

**WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL**  
**Work Session Minutes**  
**May 12, 2014**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Cummins called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

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

Absent: Councilmember Jim Barrow.

City staff in attendance: City Manager Nabel Shawa, Deputy City Manager Tim McCarty, Finance Manager Jean Teasdale, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Public Works Operation Manager Mori Struve, Civil Engineer Monte Puymon, Parks & Recreation Director Jim Dumont, City Engineer Neal Chavre, Utilities Engineer Frank Nicholson, Street Supervisor George Bell, Sustainability Coordinator Melissa Warner, Solid Waste Manager Damon Taam, and Deputy City Clerk Jodi Stephens.

**2. ACTIVE AGENDA**

A. Loan application to the Public Works Trust Fund for installation of new high accuracy residential water meters and automated metering infrastructure (fixed base radio read network).

Public Works Director Ki Bealey reviewed:

- Project is to be funded with a \$6,000,000 dollar loan. Loan details include a 2.55% interest rate, no local match required, no loan fee, and repayment period is five to twenty years.
- The new water meters will be more accurate resulting in a payback period of twelve years. The installation will be hired out versus city personnel doing the project.
- Replacing existing water meters with new radio read water meters will reduce unaccounted water loses due to inaccurate water meter readings. New meters will pick up additional revenue and it is anticipated water rates will not need to be raised.

A majority of Council expressed support for this project.

B. Veterans Memorial Golf Course – for golf use only.

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Parks and Recreation Director Jim Dumont reported they are requesting restricted access on the Veterans Memorial Golf Course to address safety concerns. It is an industry standard to restrict golf course areas for golf use only. Walkers, joggers and dogs disturb members that pay to use the course. This was taken before the Parks, Recreation and Urban Forestry Advisory Board and they voted unanimously to recommend restricting access.

The new operator of the course, Mike Early, reported on their safety concerns and liability issues. Mr. Early expressed concerns that runners, joggers, and people walking their dogs will be hit by golf balls. They tend to be inattentive to the people who are playing golf and are on the fairways. Ninety percent appear to be school-aged groups and cross-country runners. This is a major concern. This is leased property for a golf course.

There was discussion on:

- Obtaining input from the runners, joggers and walkers before restricting access.
- The golf course is for golfers and is not intended to be a City park.
- At what point will the potential liability cease to exist if the restrictions are enacted.
- Ensuring the area is adequately posted advising people of the potential danger rather than restricting access.
- This would be an opportune time to notify area schools if the Council determines to restrict access to the golf course.

This issue will be revisited at the May 14, 2014 City Council meeting.

### C. Transportation funding sources on capital projects.

Public Works Director Bealey and City Engineer Chavre reviewed current funding and potential new sources of funding for transportation related needs such as bridges, sidewalks, ADA compliance and street/utility repairs when all of the utility systems are not needing replacement. Current funding is inadequate to address the backlog of existing needs.

City Manager Shawa reported this is for education and information only. The majority of residential streets are ineligible for grants. A traffic analysis needs to be done on the Alder/Clinton intersection to determine the necessity of a traffic signal. The current signal is not in compliance with ADA requirements.

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There was discussion on:

- Mandated upgrades to ADA ramps and Federal funding eligibility if the City isn't in compliance.
- Potential new revenue sources.

D. Bridge Program update.

Civil Engineer Puymon reported there are currently twenty-seven bridges, eighteen of which are over their life span. Regular inspections need to be completed, and there is currently no funding in the street fund to cover this cost.

There was brief discussion on whether bridges located in parking lots are private or public.

E. Sudbury Landfill Hours Survey Report and Recommendation.

Solid Waste Manager Taam reported a survey was taken September 9 through October 3 regarding usage at the Sudbury landfill regional facility. The landfill utilizes 125 out of the 800 acres. Current hours at the landfill are 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The proposed hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

There was discussion on:

- Residential use of the landfill from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Truck usage needs to support hours at the landfill.
- Cross training employees to work different areas and hiring temporary versus full time employees.
- Staging employee hours.
- Tiered fees for use of the landfill.
- If Council approves, staff would like to implement the new schedule by August or September.

#### 4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.