

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Work Session Minutes
July 7, 2014

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

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

Absent: Councilmember Allen Pomraning

City staff in attendance: City Manager Nabel Shawa, Deputy City Manager Tim McCarty, Police Chief Scott Bieber, Parks & Recreation Director Jim Dumont, Finance Manager Jean Teasdale, CDBG Coordinator Linda Kastning, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

2. ACTIVE AGENDA

A. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Consolidated Plan update.

Deputy City Manager McCarty reported the public hearing on the CDBG Consolidated Plan is scheduled for July 23 and reviewed the objectives based on data, existing plans and public input:

- Promote the preservation, development and sustainability of affordable housing.
- Promote healthy vibrant neighborhoods.
- Maintain and enhance the quality of life for all citizens of Walla Walla.
- Support the retention and creation of employment opportunities.

Deputy City Manager McCarty and CDBG Coordinator Kastning reviewed the proposed budget for 2014 and discussed the allocation of funds in accordance with the CDBG guidelines. There was discussion on whether funds can be used for indigent legal defense, subsidizing youth recreation programs, and housing programs such as Habitat to Humanity.

Mayor Cummins invited public input.

Steven Moss, Executive Director of the Blue Mountain Action Council, 1520 Kelly Place, Walla Walla, commented on the CDBG planning grant

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received by the City for a youth homeless shelter and asked that some of the CDBG funds be allocated for capital improvements to construct a youth facility. Mr. Moss requested that not all of the CDBG funds be earmarked. There was brief discussion on the process and amending the CDBG funding budget.

Merit Hopson, 724 Carrie Avenue, Walla Walla, had positive comments on the work of Commitment to Community.

Oscar Sanchez, 209 West Whitman Drive, College Place, commented on the work he does for Commitment for Community and the impact of their services in neighborhoods.

Norma Wilcox, 320 N. 7th Avenue, Apartment O, Walla Walla, reported on the need for activities for youth and teaching children to interact in acceptable ways.

Jock Edwards, no address provided, commented on the importance of the work performed by Commitment to Community and why the City should invest in the social fabric of neighborhoods.

Nancy Jacobsen, Commitment to Community, introduced and thanked neighbors from the Edith/Carrie, Washington Park, and Green Park neighborhoods for attending.

Scott Bieber, Police Chief, felt that Commitment to Community is an added value to the community.

Jim Dumont, Parks & Recreation Director, commented on the impacts made by Commitment to Community on the Jefferson and Washington park neighborhoods.

The City Council thanked audience members for their attendance and support.

There were comments by Council on the need to focus efforts on what is practicable, the backlog of needs, and the work of the CDBG Planning Committee.

- B. Police Department updates:
 - 1. Traffic safety report.
 - 2. Gang activity updated.

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3. Department of Justice Cops Hiring Program.

Police Chief Bieber reviewed:

- Recent high profile pedestrian/vehicle accidents and the contributing factors to these accidents.
- Enforcement statistics and focus.
- Traffic tickets versus accidents.
- Recent gang incidents, enforcement and statistics.
- Gang enforcement strategies under consideration including the "hope" and "health" strategies.
- Department of Justice COPS Hiring Grant for two additional police officers. Total estimated cost over a four year period for these two additional officers is \$671,875.63. The grant would cover \$250,000 which would leave the City's cost at \$421,875.63.

There was discussion on:

- Changing the "National Night Out" to put it back in local neighborhoods versus making it another special event in Pioneer Park.
- Using public outreach for the weekly "most wanted" program.
- The different crime watch programs and changing current communication strategies.
- The cost of hiring additional police officers and lack of funding available other than raising taxes or reducing other expenses.
- New officers would be integrated into the patrol program and existing vehicles are available.

Mayor Cummins invited public input.

Nancy Jacobsen, Commitment to Community, commended the efforts of Police Chief Bieber and commented neighborhoods are looking forward to getting to know their assigned police officers better.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

City Manager Shawa reported on meetings held last year with representatives of the Umbra Group from Umbria, Italy. Due to similarities between the two communities, they are interested in pursuing a sister city relationship with Walla Walla. An invitation has been extended for two representatives of Walla Walla to travel to Umbria, Italy at no cost to the City. Councilmember Barrow had met with the representatives last year when he served as Mayor and is willing to travel.

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There was discussion on possible candidates for the second representative and the need to move cautiously in establishing another sister city.

It was the consensus of Council to support a delegation, at no cost to the City, of Councilmember Jim Barrow and someone of Italian heritage associated with the Italian Heritage Association.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.