

**WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**November 5, 2014**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

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

Absent: Councilmember Mary Lou Jenkins.

City staff in attendance: City Manager Nabel Shawa, City Attorney Tim Donaldson, Deputy City Manager Tim McCarty, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Parks & Recreation Director Jim Dumont, Finance Manager Jean Teasdale, Assistant City Attorney Preston Frederickson, Communications Manager Rosa Jimenez, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/MOMENT OF SILENCE**

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

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Sarita McCaw, 203 Hope Street, Walla Walla, reported on the Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Campaign; and expressed concerns with the number of people living in poverty within the community, and the limitations on food vouchers for personal care items.

**4. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- A. Washington State Liquor Control Board: New application for Pizza Hut, 580 W. Rose Street.
- B. Washington State Liquor Control Board: Change of location application for Mullan Road Cellar, 1485 W. Rose Street, Suite B.

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- C. Second reading and adoption of Ordinance No. 2014-30 granting to Cascade Natural Gas Corporation, a Washington Corporation, its successors and assigns, a nonexclusive right and franchise for a period of twenty (20) years to construct, maintain and operate in, on and under the present and future streets, alleys, bridges, highways and public rights of way in the City, a gas system, mains, service pipes and other necessary equipment for the purpose of supplying, distributing and selling gas to the City, the inhabitants thereof, and others, and for the distribution of gas for fuel, power, heating and other purposes, subject to the terms and conditions specified in the ordinance; and repealing Ordinance No. 94-33 of the City passed and approved November 16, 1994.
  
- D. Approval of minutes of the regular meeting held October 22, 2014.

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

**Councilmember Plucker moved to adopt Consent Agenda Items A through D. Councilmember Clark seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

**5. ACTIVE AGENDA**

- A. Resolution No. 2014-102 determining that the City will modify and accept a proposed annexation of approximately 5.1 acres being generally located south of Taumarson Road and west of Plaza Way, and determining other matters related thereto.

City Manager Shawa reviewed the proposed annexation area and commented on the letter received from the Walla Walla County Commissioners opposing the annexation based on the issue of annexing a 300 foot portion of Taumarson Road right of way and its impact on road construction and maintenance. One alternative is to annex all of the Taumarson Road right of way from the property boundary to Plaza Way. This would make jurisdictional boundaries more clear and logical. The City is trying to respect and address the County concerns while also meeting the wishes of the petitioner to bring his property into the City limits.

City Attorney Donaldson reported this request is being driven by the Campbell's who have stubbed out City utilities to their property in

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anticipation of developing the property. The City Council changed their policy requiring annexation of property prior to extending City utilities at the suggestion of the County Commissioners. This change in policy is driving this annexation. The City is doing what the County suggested for properties lying outside of the City limits but within the urban growth area instead of having uniform development regulations for these areas.

There was discussion on:

- Whether the owners of the property to the south of this parcel are interested in annexation. Staff indicated the parcel is owned by the same family but are not legally owned by the same person. There has been no interest expressed in annexation of additional properties.
- The County is concerned with liability issues and ability to provide services with "island" type parcels being annexed.
- The City does not need the County's permission to annex additional street right of way along Taumarson to Plaza Way. The annexation of this additional right of way is simply to make it easier to discern road maintenance responsibilities.
- The County has generalized concerns with a "checkerboard" approach to annexations.

Mayor Cummins invited public input.

David Campbell, 124 Newell Street, Walla Walla, indicated he does not know what his brother plans with his property. It is family-owned property but with different ownerships. Staff indicated that Jon Campbell has no interest in annexing his property at this time. There is no latecomer agreement for the utilities that have been extended on Taumarson Road.

**Councilmember Pomraning moved to adopt Resolution No. 2014-102. Councilmember Barrow seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

- B. Public hearing on 2015 property tax levy and other revenues.

City Manager Shawa reported that the property tax levies must be filed with the Walla Walla County Commissioners by November 20. Staff is requesting action on the resolution authorizing an increase and the ordinances levying the special assessments for the fire and police station bonds but not the ordinance approving the regular property tax levy.

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Deputy City Manager McCarty reported that property taxes will drop in 2015 due to the police station bond holiday and reviewed:

- Financial challenges in the general fund necessitating the statutorily allowed one percent increase in the property tax levy.
- Total revenues by type.
- Total general fund revenues by type.
- 2015 property tax calculations and summary.
- Property tax levy rate history.
- City's share of the total overall property tax on an average residential property owner.
- Residents of the City of Walla Walla have the lowest overall property taxes in comparison to the City of College Place and Walla Walla County with a broader range of municipal services.
- Good news in the general fund:
  - Supported less than twenty percent by property taxes.
  - Balanced 2015 -2016 Biennium Budget.
  - Return of City Development Services Department.
  - Restoration of key Public Safety positions.
  - Significant funding of streets projects.
  - Return of City Arborist position.
  - Modest increase in library hours.
  - Added support to Commitment to Community.
  - Improved communication and engagement with citizens and staff.
  - Relatively low property taxes compared to neighboring jurisdictions.

