

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Work Session Minutes
December 8, 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, Allen Pomraning and Mayor Jerry Cummins

Absent: Councilmember Chris Plucker.

City staff in attendance: City Manager Nabel Shawa, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Finance Manager Jean Teasdale, Solid Waste Manager Damon Taam, Principal Engineer Frank Nicholson, Sustainability Coordinator Melissa Warner, Engineer Nathan Black, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

2. ACTIVE AGENDA

- A. Graphic art images of Mill Creek, west of 9th Street. Presentation by Professor Michael Sanchez, Washington State University School of Engineering & Construction, Landscape Architecture program and students.

Professor Sanchez reviewed the value and importance the community places on Mill Creek; and the comprehensive approach they used to develop ecological concepts for Mill Creek starting at Rose Street and 3rd Avenue westerly to Gose Street. Professor Sanchez introduced the landscape architecture students that worked on this project: Sierra, Ashley, and Susie. Each of the students reviewed the concepts and explained the components for their area of the plan.

There was discussion on:

- Phasing of the proposed improvements.
- Whether existing soils could support a year-round stream flow if the concrete is removed.
- It is likely that additional water rights would be necessary because of the diversion requirement for Yellowhawk Creek.
- The proposal would require the acquisition of additional property.
- Creating a natural hydrologic geometry and economical balance in restoring Mill Creek.

WORK SESSION MINUTES

DECEMBER 8, 2014

PAGE 2

- All proposed improvements would fall within the 200-foot setbacks for compliance with shoreline management plans.
- A focus on flood control and erosion prevention has a domino effect on other ecological factors. Flood control has been considered in the design proposals.

Mayor Cummins invited public input.

Dorothy Knudson, 250 Rancho Villa, Walla Walla, commented on the need to consider affordable housing for the Myra Road area of Mill Creek if beautification efforts are undertaken.

Jim Wavada, Department of Ecology, Spokane, felt these were very interesting concepts and asked for a copy of the presentation.

There was additional discussion on:

- Most successful projects have included a comingling of housing types and income levels.
- Inclusion of representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Ad Hoc Mill Creek working group in discussions.
- Concepts add a social and aesthetic component to flood control solutions.
- Importance of collaboration to create a lasting and memorable project by using a team of professionals with a vision.

Council expressed their appreciation to Profession Sanchez and his students for their work on these concepts.

The meeting was recessed for a break at 4:55 p.m. and reconvened at 5:00 p.m.

B. Solid Waste Management Plan Review.

City Manager Shawa reported the solid waste management plan will be on the City Council's December 17 agenda for approval.

Public Works Director Bealey introduced Michelle Leonard, SCS Engineers, Melissa Warner, Sustainability Coordinator, and Jim Wavada, Department of Ecology. Sustainability Coordinator Warner introduced the members of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee.

WORK SESSION MINUTES

DECEMBER 8, 2014

PAGE 3

Ms. Leonard provided an overview of the plan purpose, requirements, process, contents, goals, objectives and next steps. This plan provides a road map for solid waste handling over a twenty-year period. The plan does not impose mandates but serves as a guide and meets State requirements.

There was discussion on:

- Offering curbside recycling services in the urban growth area.
- Disposal of biomedical and pharmaceutical waste.
- Enforcement of illegal dumping.
- Reducing the amount of shipping material, such as Styrofoam, through legislation or prohibitions. Mr. Wavada reviewed the purpose of the statewide Product Stewardship Council.
- Metrics for the specified objectives.
- Neighborhood groups are very effective in promoting recycling.
- Recycling and organic priorities.
- Variable can sizes are addressed as “pay as you throw” in the plan.
- Using agricultural waste as energy generation for an independent source of energy.
- City liability due to operation of the landfill and the loss of landfill revenue by reducing waste while expenses remain the same.

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

C. Discussion on the need for master planning for the Sudbury Landfill.

Public Works Director Bealey outlined:

- City receipt of a grant from Department of Ecology in 2012 for solid waste planning.
- City contracted with HDR to prepare a landfill master plan. A preliminary draft master plan was submitted to staff for review. This draft fell far short of staff’s expectations. HDR management assured staff the shortcomings in this preliminary draft would be addressed. After several months, with little progress shown, staff directed HDR to cease work.
- A master plan for the landfill is critical for economical and efficient operations and project delivery. A plan is also needed to address where future landfill areas should be sited; and if any ancillary uses should be considered and where on the site they should be allowed.

WORK SESSION MINUTES

DECEMBER 8, 2014

PAGE 4

- A new request for qualifications was issued. EIL from Hood River, Oregon was selected as the most qualified to provide landfill engineering and planning services. Staff has negotiated a contract. This contract will be presented to Council for consideration on December 17.

There was discussion on:

- The master plan is anticipated to be completed in 2015.
- Landfill liability and potential for use of the site as a transfer station instead of as a landfill.
- The proposed contract with EIL is approximately \$80,000. The City has spent \$42,000 on the contract with HDR. Some of this work can be used by EIL.

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

3. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:14 p.m.