

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Work Session Minutes
September 8, 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, Parks & Recreation Director Jim Dumont, Finance Manager Jean Teasdale, Communications Manager Rosa Jimenez, Parks Maintenance Supervisor Joan Schille, Utilities Engineer Frank Nicholson, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

2. ACTIVE AGENDA

A. Pioneer Park Aviary fundraising update.

Parks & Recreation Director Dumont reviewed the history of aviary funding over the last three years and the fundraising efforts by local citizens to keep the aviary open. Staff is recommending closure due to the Friends of the Pioneer Park Aviary failing to raise the \$185,000 in capital funds. Council had set August 27 as the deadline for fund raising.

Shane Laib, Chair of Friends of Pioneer Park Aviary, asked for a sixty-day extension for fundraising. They currently have grant applications outstanding; have raised over \$7500 this past weekend; an anonymous donor has pledged \$1 for every \$2 raised; they have \$5000 in donated wine and \$2500 in donated art for their Fall Festival of Foliage and Feathers in October. The Friends of the Pioneer Park Aviary are willing to take over aviary operations as soon as the goal is met for the capital improvements.

There was discussion on:

- The timing of a decision on whether to close the aviary due to the number of tasks that must be performed and the time-sensitivity of these tasks due to weather conditions.

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- The matching pledge is for money raised after August 22 up to a maximum of \$50,000.
- The percentage of pledges that actually follow through with cash.
- The \$380,000 in capital funds only addresses the net pen and water quality of Bryant Creek. It does not address the individual pens and hatchery.
- The basic structure for operating the facility has been discussed but not the details.
- The money raised through the utility bill round-up program is between \$10,000 and \$12,000 annually. This is the last year for designation of this program for the aviary. This money goes to the City and not the Friends of the Pioneer Park Aviary.
- The City Council allowed the Friends of the Pioneer Park Aviary six months to raise the necessary capital funds. It does not appear there is sufficient financial support for the aviary from the community.

Mayor Cummins invited public input.

Donna Johannessen, 1427 Boyer, commented that new birds are not an issue as staff can collect the eggs.

Councilmembers expressed their individual opinions on whether an extension of time should be granted.

Council indicated that any action on this issue will be considered at their regular meeting of September 10.

B. Community Pool – Peak Democracy results.

Staff reported on the two options presented in a survey on Peak Democracy and reviewed the results of this informal survey. Staff recommends the use of a statistically valid survey at a cost not to exceed \$10,000 to determine if citizens will support a bond issue for construction of a community pool and a maintenance and operations levy. This is a small cost compared to the cost of a special election.

There was discussion on survey methods.

Mayor Cummins invited public input.

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Dick Swenson, 606 Craig Street, Walla Walla, asked to know the individual positions of Councilmembers and commented on the need to educate citizens before an election is held.

Becky Kennedy, 609 University, Walla Walla, member of the citizens' "Rebuild Memorial Pool" committee, reported they would take on the educational role and had questions regarding the proposed statistically-valid survey.

Brad Daly, 601 Village Way, Walla Walla, had questions on the use of voter registration rolls for a survey.

Ann North-Jones, 420 Avalon, Walla Walla, asked how long a survey will take to perform. The "Rebuild Memorial Pool" committee would like Council to put the financing issues on the February 2015 ballot. The committee will take on the sales and marketing of the ballot issue. There were brief comments on the legal constraints on information the City can provide during an election.

Patricia Yenney, 901 Scenic View, College Place, commented on the support received for their float during the Fair & Frontier Days parade.

Brad Daly, 601 Village Way, Walla Walla, encouraged the City Council to go forward with a statistically-valid survey.

It was the consensus of a majority of Council to have staff move forward with a statistically-valid survey.

C. Update on water management partnership activities.

Chris Hyland, Executive Director, Walla Walla Watershed Management Partnership, provided a review and update of the activities of the watershed management partnership. There was brief discussion on the benefits of the partnership and using an integrated approach to water management.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

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4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.