

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 22, 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. (Councilmember Plucker arrived at 7:16 p.m.)

Absent: None.

City staff in attendance: City Manager Nabel Shawa, City Attorney Tim Donaldson, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Finance Director Jean Teasdale, Parks and Recreation Director Jim Dumont, Police Chief Scott Bieber, City Engineer Neal Chavre, Parks Maintenance Supervisor Andy Coleman, Engineer Mike Laughery, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/MOMENT OF SILENCE

Councilmember Barrow led the pledge of allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

3. PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

A. Proclamation declaring April 22, 2015 as "Arbor Day" in Walla Walla.

Mayor Cummins read and presented the proclamation to Parks and Recreation Director Dumont.

Parks and Recreation Director Dumont thanked the City Council, Councilmember Plucker as the Council liaison, and the Parks, Recreation and Urban Forestry Advisory Board members. This year's Arbor Day tree planting celebration was held at Blue Ridge Elementary School.

Mark Bohnet, Washington State Department of Natural Resources presented the City of Walla Walla with its 21st Tree City USA award.

Mayor Cummins presented the City's 2015 Arbor Day award to the Noon Rotary Club of Walla Walla. Sam Wells, on behalf of the Noon Rotary Club,

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thanked the City for the award and recognized the efforts of the late Ned Schafer.

Mayor Cummins thanked the Parks, Recreation, and Urban Forestry Advisory Board; the Noon Rotary Club; Jim Dumont; and the citizens of Walla Walla for their contributions to the City's urban forest.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Shane Laib, Downtown Farmer's Market Manager, announced the grand opening of the Downtown Farmer's Market would be at 9:00 a.m. on May 2 and invited attendance.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Cummins announced that Item E would be removed from the Consent Agenda for separate consideration.

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

- A. Washington State Liquor Control Board: Special occasion license for Senior Citizens Center, 720 Sprague Street, on May 8, 2015.
- B. Washington State Liquor Control Board: New application for Downtown Farmer's Market Twilight Thursdays, 116 E. Main Street (Heritage Park).
- C. Washington State Liquor Control Board: Corrected Application for Salida, 2 E. Rose St.
- D. Resolution No. 2015-47 authorizing Amendment 1 to the Interlocal Participation Agreement establishing the WW Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (WWVMPO).

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

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

6. ACTIVE AGENDA

- E. Resolution No. 2015-48 authorizing the City Manager to execute a professional services contract with FCS Group for the review and preparation of a water, wastewater, and stormwater rate study, in the amount of \$94,560.00.

Public Works Director Bealey reported this study will review and update the water, wastewater, and stormwater rates. The last rate increases were for implementation of the infrastructure repair and replacement program, and occurred in 2010. A plan needs to be developed for 2016 through 2021. The last comprehensive water and wastewater rate studies were completed in 2001 and 2003.

There was discussion on:

- The cost of the rate study per utility ratepayer.
- The number of consultants that will be working on the rate study and the scope of the project.
- Citizen communications regarding the rate structure and a cogent explanation for how the rates are established.
- Timing of the rate study.
- The study will also look at the way capital facilities charges are calculated with the goal to simplify the structure.

Mayor Cummins invited public input.

Penny Hawkins, 624 Hobson St, Walla Walla, suggested deferring action on this item to allow for additional public comment.

Councilmember Pomraning moved to approve Resolution 2015-48. Councilmember Plucker seconded the motion. The motion carried with 6 yes votes and 1 no vote by Councilmember Barrow.

- A. By motion provide direction on 2016 Alder Infrastructure Repair and Replacement (IRRP) Project traffic improvements design regarding potential traffic control changes at the Alder/Clinton and Alder/Division intersections.

Engineer Laughery reviewed the results of the traffic analysis; the three options with their associated costs; and the results of citizen feedback. The majority of citizens providing feedback would like a traffic signal to

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remain at the Alder/Clinton intersection. The three options presented were:

1. Installation of enhanced pedestrian safety crossings. (\$60,000)
2. Remove the existing traffic signal at the Alder/Clinton intersection and install a new traffic signal at the Alder/Division intersection. An enhanced pedestrian crossing would be installed at Alder/Clinton intersection. (\$275,000)
3. Replace the existing traffic signal at the Alder/Clinton intersection and install an enhanced pedestrian crossing at the Alder/Division intersection. (\$275,000)

Councilmember Jenkins left the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

There was discussion on:

- The citizen feedback and whether a majority or plurality was reached.
- The traffic analysis indicates a traffic signal will be warranted at the Alder/Division intersection before the Alder/Clinton intersection.
- The installation of signal conduit for a future traffic signal at either intersection.
- Limiting parking along Alder Street to increase visibility at intersections.
- Ability of the City Council to establish speed limits on arterials.

Mayor Cummins invited public input.

