians.
- Staff indicated agreement with the installation of signage and working with Whitman College to identify a different entrance for runners. Council is asked to approve banning dogs from the golf course.
- The general public supports the golf course through reduced water rates for the operation.
- Liability risks are the same for juveniles and adults. Recreational liability statutes provide some protection.
- The lessee is able to ask people to leave if they are interfering with golfers.

Mayor Cummins invited public input.

Emily Dietzman, 1812 Old Milton Highway, Walla Walla, indicated she is also speaking on behalf of her father, Dr. Dietzman, who is too ill to attend the meeting and they oppose restricting the golf course to walkers and runners.

Doug Juers, 626 E. Maple, Walla Walla, commented he is both a golfer and a runner and is hoping for some middle ground to continue to have the golf course available for runners.

Richard Weller, 1320 Fairmont, reported he has been running on the golf course for the last forty years as he prefers running on grass versus pavement. Runners should run counter clockwise for safety. He would have no objection to restricting hours for running and has never had a problem with dogs on the course.

Dan Clark, 717 N. Main, Walla Walla, observed there used to be a sign at the golf course and he doesn't see a problem with dogs. Regarding issues at the tee on the first hole at Area 1, he suggested that runners use the service road with perhaps installation of a low fence at the end of the driving range.

Scott Shields, 638 University, Whitman College Cross Country Coach and avid golfer. He has a meeting scheduled for Friday to meet with Mr. Repass and Mr. Early to discuss solutions to issues that have arisen over use of the golf course by runners.

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David Hampson, 626 Whitman Street, Walla Walla, outlined three main reasons he is opposed to restrictions at the golf course. First is trying to fix a problem that does not exist; second is the need to endorse and promote physical activity; and the third is the golf course is publicly owned and the community should be allowed to enjoy it.

Ron Sullivan, 345 E. Chestnut, Walla Walla, an employee at the golf course, spoke in support of restricting access at the golf course due to safety concerns.

Neal Christopherson, 1103 Figueroa Street, Walla Walla, Assistant Cross Country Coach at Whitman College, spoke in opposition to restricting access at the golf course.

Councilmember Barrow moved to defer further discussion and table Ordinance No. 2014-09 for at least thirty days. Councilmember Plucker seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- A. Resolution No. 2014-54 authorizing the City Manager to apply for and accept a Public Works Trust Fund (PWTF) loan for the AMI/AMR Meter Replacement project for \$6,000,000.

City Manager Shawa reported this public works trust fund loan to replace water meters will help the City in complying with state regulations requiring the City to reduce its unaccounted water loss to ten percent. Currently, the City is losing approximately thirty percent of treated water annually. Test areas had a fourteen percent improvement in water loss from the installation of new meters. With this loan, the Council will be able to fund the meter replacement project without rate increases. Estimated payback on the project is less than twelve years. The new water meters have a twenty-year life span.

There was discussion on:

- Having a system that alerts staff to leaks in the water system.
- The new water meters will detect if water is flowing the wrong direction but are not sufficient to meet the backflow requirements mandated by the State.
- The new meters will be lead free to meet current mandates.
- This project will be very beneficial for the community.

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- This low interest loan will result in a considerable savings to the ratepayers. Staff will calculate the savings over the twenty-year loan.

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

Councilmember Pomraning moved to adopt Resolution No. 2014-54. Councilmember Clark seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- B. Approval of accounts payable register dated April 30, 2014 containing check numbers 179752 through 180069, 990616 through 990619, and 8217 through 8246 in the amount of \$2,157,007.50

Councilmember Plucker moved to approve payment of the accounts payable register dated April 30, 2014 containing check numbers 179752 through 180069, 990616 through 990619, and 8217 through 8246 in the amount of \$2,157,007.50 with the exception of the checks to Blue Mountain Action Council and Jerry Cummins. Councilmember Barrow seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

Councilmember Barrow moved to approve payment of the checks to Blue Mountain Action Council and Jerry Cummins. Councilmember Pomraning seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 5 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 2 abstentions by Councilmember Jenkins and Mayor Cummins.

7. COUNCIL MEMBER MEETING REPORTS

Councilmember Morgan reported attendance at a meeting with representatives of the Chamber of Commerce on May 2; the Finance Committee meeting held May 5; volunteered for the pancake breakfast fundraiser with Chief Bieber on May 10; and the Work Session on May 12.

Councilmember Jenkins reported attendance at the Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting held May 7; the Center at the Park Senior Citizens spaghetti dinner held May 9; and the Work Session held May 12.

Councilmember Barrow reported attendance at the Blue Mountain Humane Society Board meeting held April 28; the Lodging Tax Advisory

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Committee meeting held April 28; the Sonbridge Advisory Board meeting held April 30; the Blue Mountain Action Council succession committee meetings held May 5 and May 6; the Water Partnership Board meeting held May 6; and the United Way Board meeting held May 7.

Councilmember Plucker reported attendance at the Finance Committee meeting held May 5; the Parks, Recreation & Urban Forestry Advisory Board meeting held May 5; the Work Session held May 12; and the Fort Walla Walla Museum Board meeting held May 13.

Councilmember Clark reported attendance at Kids Day at Washington Park held April 27; the Sustainability Committee meeting held May 6; the Community Development Block Grant Advisory Committee meeting held May 7; the Work Session held May 12; and the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee meeting held May 13.

Councilmember Pomraning reported attendance at the Planning Commission meeting held May 5; the Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board meeting held May 7; a meeting with representatives of the Chamber of Commerce held May 9; the grand opening of the McCurley Toyota dealership held May 9; the special meeting held May 12; a meeting with City Manager Shawa held May 12; the Work Session held May 12; the Metropolitan Planning Organization workshop held May 13; a meeting with citizens regarding the water meter project held May 14; and the Public Library Board Meeting held May 14.

Mayor Cummins reported attendance at the Memorial Tree Planting for Ned Shafer on April 24; the Housing Authority Board meeting held April 28; the SonBridge Advisory Board meeting held April 29; the National Day of Prayer held May 1; and the Work Session held May 12.

8. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Clark requested that agenda reports include information on how the action supports or implements components of the comprehensive plan.

Councilmember Barrow asked staff to implement a program to educate the public on bicycle safety and licensing requirements.

Councilmember Pomraning asked for data on street project expenditures and improvements to reflect the progress that the City is making on street

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improvements. Mayor Cummins suggested staff determine the amount of time necessary to compile the data.

Mayor Cummins commended City Attorney Donaldson for receipt of an outstanding service award from the Washington State Association of Municipal Attorneys and becoming their president.

Mayor Cummins commended Deputy City Clerk Stephens for her service in the absence of the City Clerk.

City Manager Shawa would like to make the community aware of bicycle licensing and the benefits of the licensing program. Staff would also like to track the data to demonstrate the level of street improvements over time.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Cummins announced the City Council would be recessing to Executive Session to discuss potential litigation to which the City is a party or is likely to become a party pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i). The Executive Session will last no more than two hours and no further action will come before Council in open session.

The meeting was recessed to Executive Session at 9:04 p.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Councilmember Barrow moved to adjourn at 10:10 p.m. Councilmember Morgan seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried and the meeting adjourned at 10:10 pm.