There was discussion on the approximately \$850,000 additional funding for streets from a variety of measures.

Mayor Cummins declared the public hearing open at 7:59 p.m. There being no public testimony, Mayor Cummins declared the public hearing closed.

There were additional comments on:

- Staff has worked hard to lower taxes and increase street spending in the proposed 2015-2016 budget.
- Foregoing the proposed one percent increase to recognize the impact of ongoing utility rate increases on residents.

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- The one percent property tax is cumulative and results in a greater impact in future years. The one percent increase does not have much of an impact on individual citizens. Taxes are going down and services are being restored.

**Councilmember Barrow moved to adopt Resolution No. 2014-103 authorizing a regular property tax increase for the City pursuant to RCW 84.55.120. Councilmember Clark seconded the motion. The motion carried with 5 yes votes and 1 no vote by Mayor Cummins.**

**Councilmember Pomraning moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2014-31 levying the 2015 special assessment property taxes for the Fire Station voter-approved bond payments. Councilmember Morgan seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

**Councilmember Pomraning moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2014-32 levying the 2015 special assessment property taxes for the Police Station voter-approved bond payments. Councilmember Clark seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

Council noted that this action returns over \$500,000 to property tax payers by lowering the police bond tax levy for 2015.

- C. Ordinance No. 2014-40 amending the 2013-2014 maintenance and operations budget.

Ordinance No. 2014-34 amending the capital improvement project budget by adding and closing out projects.

Finance Manager Teasdale reported this is the fourth budget amendment for the second year of the biennium budget and provided an overview of the adjustments.

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

Council commended staff for their excellent budget management.

**Councilmember Plucker moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2014-40. Councilmember Barrow seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

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**Councilmember Plucker moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2014-34. Councilmember Clark seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

D. Approval of minutes of the regular meeting held October 8, 2014.

**Councilmember Morgan moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held October 8, 2014. Councilmember Clark seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 5 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 1 abstention by Councilmember Barrow.**

E. Approval of minutes of the Work Session held October 13, 2014.

**Councilmember Morgan moved to approve the minutes of the Work Session held October 13, 2014. Councilmember Clark seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 5 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 1 abstention by Councilmember Barrow.**

## **6. COUNCIL MEMBER MEETING REPORTS**

Councilmember Morgan reported attendance at the Tourism Walla Walla Board meeting held October 23; the Crime Watch spaghetti dinner held October 31; and the special Work Session held November 3.

Councilmember Barrow reported attendance at the special Work Session held November 3; and the Finance Committee meetings held October 21 and October 23.

Councilmember Plucker reported attendance at the Finance Committee meeting held October 23; the Historic Preservation Commission meeting held October 27; and the special Work Session held November 3.

Councilmember Clark reported attendance at the After School Program launch at Garrison Middle School held October 23; the Georgetown University Energy Prize committee meeting held October 28; the special Work Session held November 3; and the Sustainability Committee meeting held November 4.

Councilmember Pomraning reported attendance at the Emergency Management tabletop exercise held October 29; the special Work Session

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held November 3; and the Metropolitan Planning Organization meeting held November 5.

Mayor Cummins reported attendance at meetings in Washington D.C. regarding the Mill Creek Flood Control study and Highway 12 on October 26 through October 29; the special Work Session held November 3; and the Community Council luncheon held November 5.

Councilmember Clark suggested that Commitment to Community could be very helpful in getting neighborhoods organized in case of local emergencies.

**7. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS**

Councilmember Pomraning reported that the Metropolitan Planning Organization will not be receiving State start-up funds. The policy board has determined they will be hiring a director/lead transportation planner in addition to the one existing staff person. The director/lead transportation planner is anticipated to start on March 1. This two-person office is currently renting space. The overhead for this two-person office seems to be out of scale due to the cost of this rented office space.

**Councilmember Pomraning moved to approve the rental of two cubicles at the City Service Center for the staff of the Walla Walla Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization for a period of one year or more with the details to be worked out by staff. Councilmember Plucker seconded the motion.**

**Councilmember Barrow moved to table this motion to allow staff time to consider the issue more thoroughly and report back to the City Council. Councilmember Morgan seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

Council asked staff to determine whether there is sufficient room and capacity at the City Service Center.

**Councilmember Plucker moved to reappoint the following:**

- **Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee for terms expiring December 31, 2017 – Erendira Cruz; Pamela Elliott; and Keith Weathermon.**

- Lodging Tax Advisory Committee for terms expiring December 31, 2017 – Barbara Knudson and Elio Agostini.
- Parks, Recreation & Urban Forestry Advisory Board for terms expiring December 31, 2017 – Brad Daly and Bruce Murr.
- Planning Commission for a term expiring December 31, 2017 – Larry Bayman.

Councilmember Morgan seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

#### **8. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Cummins announced the City Council would be recessing to Executive Session to discuss with legal counsel 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 business will come before the City Council in open session. The meeting recessed at 8:42 p.m.

#### **9. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Councilmember Morgan moved to adjourn at 9:47 p.m. Councilmember Plucker seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:47 p.m.