The following spoke in favor of replacing the traffic signal at the Alder/Clinton intersection:

- Penny Hawkins, 624 Hobson Street, Walla Walla.
- Roberta Hunt, 115 Merriam Street, Walla Walla.
- Nancy Ball, 213 Fulton Street, Walla Walla.
- Glenna Aubrey, 114 S Clinton Street, Walla Walla. Ms. Aubrey also submitted a petition to Council in support of the light at the Clinton/Alder intersection.
- Tom Williams, 624 Hobson Street, Walla Walla.
- Ed Teall, 635 Whitman Street, Walla Walla.
- Pierre Remillard, 721 Newell Street, Walla Walla.
- R.L. McFarland, 3731 Middle Waitsburg Road, Walla Walla.
- Ken Frahm, 835 Whitman Street, Walla Walla.
- Donna Johannessen, 1427 Boyer Street, Walla Walla.
- Jesse Burgess, 706 Hobson Street, Walla Walla.

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The following spoke against the placement of a traffic signal at either Alder/Clinton or Alder/Division intersections:

- Damian Sinnott, 621 Lincoln Street, Walla Walla.
- Jean Dolling, 208 Detour Road, Walla Walla.

Councilmembers expressed their opinions on whether a traffic signal should be included as part of the project and at which intersection.

Councilmember Pomraning moved to direct staff to implement Option 3, a light at the Clinton/Alder intersection with an enhanced pedestrian activated rapid-flashing crossing at the Division/Alder intersection. Councilmember Plucker seconded the motion. The motion carried with 4 yes votes and 2 no votes from Councilmembers Clark and Morgan.

- B. Ordinance No. 2015-07 authorizing the sale, issuance and delivery of not to exceed \$3,000,000 of the City's Limited Tax General Obligation and Refunding Bonds, Series 2015, to acquire, construct and install improvements to the Library's HVAC, safety improvements to City Hall, and to pay, redeem and retire all or a portion of the City's outstanding Limited Tax General Obligation Bonds, Series 2005.

Finance Director Teasdale reported this ordinance will refund the 2005 Limited Tax General Obligation bonds and will provide funds for HVAC improvements at the library and possibly some safety modifications to City Hall. Approval will result in approximately \$104,500 net present value savings.

Duncan Brown, Financial Advisor, reviewed the refunding opportunity and associated savings.

Roy Koegen, Bond Council, provided an overview of the proposed ordinance.

There was discussion on:

- The proposed ordinance would not increase the tax burden on citizens and will actually save money.
- The only risk in proceeding with this bond refunding is losing the associated savings.

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- The library's heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system is in very poor condition. If not replaced, it may be necessary to close the library if the current system fails during hot summer days.
- The sale of new bonds is likely to have a positive effect on the City's bond rating because it will reduce the debt burden.

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

Councilmember Pomraning moved to approve Ordinance No. 2015-07. Councilmember Morgan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- C. Ordinance No. 2015-08 authorizing the sale, issuance, and delivery of not to exceed \$5,830,000 of the City's Unlimited Tax General Bonds, Series 2015, to provide funds to rebuild the City's Veterans Memorial Swimming Pool.

City Manager Shawa reported that Items B, C, and D were all reviewed earlier this month by the Finance Committee.

Finance Director Teasdale reviewed the passage of the bond measure by voters on February 10, 2015. Because of the timing of the receipt of property tax revenue to repay the bonds, the proposed schedule includes selling the bonds between August and October 2015 depending on the interest rates. The first tax payments would be received in April, 2016 and the first interest payment on the bonds would be June, 2016. There were comments on the benefit to citizens by taking a strategic approach to the issuance of bonds.

Roy Koegen, Bond Counsel, congratulated the citizens on the passage of the pool bond and outlined the provisions of the bond ordinance.

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

Councilmember Barrow moved to approve Ordinance No. 2015-08. Councilmember Pomraning seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

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- D. Ordinance No. 2015-09 authorizing the Deputy City Manager to loan and transfer money from the City's equipment replacement fund to its water fund and wastewater fund in order to redeem and retire the City's outstanding Water and Wastewater Revenue Refunding Bonds.

Finance Director Teasdale and Financial Advisor Brown reviewed the proposed methods of refunding the outstanding water and wastewater revenue refunding bonds. This is estimated to save ratepayers an estimated \$102,000.

Roy Koegen, Bond Counsel, explained the provisions of the ordinance and justification for the low internal interest rate.

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

**Councilmember Morgan moved to approve Ordinance No. 2015-09.
Councilmember Clark seconded the motion.**

There was brief discussion on the loan from the equipment replacement fund not delaying the purchase of any necessary street equipment.

