

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Work Session Minutes
November 17, 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, Chris Plucker, Allen Pomraning and Mayor Jerry Cummins. (Councilmember Plucker arrived at 4:45 p.m.)

Absent: Councilmember Dick Morgan.

City staff in attendance: City Manager Nabel Shawa, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Parks & Recreation Director Jim Dumont, Finance Manager Jean Teasdale, Communications Manager Rosa Jimenez, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

2. ACTIVE AGENDA

- A. High level overall review and discussion of the 2015-2016 biennium budget.

City Manager Shawa provided a high-level overview of the proposed 2015-2016 biennium budget.

There was discussion on:

- Lifecycle of street repairs is too long for the City to catch up with the current level of street maintenance funds.
- The proposed budget includes partial funding for the aviary for both 2015 and 2016. The Friends of the Pioneer Park Aviary is due to remit the capital funds to the City of January 2, 2015, with a report to the City on December 1 on their pledge collection efforts.
- The funds for Commitment to Community will be used to pay for neighborhood services under a contract. Funds will not be used for administrative overhead.
- Implementation of an ambulance service fee for call-outs that do not result in a transfer.
- Potential impact of the Affordable Care Act on ambulance services provided by the City.

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

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B. 2015 Legislative Priorities.

City Manager Shawa distributed a draft listing of the City's 2015 State and Federal legislative priorities.

There was discussion on:

- Request for sharing excise tax collections on recreational marijuana.
- Funding for Mill Creek.
- Educating legislators on the needs of local government.
- Including infrastructure funding support on this list for Federal priorities.

Mayor Cummins invited public input.

Patricia Yenney expressed her appreciation to the City Council and staff for their efforts on behalf of citizens of Walla Walla.

C. Swimming pool survey review.

Parks and Recreation Director Dumont reviewed the results of the statistically-valid citizen survey conducted by Cobalt Community Research. This survey reflects that about seventy percent of respondents would support a bond measure for construction of a standard swimming pool; and fifty-nine percent would support adding a second zero-depth pool. Sixty-nine percent of the survey respondents would support an assessment to fund fifty percent of the pool maintenance and operations, with remaining costs covered by admission fees.

Staff recommends Council consider calling a special election for February 10, 2015 to put before the voters a bond on the two pool option and also for the levy of a special assessment for maintenance and operations. These measures must be filed with the County Auditor no later than December 26.

There was discussion on:

- The two pool option is the only one that would serve the entire community including the needs of young children.
- How much time is necessary to educate the community and encourage a positive response on a ballot measure.

Mayor Cummins invited public input.

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Brad Daly, 601 Village Way, Walla Walla, encouraged the City Council to proceed with the two pool option.

Becky Kennedy, 609 University Street, Walla Walla, commented on the timing of the election. The Rebuild Memorial Pool committee is ready to move forward with a February election.

Anne North-Jones, 1420 Avalon, Walla Walla, indicated her support for the concept of securing commitments for funding from non-City residents. The Rebuild Memorial Pool committee supports the two pool option and is just seeking the City Council's approval to begin a campaign.

Patricia Yenney and HB Van Ausdale both indicated their support for a February election.

Becky Kennedy had additional comments regarding the need for a pool and election.

Traci Hickman, 1835 Woodmere Loop, Walla Walla, reported on the importance of a zero-depth pool for families with young children and elderly residents.

Anne North-Jones asked the Council for a decision on calling a special election as soon as possible.

There was additional discussion on:

- The need to educate the public to ensure clarity on the proposal.
- Putting the item on a Council agenda so the public is aware the issue is coming before the City Council for a vote.
- Whether an election in February allows enough time to educate and reach the undecided voters.
- Timing of City Council action and election dates.

It was the consensus of a majority of Council to bring forward an item on the December 3 agenda to call a special election for a February election.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

Councilmember Plucker reported the Walla Walla Joint Community Development Agency is proceeding forward with the transition back to

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separate City and County departments, including dividing the assets between the City and County.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.