

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2015

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Cummins called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

Absent: None.

City staff in attendance: City Manager Nabel Shawa, City Attorney Tim Donaldson, Parks & Recreation Director Jim Dumont, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Human Resource Director Pam Taylor, City Engineer Neal Chavre, Utilities Engineer Frank Nicholson, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/MOMENT OF SILENCE

Boy Scout Blake Everett led the pledge of allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Norm Ostermann, 1032 Pomona, Walla Walla, commended Christy Lieuallen, Executive Director of the United Way of Walla Walla County, and numerous volunteers for establishing a warming center for homeless people. Mr. Ostermann asked if the City has discussed taking a greater role in providing emergency shelter for homeless people in the community.

Sharon Schiller, 1414 Topaz, Walla Walla, commented on her experience with transients at the Valley Transit transfer station. Ms. Schiller felt there was a need for a City-sponsored bus shelter/station along with a separate shelter for homeless people.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

City Clerk Hill introduced the Consent Agenda, Items A through H, as follows:

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- A. Washington State Liquor Control Board: New application for Wingman Birdz & Brewz, 230 E. Main Street.
- B. Washington State Liquor Control Board: New application for Haggen OPCO North (formerly Albertson's), 450 N. Wilbur.
- C. Resolution No. 2015-01 authorizing Amendment No. 1 to the professional services agreement with Anderson-Perry & Associates for utility improvements in the vicinity of Taumarson Way in the amount of \$12,120.
- D. Ordinance No. 2015-01 authorizing a labor agreement with Local 119 -W Union, Washington State Council of County and City Employees, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO, from January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2017.
- E. Approval of request from the Fire Department to apply for a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighters regional grant for remote radio sites.
- F. Resolution No. 2015-03 authorizing an amendment to the employment agreement with Tim Donaldson (City Attorney).
- G. Resolution No. 2015-04 authorizing an amendment to the employment agreement with Nabiel Shawa (City Manager).
- H. Approval of minutes of the regular meeting held December 17, 2014.

Mayor Cummins invited public input. No one in the audience chose to address the City Council on any of these items.

Councilmember Clark moved to adopt Consent Agenda Items A through H. Councilmember Plucker seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

5. ACTIVE AGENDA

- A. Update on aviary funding and operation.

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Parks & Recreation Director Dumont reported staff had recommended closure of the aviary five and a half years ago due to budget constraints, storm damage, and the need for major capital construction. Director Dumont acknowledged and thanked the Friends of the Pioneer Park committees for their fundraising and community engagement. The Friends of the Pioneer Park Aviary have submitted \$175,000 in funds for the capital improvements. Staff recommends moving forward with the reconstruction of the large net pen at an estimated cost of \$385,000 with elimination of the lower net pen. Construction must occur in September due to stream flow requirements.

Staff also recommends the Friends of the Pioneer Park Aviary focus on raising funds for the additional capital needs at the aviary with the City managing and funding the operation of the facility.

There was discussion on:

- The need for additional capital improvements beyond the large net pen facility. The estimated construction cost of \$385,000 does not include any improvements to the pheasant or rearing pens.
- The recommendation for the City to continue to operate and maintain the aviary has not been discussed with the Friends of the Pioneer Park Aviary.
- This is a change in direction regarding the future operation of the aviary. It is difficult to make a decision without knowing where the money is coming from in the future.
- The public has financially supported the aviary which reflects its importance to the community. It is time for the operation to be supported by the City.
- Additional improvements are necessary to the rearing pens, pheasant pens, hatchery, signage, and marketing. This would be a good place for the Friends of the Pioneer Park Aviary to focus their efforts. The City has also been approached by a potential donor of \$10,000 for signage.

Mayor Cummins invited public input.

Shane Laib, 1048 Frankland, Walla Walla, Chair of the Friends of the Pioneer Park Aviary, commented that there has not been any discussion with the City regarding the City continuing operation of the aviary. The Friends of the Pioneer Park Aviary's goal has been to take the aviary over and run it as an educational facility. This is the plan that was presented to

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the citizens that have supported the aviary. Mr. Laib also reported he had a check for \$10,000, the balance of the capital funds needed for reconstruction of the large net pen.

Council commended Mr. Laib and members of the Friends of the Pioneer Park Aviary for their work and fundraising. There was discussion on whether the Friends of the Pioneer Park Aviary would be open to discussion regarding capital fundraising instead of operational.

Craig Keister, 115 E. Main Street, Walla Walla, asked the City Council to limit their consideration to the issue of whether the reconstruction of the aviary should be put out for bid. Mr. Keister suggested the focus remain on reconstruction of the large net pen.

There was additional discussion by Council on the direction provided at their September 29, 2014 meeting and whether further action or discussion is necessary.

Councilmember Pomraning moved to accept the construction contribution from the Friends of the Pioneer Park Aviary and proceed with the project to reconstruct the large net pen at the Pioneer Park Aviary. Councilmember Barrow seconded the motion.

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

The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

Council clarified the City will proceed with construction of a new large net pen under the same conditions approved on September 29, 2014.

- B. Resolution No. 2015-05 awarding the bid for the Alder Street signal improvement project to Culbert Construction in the amount of \$2,399,234.23.

City Manager Shawa provided a brief history and reported that rebidding this project has saved approximately \$400,000. This favorable bid will allow the City to do the entire project. Staff recommends approval.

Mayor Cummins invited public input.

