

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
July 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.

Absent: None.

City staff in attendance: City Manager Nabel Shawa, City Attorney Tim Donaldson, Fire Chief Bob Yancey, Development Services Director Elizabeth Chamberlain, Parks & Recreation Director Jim Dumont, City Engineer Neal Chavre, Engineer Monte Puymon, 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

Mayor Cummins introduced Mike Ciraulo, Incident Commander with the Washington State Incident Management Team.

Commander Ciraulo reported the Blue Creek fire started July 20, 2015. A type 2 incident team was called in and assumed command on July 21 at 6:00 p.m. The incident command center is located at the Walla Walla Community College. The fire is approximately 5600 acres and growing rapidly. The fire is located one to one and a half miles from the City's watershed and is only five percent contained. The fire crews understand the importance of the watershed area and are diligently working to cut off the fire although there are no guarantees it will not burn. A helicopter did go down with mechanical issues but the pilot was uninjured in the crash. The Blue Creek fire is currently the number one priority fire in the nation right now.

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Becky Wilson, Oriole Street, Walla Walla, asked how the citizens can help. Commander Ciraulo responded the fire crews have plenty of food and protein bars but would appreciate a showing of thanks and gratitude from the community.

There was discussion on:

- Implications for the City if the fire reaches the watershed. The City has activated all seven wells in case it becomes necessary to use them.
- The City of Walla Walla Fire Department will serve back-up for any structure fires within the Blue Creek fire area and has one member assisting the incident management team with communications.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No one in the audience chose to address the City Council at this time.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Acceptance of resignation of Ashley Trout from the Parks, Recreation and Urban Forestry Advisory Board.
- B. Washington State Liquor Control Board: Special occasion license for Downtown Walla Walla Foundation/Whitman Athletic Field Bar No. 1 for August 14 and August 15, 2015.
- C. Washington State Liquor Control Board: Special occasion license for Downtown Walla Walla Foundation/Whitman Athletic Field Bar No. 2 for August 14 and August 15, 2015.
- D. Washington State Liquor Control Board: Special occasion license for Downtown Walla Walla Foundation/Whitman Athletic Field Bar No. 3 for August 14 and August 15, 2015.
- E. Washington State Liquor Control Board: Special occasion license for Downtown Walla Walla Foundation/Whitman Athletic Field Bar No. 4 for August 14 and August 15, 2015.

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- F. Washington State Liquor Control Board: Special occasion license for Downtown Walla Walla Foundation between Main and Alder Streets for August 14 and August 15, 2015.
- G. Resolution No. 2015-76 authorizing the purchase of a mini-articulated wheel loader from Sonsray Machinery for \$87,623.
- H. Resolution No. 2015-77 authorizing the purchase of a 72-inch rotary mower from Pape' Machinery for \$28,915.
- I. Resolution No. 2015-80 authorizing a contract with the FCS Group for an ambulance financial plan study for \$25,490.

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

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

6. ACTIVE AGENDA

- A. Resolution No. 2015-78 approving the Isaacs Avenue Corridor final report and preferred alternative.

City Manager Shawa reported this resolution will authorize the design so the City can move forward in applying for grants and other outside funding. Staff is recommending Alternative 2 due to improved safety, inclusiveness of multi-modal forms of transportation, more competitive for grants, and projected faster travel time.

Engineer Puymon reported the Isaacs Avenue corridor project stretches from Rose Street to Wilbur Avenue and is projected at \$17 million. There are three goals for the corridor: safety; efficiency; and modality. Development of the alternatives was guided by Federal and State guidelines and the City's comprehensive plan. The community was engaged throughout the public process. The proposed design is likely to bring in outside funding due to the improved safety and multi-modal transportation aspects.

Scott Mansur, DKS Associates, reviewed:

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- Purpose of the corridor study and project goals.
- Study area.
- Development of alternatives and public process. Jennifer Beckmeyer, Commitment to Community, reviewed public outreach efforts.
- Stakeholder groups.
- Corridor characteristics.
- Safety/collision data analysis.
- Screening process for the four different alternatives.
- Eighty-six percent of the public feedback received was in support of Alternative 2.
- Safety benefits, corridor operation, and travel times.
- A "hybrid" alternative doesn't improve safety and does not connect land uses.
- Cost estimates for the alternatives.
- Similar three-lane conversion projects and impact on safety.

There was discussion on:

- A proposed bus turnout at Green Park Elementary School will be retained.
- Impact of a redesign on residential side streets and private driveways.

Mayor Cummins invited public input.

The following spoke in support of Alternative 2 (three lanes with bicycle lanes, option for median, and sidewalks):

- Opal (no last name provided), 314 N. Division Street, Walla Walla.
- Jeffrey Fritz, 104 SW 10th, College Place.
- Kathryn Southwick-Hess, 1017 Boyer, Walla Walla.
- Dr. Don Ashley, 1128 SW Bade, College Place.
- Stacy Buchanan, 523 N. Bellevue, Walla Walla.
- Dr. Robert Smith, 124 Whitman Street, Walla Walla.
- Debbie Toews, 7 E. Tietan Street, Walla Walla.
- Kurt Friederich, 1526 Ruth Street, Walla Walla.
- Dr. Ted Bergstrom, 2018 Scarpelli, Walla Walla.
- Mary Lou Yocum, 660 Pleasant Street, Walla Walla.
- Peter Harvey, Whitman College Treasurer.
- Steve Olson, Walla Walla Public Schools Transportation Director.
- Dr. Fred Fields, 1047 Sentry, College Place.
- Greg Knowles, 1183 Last Chance, Walla Walla.

