

**WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL**  
**Work Session Minutes**  
**June 9, 2014**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Cummins called the meeting to order at 4:00 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 Nabil Shawa, Police Chief Scott Bieber, Fire Chief Bob Yancey, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Parks & Recreation Director Jim Dumont, Finance Manager Jean Teasdale, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

**2. ACTIVE AGENDA**

A. Mutual Aid Charge-back Discussion.

City Manager Shawa commented the City started looking at recovering the cost of providing services to neighboring communities.

Fire Chief Yancey reported the Fire Department had drafted a contract and mailed it to the Fire Districts and City of College Place regarding recovering the costs for deploying the City's technical response team. The contract provided for an annual payment of \$1000 and actual costs for deployments on behalf of other communities or a minimum payment of \$2400 plus actual expenses. No other agencies, other than the City's public works department, chose to participate by paying the annual \$1000 fee.

There was discussion on area provided services, ensuring adequate coverage remains within the City, billing for actual cost to City including overtime, and how assistance is requested.

Police Chief Bieber reported the Police Department reviewed two opportunities to recover the cost of providing services to other jurisdictions. These two areas were the Emergency Services Unit and the computer forensics lab. Police Chief Bieber reviewed the use statistics for these services for both the City and other agencies.

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There was brief discussion on services provided by the computer forensics lab.

### **B. Update and discussion on Memorial Pool.**

Parks & Recreation Director Dumont reported the "Rebuild Memorial Pool" committee is a community group that has been meeting for over a year. The committee initially wanted to work independently without the assistance of the City but then reached a point where assistance was necessary. The City hired a professional consultant, Rowley International, to determine the feasibility of rebuilding Memorial Pool. The draft report has been distributed and reviewed. This report contains five options with construction and soft costs in 2014 dollars:

1. Cost \$2,900,000 – Renovate existing pool tank and diving well, new deck, new mechanical system, and new bathhouse.
2. Cost \$3,470,000 – Renovate existing site, expand pool shell to a 25 yard by 50 meter pool, new deck, new mechanical system, and new bathhouse.
3. Cost \$4,440,000 – Renovate existing site, new 25 yard by 25 meter pool, new child's pool, new mechanical systems, new deck, and new bathhouse.
4. Cost \$5,700,000 – Renovate existing site, new 25 yard by 50 meter pool, new child's pool, new mechanical systems, new deck, and new bathhouse.
5. Cost undetermined but likely more than Option 4 – Renovate existing site, provide new multiple use recreation and competition municipal swimming pool, new mechanical system, new decks, and new bathhouse.

Next steps are to review the options and if the committee agrees, eliminate options 1 and 5. Staff then anticipates using Peak Democracy to seek community input. The consultant is also being asked to provide the anticipated operational costs for the options since it is unlikely the pool would be self sustaining by user fees.

There was discussion on:

- Investing in proposals put forward by special interest groups and their ability to sway an open community feedback process.

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- The need to determine what the general community feels is an adequate swimming pool.
- Attendance at open swim times the last year Memorial Pool was operational.
- The difficulty in educating the public as to the differing needs.
- How Peak Democracy can help the City identify issues and narrow options with the potential for a follow-up with a statistically-valid survey.
- Total cost of construction, operations and maintenance must be fully-disclosed. Admission costs will also need to be determined and communicated as this was a concern of some residents in the last aquatic facility election.
- Promoting the positives of having a pool in the community.

C. Financial close-out of police station construction.

City Manager Shawa reported there is a little over \$400,000 remaining from construction of the new police station. The Council had already determined any excess funds would be returned to the voters. This issue has been reviewed by the Finance Committee and they recommend a partial "property tax holiday" in 2015. This will save property owners an average of \$.20 per thousand assessed value on the police station bond.

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

D. Discussion on school zone flashers operations.

City Manager Shawa reported the majority of the existing school zone flashers are solar powered so are not effective when they are activated all-day long during the winter months.

Public Works Director Bealey introduced Katie Christianson, Safe Travels Coalition, and Steve Olsen, Walla Walla Public Schools. Mr. Bealey reported the solar powered flashers do not operate in the winter to acceptable standards. There is no clear regulatory guidance regarding the hours that school zone flashers should be operated. Studies support the effectiveness of flashers at reducing vehicle speed but not whether they are more effective when operated at targeted times versus all day long. The beacons shall be flashed at a rate of not less than 50 nor more than 60 times per minute. During the winter months, most solar-powered flashers in Walla Walla are not meeting this standard. They are not

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suitable to operate nine hours a day, especially during the winter months. Hard-wired units are more expensive, so are more challenging to implement due to a lack of funding.

The school zone safety team discussed options to achieve the best combination of safety, effectiveness, clarity to the traveling public, consistency in the message and enforcement:

- A. Sign the school zones 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday (change current signage) and run the flashers at targeted arrival and departure times;
- B. Sign the school zones with "When Children Present" and run the flashers at targeted arrival and departure times; or
- C. Sign the school zones with "When Flashing" and run the flashers at targeted arrival and departure times.

Research was done on how other cities, school districts, and the state handle the issue. The school zone safety team recommends the flasher operations begin in the morning 30 minutes prior to the start of school until 10 minutes after the start and 10 minutes prior to the release of children in the afternoon until 30 minutes after the release. These same standards would apply for early release times. If flashers are present, then the school zones shall be signed "When Flashing." If no flashers are present, then the school zones shall be signed "When Children are Present." This is believed to provide the greatest clarity to drivers with the highest level of emphasis placed at the most crucial student travel period.

There was discussion on:

- What the term "When Children are Present" might mean to drivers.
- The need to be consistent with the message.
- Ensuring the flashers attract driver attention and target children safety.
- The focus of the school zone safety team is the schools within the Walla Walla Public School system.
- Seeking consistency of the message and enforcement.

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

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**3. OTHER BUSINESS**

Councilmember Barrow indicated he was going to ask the City Council to consider rescinding the interim zoning regulations governing recreational marijuana businesses at the regular meeting on June 11.

**4. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.