

**WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**November 19, 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, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Parks & Recreation Director Jim Dumont, Finance Manager Jean Teasdale, Communications Manager Rosa Jimenez, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

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

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

**3. PRESENTATIONS**

- A. Proclamation declaring the week of November 17 through November 21, 2014 as "International Education Week" in Walla Walla.

Mayor Cummins read and presented the proclamation to Linnea Keatts and two exchange students from Turkey and Pakistan. Mrs. Keatts thanked the City for the proclamation and briefly outlined the goals of the foreign exchange student programs.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No one in the audience chose to address the City Council on any item not on the agenda.

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**5. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- A. Washington State Liquor Control Board: Special occasion license for Shakespeare Uncork'd at the Gesa Power House Theatre on December 4, 2014.
- B. Resolution No. 2014-104 authorizing the purchase of an automated side-loader refuse collection truck from Western Peterbilt in the amount of \$293,473.
- C. Resolution No. 2014-105 awarding the bid to Columbia Pumping and Construction, Inc. for the 2014 wastewater treatment plant – Mill Creek outfall cured-in-place-pipe lining project for \$23,600.
- D. Resolution No. 2014-106 approving submittal of an application for a FEMA Assistance to Firefighters grant for a new pumper truck.

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 Jenkins seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

**6. ACTIVE AGENDA**

- A. Public hearing on 2015-2016 biennium budget.

City Manager Shawa reviewed the highlights of the proposed 2015-2016 budget including:

- The budget is balanced with a projected general fund reserve of fifteen percent.
- The City portion of property taxes is going down for 2015 due to the Police Station bond tax holiday.
- Street funding is increasing by about \$800,000 through a two percent increase in the utility excise tax (formerly known as the payment in lieu of taxes).
- Six positions are being re-established.

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- The City of Walla Walla has the lowest consolidated property tax compared to the unincorporated areas of the County and the City of College Place (based on 2014 levies).
- Proposed fee and rate changes, including modifications to utility rates.
- Street projects.

There was discussion on:

- Financial changes that have allowed the City to increase the ending fund balance; restore positions; and add additional programs.
- The proposed property tax increase is one percent of the total assessed valuation, not an additional one percent increase on individual property taxes.
- Proposed budget includes one-half of the projected operating costs for the aviary. The Friends of the Pioneer Park Aviary are still planning on taking over operation and maintenance.
- Impact on insurance premiums for small businesses if the fire ratings bureau were to change the City's rating. Council indicated they would like to hear from the business community on the City's plan to implement fire inspection fees and fund an additional fire inspector. The primary reasons for implementation of this program are life and safety.
- Impact on the general fund from the reallocation of funding for the Fire Chief and an ambulance billing clerk.
- Projected savings through re-establishment of the City's Development Services Department.

Mayor Cummins declared the public hearing open at 7:56 p.m.

Dominick Elia, 320 S. Roosevelt, Walla Walla, commented that the reported 2 percent increase in the utility excise fee is actually 2.25 percent. This will require a payment of \$1,400,000 from utility ratepayers over the next two years. Mr. Elia expressed concerns with this proposal and the potentially negative impact on the Infrastructure Repair and Replacement program (IRRP). Fixing streets is the number one citizen priority and the City should not be adding programs when it is unable to afford essential programs.

There being no further testimony from the public, Mayor Cummins declared the public hearing closed at 8:01 p.m.

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There was no action taken on this item.

- B. Ordinance No. 2014-33 levying the 2015 regular ad valorem property tax.

Deputy City Manager McCarty provided an overview of the 2015 property tax levy.

Council clarified that individual property taxes are not increasing by one percent. The actual percentage increase to the owner of an average residential home is approximately .24 percent.

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

**Councilmember Pomraning moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2014-33. Councilmember Clark seconded the motion.**

Mayor Cummins indicated he would be voting no on this increase because of the increase in other rates and fees. There were comments by Council on citizens paying for services they want to take care of the community they live in. The City is focusing on the citizen priorities and has a good sense of moving the City forward in the right direction.

**The motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2014-33 carried with 5 yes votes and 2 no votes by Councilmember Jenkins and Mayor Cummins.**

- C. Ordinance No. 2014-35 establishing water, wastewater and stormwater rates, charges and penalties for 2015.

City Manager Shawa reported this ordinance will shift the amounts of the increase scheduled for 2015 from wastewater to water for the necessary infrastructure projects. This reallocation will result in a minor decrease for the average utility customer, although residents that have septic systems and are not hooked up to the City's wastewater will not see a savings offset.

There were comments on the need for the shift in rates to continue to be able to maintain the level of water system repairs as part of the

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infrastructure repair projects. If the rates are not adjusted, the water fund will not have money available to continue with the IRRP projects.

Mayor Cummins invited public input.

Dominick Elia, 302 S. Roosevelt, Walla Walla, commented that the Infrastructure Advisory Committee is in complete agreement with the recommendation to adjust water and wastewater rates.