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Don Ashley, 1128 SW Bade, College Place, asked if the project included the handicap access ramps, change in lane configurations, and diagonal parking. Council responded the project must meet current Americans with Disabilities Act requirements. Dr. Ashley clarified his questions regarding the scope of the project and the need for access for injured/infirm residents and delivery trucks. City Engineer Chavre reported this project includes the diagonal parking on Alder Street, street signals, and street lights.

There was brief discussion on whether lower gasoline prices resulted in lower project costs; and projected asphalt shortages.

**Councilmember Clark moved to adopt Resolution No. 2015-05.
Councilmember Morgan seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

- C. Resolution No. 2015-06 authorizing execution of a general contractor/construction manager contract with Apollo, Inc. for the LT2 water treatment plant improvements in the amount of \$367,923.

City Manager Shawa reviewed the decision-making process leading to the recommendation to use a general contractor/construction manager for the improvements necessary at the water treatment plant to resolve the cryptosporidium problem. The selection of a general contractor/construction manager required an extensive review process.

Public Works Director Bealey reported there are two contracts for consideration tonight. One is for the general contractor who will be a part of the design team. Apollo, Inc. was selected after a very comprehensive proposal process. The second contract is with HDR Engineers for the final design of the improvements.

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

**Councilmember Barrow moved to adopt Resolution No. 2015-06.
Councilmember Plucker seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

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- D. Resolution No. 2015-07 authorizing execution of an agreement with HDR Engineers, Inc. for final design and construction services for the LT2 water treatment plant project in the amount of \$2,084,944.

Public Works Director Bealey reported this contract is for design and construction management services for the LT2 water treatment plant project. This contract will take the project from thirty percent design all the way through the remainder of design and construction. Council asked if the City had received final clarification from the State on the slow sand filtration. Staff explained they are still working with the State towards a smaller project footprint which would result in reduced costs.

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

Councilmember Barrow moved to adopt Resolution No. 2015-07.
Councilmember Clark seconded the motion.

Council commented that HDR Engineers is the contractor that had reviewed possible solutions for improvements to the water treatment plant to address the cryptosporidium problem.

The motion to adopt Resolution No. 2015-07 unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

Council explained this project is an additional part of the City's water purification system to eliminate cryptosporidium. Funding for the improvements falls back on the utility ratepayers. The City has worked to obtain low cost financing through the Public Works Board. Out of 54 applications, the Public Works Board funded 24 projects and the application from the City of Walla Walla was ranked number one due to the outstanding work of staff.

- E. Resolution No. 2015-08 awarding the contract to Milroy Golf Systems for the Mountain View cemetery irrigation project in the amount of \$288,271.37.

Parks & Recreation Director Dumont reported the City has been upgrading all of the irrigation systems in the park system since 2001. No local bids were received for this irrigation project. One hundred percent of the funding is from the Lamar bequest to the cemetery. After this

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project is completed, approximately \$340,000 will remain from the bequest for road improvements in the cemetery. The project was designed using wireless technology from Nelson Irrigation which will eliminate irrigation failures due to faulty wires. Staff recommends approval.

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

Councilmember Plucker moved to adopt Resolution No. 2015-08. Councilmember Clark seconded the motion.

There were comments on the automation of the City's irrigation systems saving water and staff time. This has been a long term project to save resources and money.

The motion to adopt Resolution No. 2015-08 unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

F. Approval of minutes of the Work Session held December 8, 2014.

Councilmember Pomraning moved to approve the minutes of the Work Session held December 8, 2014. Councilmember Morgan seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 1 abstention by Councilmember Plucker.

6. COUNCIL MEMBER MEETING REPORTS

Councilmember Morgan reported attendance at the Tourism Walla Walla Board meeting held December 18; the Valley Transit Board meeting held December 18; the special meeting with the State legislators held January 5; the Washington Wine Commission meeting held January 9; the Council retreat held January 10; and the Work Session held January 12.

Councilmember Jenkins reported attendance at the Council retreat held January 10; and the Work Session held January 12.

Councilmember Barrow reported attendance at the special meeting with the State legislators held January 5; the Water Partnership Board meeting held January 6; the Washington Wine Commission meeting held January 9; the Council retreat held January 10; the Work Session held January 12;

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and the Downtown Walla Walla Foundation Board meeting held January 13.

Councilmember Plucker reported attendance at the Joint Community Development Agency Board meeting held December 29; the Parks, Recreation & Urban Forestry Advisory Board meeting held January 5; and the Work Session held January 12.

Councilmember Clark reported attendance at the special meeting with the State legislators held January 5; the Sustainability Committee meeting held January 6; the Council retreat held January 10; the Borleske Stadium Association Board meeting held January 12; the Work Session held January 12; and the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee meeting held January 13.

Councilmember Pomraning reported attendance at the Metropolitan Planning Organization Board meeting held January 7; the Work Session held January 12; and the Public Library Board meeting held January 14.

Mayor Cummins reported attendance at the Valley Transit Board meeting held December 18; the Housing Authority Board meeting held December 22; the special meeting with the State legislators held January 5; the Council retreat held January 10; the Borleske Stadium Association Board meeting held January 12; and the Work Session held January 12.

7. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Jenkins moved to reappoint Jeff Gegen to the Planning Commission for a term expiring December 31, 2016; and to appoint Rhonda McNett to the Sustainability Committee for a term expiring June 30, 2015. Councilmember Plucker seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

There was discussion regarding the issue of maintenance and operation of the Pioneer Park aviary. It was the consensus of a majority of Council that no further action regarding operation and maintenance of the Pioneer Park aviary is necessary at this time.

Council reported that Walla Walla is one of forty-nine semi-finalists for the Georgetown University Energy Prize competition.

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8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.