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- Jean Dolling, 208 Detour, Walla Walla.
- Erendira Cruz, 64 Canary, Walla Walla.
- Charles Stanger, 1004 Sapolil, Walla Walla.
- Sandra Cannon, 803 Valencia, Walla Walla.

The following expressed concerns with being able to exit from their driveway on Isaacs:

- Michael DeWitt, 1128 Isaacs, Walla Walla.
- Lori DeWitt, 1128 Isaacs, Walla Walla.

Councilmember Morgan moved to adopt Resolution No. 2015-78. Councilmember Barrow seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

Council commended the consulting engineers and staff for their work on this study and the public process.

Councilmember Jenkins was excused at 8:34 p.m.

The meeting was recessed for a break at 8:35 p.m. and reconvened at 8:39 p.m.

- B. Public Hearing and Ordinance No. 2015-19 annexing approximately 4.5 acres of property generally located west of South 3rd Avenue and north of Whitney Road.

Development Services Director Chamberlain reviewed the area proposed for annexation and the application process.

Mayor Cummins declared the public hearing open at 8:42 p.m. There being no public testimony, Mayor Cummins declared the public hearing closed.

Councilmember Barrow moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2015-19. Councilmember Plucker seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

Council commented this annexation will help in making the boundaries of the City more regular.

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C. Resolution No. 2015-79 increasing change order authority for the Alder Street signal improvement project.

City Manager Shawa reported this is a \$2.4 million contract. The construction uncovered many unknown conditions creating cost overruns. Staff is seeking an additional \$100,000 for contract change order authority.

There was brief discussion on:

- Funds being used to accelerate the project. Staff is attempting to mitigate the negative impact on the businesses. These additional funds will not impact future construction projects.
- How change orders are reviewed and negotiated with contractors.
- Substantial completion of the project is estimated by August 3, 2015.

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

Councilmember Pomraning moved to adopt Resolution No. 2015-79. Councilmember Morgan seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

D. Gentlemen of the Road stopover tour.

Parks & Recreation Director Dumont provided an update on the planning activities for the Gentlemen of the Road tour.

7. COUNCIL MEMBER MEETING REPORTS

Councilmember Morgan reported attendance at the Homeless Council meeting held June 23; the Gentlemen of the Road planning meeting held June 25; the Work Session held June 29; the Veterans long-term care center ground breaking held July 1; the Work Session held July 13; the Tourism Walla Walla Board meeting held July 16; and the Valley Transit Board meeting held July 16.

Councilmember Barrow reported attendance at the Work Session held June 29; the Work Session held July 13; the Blue Mountain Humane Society Board meeting held July 14; a constituent meeting with the City Manager on July 17; the Blue Mountain Action Council Housing Committee meeting held July 20; interviews for the Water Partnership Management Board held

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July 21 through July 23; and the Downtown Walla Walla Foundation Board meeting held July 21.

Councilmember Plucker reported attendance at the Work Session held July 13; the agenda preparation meeting held July 15; and the Valley Transit Board meeting held July 16.

Councilmember Clark reported attendance at the Port of Walla Walla broadband connectivity meeting held July 9; the United Way focus group meeting held July 10; the Work Session held July 13; the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee meeting held July 14; the LEOFF 1 Disability Board meeting held July 14; the Fire Pension Board meeting held July 14; and the Civil Service Commission meeting held July 15.

Councilmember Pomraning reported attendance at the Port of Walla Walla broadband connectivity meeting held July 9; and the Work Session held July 13.

Mayor Cummins reported attendance at the Public Works Board retreat held July 9 and July 10; the Work Session held July 13; the LEOFF 1 Disability Board meeting held July 14; the Fire Pension Board meeting held July 14; the PocketiNet Communications fiber broadband announcement held July 16; a tour of City public works projects on July 16; and the Valley Transit Board meeting held July 16. The Emergency Management Board meeting scheduled for July 21 was cancelled.

8. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Barrow inquired when the resurfacing of Second Avenue will be completed. Staff responded this is scheduled to take place the first week of August.

Mayor Cummins reviewed the agencies involved in fighting the Blue Creek fire.

Councilmember Barrow moved to authorize a resolution or proclamation to recognize and commend the agencies involved in fighting the Blue Creek fire. Councilmember Clark seconded the motion.

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

The motion to authorize a resolution or proclamation to recognize and commend the agencies involved in fighting the Blue Creek fire unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Cummins announced the City Council would be recessing to Executive Session to discuss with legal counsel potential litigation to which the City is a party or 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 the City Council in open session.

The meeting was recessed at 9:28 p.m.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:35 p.m.