**Councilmember Pomraning moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2014-35. Councilmember Barrow seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

- D. Ordinance No. 2014-36 establishing various solid waste (sanitation and landfill) collection, disposal, and recycling rates, charges, and penalties for 2015 and 2016.

City Manager Shawa reported this is a necessary increase in sanitation and landfill rates. This is the first rate increase in five years due to numerous efforts to keep rates low.

Councilmember Jenkins left the Council meeting at 8:37 p.m.

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

**Councilmember Barrow moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2014-36. Councilmember Plucker seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

- E. Ordinance No. 2014-37 allowing the interest income on the investment of City funds, except restricted funds, to be apportioned to the general fund.

City Manager Shawa reported this ordinance continues the practice of sweeping the interest income from all non-restricted funds to the general fund.

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

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**Councilmember Morgan moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2014-37.  
Councilmember Clark seconded the motion. The motion unanimously  
carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

- F. Ordinance No. 2014-38 amending Municipal Code Chapter 13.10 to replace "Municipal Utilities in Lieu of Tax Fee" with "Utility Excise Tax" and increasing the excise tax levied on sanitation, wastewater, water, stormwater, and landfill revenues from 10.75 percent to 13 percent effective January 1, 2015.

City Manager Shawa reported the increase in the utility excise tax is key to the transportation funding package proposed by staff. This action will address the citizens' number one priority which is fixing city streets. The excise tax increase will increase funding by approximately \$700,000 in both 2015 and 2016. Citizens have been willing to support new taxes and fees for streets because the money has been spent on streets.

Mayor Cummins invited public input.

Dominick Elia, 302 S. Roosevelt, Walla Walla, commented this excise tax is not intended to be used for streets. The City is essentially adding a \$700,000 expense to the utility costs every year which will be borne by utility rate payers.

There were comments on:

- This increase is not diverting any current street funding. It will add more money to repair streets. The citizens want roads repaired.
- The IRRP principle is that streets will not be fixed if the water and wastewater pipes are not failing. The City is trying to improve its infrastructure and improve streets.

**Councilmember Barrow moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2014-38.  
Councilmember Morgan seconded the motion. The motion unanimously  
carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

- G. Ordinance No. 2014-39 approving the establishment of an interfund loan policy.

City Manager Shawa reported this will give the City Manager very limited authority to allow short-term loans between funds.

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City Attorney Donaldson clarified this is an end of year issue raised by the State Auditor's office. This allows the City Manager to authorize a temporary interfund loan under very specific circumstances between the second Wednesday in December and the second Wednesday in January to facilitate accounting between funds. There was discussion on requirements that loans are only made to solvent funds. Staff explained the purpose of the interfund loans. Other cities have similar policies.

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

**Councilmember Plucker moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2014-39. Councilmember Barrow seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

- H. Resolution No. 2014-107 approving an interagency agreement with Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) for the 2015 chip, choke and fog project in the amount of \$407,817.

City Manager Shawa reported this was the maintenance process used on Myra Road this year. The Washington State Department of Transportation will be in the area in 2015. Staff would like to take advantage of their expertise, equipment and economies of scale to use the chip, choke and fog pavement preservation treatments for Second Avenue from Howard Street to Rose Street and Howard Street from Prospect Road to Tietan Street.

Concerns were expressed with the administrative overhead and indirect costs charged by the Department of Transportation. Staff indicated they have brought this issue to the attention of the Department of Transportation and will continue to monitor costs.

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

**Councilmember Morgan moved to adopt Resolution No. 2014-107. Councilmember Clark seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

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- I. Resolution No. 2014-108 ratifying submission of an application to the Department of Ecology for a grant in the amount of \$441,500 for a regenerative air sweeper.

City Manager Shawa reported the opportunity arose to apply for a grant for a regenerative air sweeper. The stormwater plan outlines a schedule for street sweeping, however, due to limitations of available labor and equipment, the City is unable to meet these goals. This grant also covers seventy-five percent of the operation and maintenance for three years. Staff believes this is a good opportunity.

Council asked where the City would come up with the required matching funds. Staff responded the matching funds would be covered by money currently set-aside for replacement equipment in the vehicle equipment replacement fund. There was brief discussion on whether it was necessary to bring the agreement back before Council for approval if the City received the grant. It was the consensus of Council the grant agreement did not need to be brought back for separate approval.

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

**Councilmember Barrow moved to adopt Resolution No. 2014-108. Councilmember Clark seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

- J. Approval of minutes of the Work Session held November 3, 2014.

**Councilmember Plucker moved to approve the minutes of the Work Session held November 3, 2014. Councilmember Clark seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

- K. Approval of the October 31, 2014 accounts payable register containing check numbers 181674 through 182066; 990645 through 990648; and 8342 through 8354 in the amount of \$3,755,106.45.