The motion to approve Ordinance No. 2015-09 unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- E. Ordinance No. 2015-10 amending the 2015-2016 maintenance and operations budget; and
Ordinance No. 2015-11 establishing projects and amending the capital improvement project budget.

Finance Director Teasdale reviewed the budget amendments.

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

**Councilmember Plucker moved to approve Ordinance No. 2015-10.
Councilmember Clark seconded the motion. The motion carried
unanimously with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

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Councilmember Plucker moved to approve Ordinance No. 2015-11. Councilmember Morgan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- F. Resolution No. 2015-49 authorizing the City Manager to execute an Interlocal Agreement with Columbia County for the use of the New World Systems AEGIS Enterprise platform.

Police Chief Bieber introduced the proposed Interlocal Agreement. He elaborated on the benefits of executing an Interlocal Agreement with Columbia County, including improved records sharing. All costs associated with participation by Columbia County will be borne by Columbia County. Staff recommends approval.

There was discussion on:

- Whether the cost to Columbia County includes a sum for buying in to the new system.
- There are no additional costs to the City. Any necessary technology services performed by the City will be billed to Columbia County for reimbursement.

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

Councilmember Pomraning moved to approve Resolution No. 2015-49. Councilmember Clark seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- G. Approval of the minutes of the adjourned regular meeting held April 13, 2015.

Councilmember Barrow moved to approve the minutes of the adjourned regular meeting held April 13, 2015. Councilmember Plucker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- H. Gentlemen of the Road Tour Stopover – Update by staff.

Parks and Recreation Director Dumont provided an update on the event planning efforts.

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Council asked if Madison House will be reimbursing the cost of employee travel to attend other stopovers. Staff responded the costs for attending the stopover event in Waverly, Iowa will be included in the budget for reimbursement.

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

7. COUNCIL MEMBER MEETING REPORTS

Councilmember Morgan reported attendance at the Work Session held April 13; the Isaacs Corridor Open House held April 14; the Helpline soup fundraiser held April 15; the Gentlemen of the Road planning meeting held April 16; the Tourism Walla Walla Board meeting held April 16; the Valley Transit Board meeting held April 16; and the Arbor Day celebration held April 22.

Councilmember Barrow reported attendance at the Blue Mountain Humane Society Board meeting on April 14; the Isaacs Corridor Open House held April 14; the Helpline soup fundraiser held April 15; the Blue Mountain Action Council Board meeting held April 16; the groundbreaking ceremony for the Homeless Veterans housing project held April 17; the Downtown Walla Walla Foundation Board meeting held April 21; and the Arbor Day Celebration held April 22.

Councilmember Plucker had no meetings to report.

Councilmember Clark reported attendance at the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee meeting held April 14; the LEOFF 1 Disability Board meeting held April 14, the Fire Pension Board meeting held April 14; the Isaacs Corridor Open House held April 14; the Helpline soup fundraiser held April 15; the Civil Service Commission meeting held April 15; the Library's Fandango event held April 15; and the Arbor Day Celebration held April 22.

Councilmember Pomraning reported attendance at the Work Session held April 13; the Good Roads Committee meeting held April 14; a briefing on the Water & Wastewater Committee meeting held April 16; the Gentlemen of the Road planning meeting held April 16; and the Arbor Day Celebration held April 22.

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Mayor Cummins reported attendance at the Work Session held April 13; the LEOFF 1 Disability Board meeting held April 14; the Fire Pension Board meeting on April 14; the Public Schools Equity and Access Committee meeting on April 14; the Chamber of Commerce hotline on April 14; a meeting with Catholic Charities regarding homeless issues on April 15; the Helpline soup fundraiser held April 15; the Good Roads Committee meeting held April 15; the groundbreaking ceremony for the Homeless Veterans housing project held April 17; and the Arbor Day Celebration held April 22.

8. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

City Engineer Chavre provided an update on the Alder and Rose Street roadway construction projects.

City Manager Shawa reported he had authorized the expenditure of \$4,144.68 in Community Development Block Grant funds for permit fees for the Blue Mountain Action Council project as authorized by Resolution No. 2011-84.

City Manger Shawa reviewed the dates for the "State of the City" address he will be giving to City employees and other service groups/organizations. Council asked for the dates of the presentations to be emailed to them.

City Manager Shawa reminded Council of the special Work Session scheduled for April 27.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Cummins announced the City Council would be recessing to Executive Session to consider the selection of a site or the acquisition of real estate by lease or purchase pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(b); to consider the minimum price at which real estate will be offered for sale or lease pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(c); and to discuss with legal counsel representing the city litigation or potential litigation to which the city is likely to become a party pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i). The Executive Session will last no more than two hours and no further business will come before Council in open session.

The meeting was recessed at 10:19 p.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Councilmember Pomraning moved to adjourn at 11:20 p.m. Councilmember Morgan seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:20 p.m.