**Councilmember Plucker moved to approve payment of the October 31, 2014 accounts payable register containing check numbers 181674 through 182066; 990645 through 990648; and 8342 through 8354 in the amount of \$3,755,106.45 with the exception of the check to Jerry**

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

**Councilmember Plucker moved to approve payment of the check to Jerry Cummins. Councilmember Barrow seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 5 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 1 abstention by Mayor Cummins.**

**7. COUNCIL MEMBER MEETING REPORTS**

Councilmember Morgan reported attendance at a meeting with County Public Works Director Randy Glaeser on November 12 regarding the Campbell annexation; and the Chamber of Commerce legislative luncheon held November 12.

Councilmember Barrow reported attendance at a meeting regarding the City's legislative priorities held November 7; the Chamber of Commerce legislative luncheon held November 12; the Work Session held November 17; the Homelessness Awareness meeting held November 18; and the Youth Alliance meeting held November 19.

Councilmember Plucker reported attendance at the Work Session held November 17; and the Joint Community Development Agency Board meeting held November 17.

Councilmember Clark reported attendance at the Georgetown University Energy Prize committee meeting held November 6; the Chamber of Commerce legislative luncheon held November 12; the Friends of the Library media sale held November 14; the Borleske Stadium Association Board meeting held November 17; the Work Session held November 17; the Homelessness Awareness meeting held November 18; and the Civil Service Commission meeting held November 19.

Councilmember Pomraning reported attendance at the Metropolitan Planning Organization meeting held November 5; the Veteran's Day parade held November 11; a meeting with County Public Works Director Randy Glaeser on November 12 regarding the Campbell annexation; the Public Library Board meeting held November 12; the Chamber of Commerce legislative luncheon held November 12; a meeting of the Mill Creek workgroup and students from Washington State University College of Engineering and Architecture held November 13; a meeting with the

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Public Library Director held November 18; the Homelessness Awareness meeting held November 18; and the Water & Wastewater Advisory Committee meeting held November 19.

Mayor Cummins reported attendance at a meeting regarding the City's legislative priorities held November 7; a meeting with Governor Inslee regarding the Public Works Board; the Leadership Walla Walla program on November 12; the Chamber of Commerce legislative luncheon held November 12; the Borleske Stadium Association Board meeting held November 17; and the entrance conference with representatives of the State Auditor's office held November 18.

**8. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS**

There was discussion on the need for a warming center for the homeless people within the community and the possibility of using the Carnegie building or new police station. Staff was encouraged to continue working with the County and other non-profit agencies to address the need for a warming center during winter months.

**Councilmember Morgan moved to appoint the following members to the Hotel & Motel Commission:**

- Kyle Mussman – Marcus Whitman Hotel & Conference Center
- Tonya Dundas – La Quinta Inn
- Kay Wessel – Best Western Suites
- Nate Carlile – Hampton Inn
- Jennifer Pierce – Holiday Inn Express
- Andrea Glassmire – Comfort Inn
- Jeff Hermann – Red Lion Inn
- Danny Patel – Super 8 and America's Best Value Inn
- Terra Luthi - Courtyard by Marriott.

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

There was discussion on the issue of putting a ballot measure before the voters in February regarding a bond for construction of two swimming pools. Staff reported that the request has been made to the City's Bond Counsel, Roy Koegen, but with the Thanksgiving holiday, it may be unrealistic to expect the ordinance in time for inclusion on the December 3 Council agenda.

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**Councilmember Barrow moved to go on record as supporting a two pool option at the Memorial Pool site as a bond initiative at a future election. Councilmember Pomraning seconded the motion.**

Councilmember Morgan indicated he would be abstaining on this item since he was unable to attend the November 17 Work Session when this issue was discussed.

There was discussion on the intent of the City Council to provide a green light for the Rebuild Memorial Pool committee to begin a campaign. It is not the intent of the City Council to commit to a special election prior to having the issue on a published Council agenda. There was additional discussion on the timing of an election and project construction if a bond is approved.

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

**The motion to go on record as supporting a two pool option at the Memorial Pool site as a bond initiative at a future election carried with 5 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 1 abstention by Councilmember Morgan.**

City Manager Shawa introduced:

Resolution No. 2014-109 adopting the City's state legislative priorities; and Resolution No. 2014-110 adopting the City's federal legislative priorities.

The proposed legislative priorities were discussed by the City Council at their November 17 Work Session. Copies of the proposed resolutions have been provided to the City Council.

City Attorney Donaldson asked that the City Council expressly invite comments from the audience both for and against the proposed legislative priorities.

There was discussion on whether these items were time sensitive.

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**Councilmember Plucker moved to table consideration of Resolution No. 2014-109 and Resolution No. 2014-110 to the next regular City Council meeting to allow the public an opportunity to review and comment on them. Councilmember Morgan seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

City Attorney Donaldson reported staff is reviewing the consent to annex agreements on file and there may be an opportunity to annex additional property in the area of the Campbell annexation. Staff is trying to address the concerns raised by the County regarding the annexation of portions of streets.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

**There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.**