

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 12, 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, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Parks & Recreation Director Jim Dumont, Development Services Director Elizabeth Chamberlain, Deputy Fire Chief Brad Morris, Utilities Engineer Frank Nicholson, Water Treatment Plant Supervisor Tom Krebs, Engineer Nathan Black, Engineer Dean Abrams, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/MOMENT OF SILENCE

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

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tom Fox, 1565 Olive Street, Walla Walla, expressed concerns with his cost to hook his home up to the City's sewer system and asked for assistance in reducing this amount.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Washington State Liquor Control Board: Change of corporate officers/stockholders for Bowlaway Lanes, 411 Ash Street.
- B. Washington State Liquor Control Board: New application for The Angels' Share, 1215 W. Poplar Street.

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- C. Washington State Liquor Control Board: New application for Somme Des Parties Wines, 19 E. Rose Street.
- D. Washington State Liquor Control Board: New application for Locati Cellars, 6 W. Rose Street, Suite 101.
- E. Washington State Liquor Control Board: Application for added privilege for Safeway Store #307, 215 Rose Street.
- F. Washington State Liquor Control Board: Application in lieu of current privilege for Saffron Mediterranean Kitchen – Pho Sho, 125 W. Alder Street.
- G. Washington State Liquor Control Board: Application for added privilege for Safeway Store #1160, 1600 Plaza Way.
- H. Washington State Liquor Control Board: New application for La Mixteca, 405 Wellington Avenue.
- I. Resolution No. 2015-81 awarding bid to Apollo, Inc. for the wastewater treatment plant aeration basin transfer pump project in the amount of \$51,237.45.
- J. Resolution No. 2015-82 authorizing the City Manager to execute an on-call professional services agreement for landfill engineering services by Environmental Information Logistics, LLC (EIL) for \$72,400. (Sudbury Road landfill)
- K. Ordinance No. 2015-20 annexing approximately 4.5 acres generally located west of south 3rd Avenue and north of Whitney Road, revising the legal description, and taking other action related thereto. (Corrects the legal description for Ordinance 2015-19 – Hardy & Sons annexation)
- L. Resolution No. 2015-83 authorizing the City Manager to execute a professional services contract with H2E Inc. for the wastewater treatment plant SCADA project in the amount of \$94,834.
- M. Resolution No. 2015-84 authorizing the purchase of an ambulance cab and chassis replacement with module remounts for \$132,021 from Braun Northwest.

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- N. Resolution No. 2015-85 authorizing the purchase of a 16' rotary mower from RMT Equipment for a total of \$86,232.46; and a heavy-duty turf utility vehicle from Western Equipment for a total of \$20,676.62.
- O. Resolution No. 2015-86 authorizing execution of a utility reimbursement agreement with Lynn and Carol Tegland for the Tegland Alley Holly Ankeny Sewer Extension Latecomers Agreement.
- P. Approval of minutes of the special Work Session held June 29, 2015.
- Q. Approval of minutes of the Work Session held July 13, 2015.

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 Q. Councilmember Clark seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

5. ACTIVE AGENDA

- A. Resolution No. 2015-87 authorizing the City Manager to execute amendments changing the scope of agreements regarding design, construction, and financing of a water treatment facility. (Change of design from slow sand filtration to ultra-violet (UV) treatment.)

City Manager Shawa provided a brief overview of the request to change the LT2 water treatment design from slow sand filtration to UV treatment. Staff is recommending the change to UV treatment because of cost and to be able to address other water system needs.

There was discussion on:

- Delaying a decision. The City can ask for additional time from the Department of Health but is required to show positive progress. There are also low-interest loans that must be committed to or the City may risk losing the funding.
- Contract implications if a decision is delayed. The contracts will require modification if the design is changed regardless if a decision is delayed.

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- The current estimate of \$24 million for the UV treatment system is what the slow sand filtration system was initially estimated to cost. This change in treatment systems will avoid a major cost increase to the water system ratepayers.
- This project is to avoid an occurrence of cryptosporidium in the water system and it is important to move forward for public health.
- Delaying action to provide an opportunity for participation in the decision by the public.
- Studies reflect a UV system may be a better fit for the water treatment plant improvements. This system is state of the art and less costly to operate. Due to the City's redundancy in its water system, the impact of a fire in the watershed is not as dismal as many believe.
- The City currently has two low-interest loans at one percent interest for a total of \$24 million. Water rates would require a substantial increase if another \$11 million must be raised for a slow sand filtration system.
- Operation of the proposed rouging filter, including retaining the sedimentation basins as part of the UV system. This system provides both filtration and disinfection.
- A decision is necessary so the low-interest loans are not in jeopardy.

Mayor Cummins invited public input.

The following expressed concerns with moving forward with a decision at this time:

- Sharon Schiller, 1414 Topaz, Walla Walla.
- Barlow Corkrum, 2016 Stanton Street, Walla Walla.

There was additional discussion on:

- Ability of the slow sand filtration system to remove toxins and biological agents. The City has a closed watershed with very clean water. The system is designed to treat known substances.
- Impact of fire retardants on the water if there is a fire. The Forest Service places the watershed as a high priority and has offered assurance the retardant is an environmentally sensitive substance. Staff is seeking additional information on the retardant.
- The distribution system under the streets is also threatened. The \$11 million not spent on treatment could be used to fix some of this failing infrastructure. Protecting the water system goes beyond just filtration and treatment.

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- Safe water is a fundamental need for the well-being of a community. If cost was not a factor, the choice for water treatment would be slow sand filtration. A slow sand filtration system would reduce turbidity and deal with fecal coliform. There is also the unknown impact of climate change.
- A decision needs to be made so the City doesn't endanger the availability of the low-interest loans. A slow sand filtration system would also require higher operational costs, while a UV system will address the needs of the City and provide a bountiful supply of clean water. Citizens are happy with water quality but unhappy with the water rates.
- Difficulty of sand filtration systems to manage due to biological stability. A UV system seems to be the better choice for Walla Walla.

Councilmember Barrow moved to adopt Resolution No. 2015-87. Councilmember Morgan seconded the motion. The motion carried with 5 yes votes and 2 no votes by Councilmembers Clark and Jenkins.

- B. Resolution No. 2015-88 authorizing the City Manager to execute Amendment #3 with Schwyn Environmental Services for services at the Sudbury Road landfill on a time and materials basis in the amount of \$942,870.

City Manager Shawa reviewed the scope of services to be provided and reported this amendment will provide the environmental services necessary to address the consent decree with the Department of Ecology for the Sudbury Road landfill remediation project. Staff recommends approval.

Council asked if Schwyn Environmental Services will be eligible to bid on the project. Staff indicated this is an environmental consultant, not a contractor.

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

Councilmember Pomraning moved to adopt Resolution No. 2015-88. Councilmember Plucker seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- C. Gentlemen of the Road stopover update.

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City Manager Shawa recognized the efforts by staff and the community team in getting ready for the stopover tour that starts August 13. Parks & Recreation Director Dumont provided an update on the planning efforts.

There was discussion on:

- Contract with Madison House Presents provides for \$169,000 in advance. Any costs incurred by the City over or under this amount will either be billed or reimbursed. Travel costs incurred by the City are not covered for reimbursement.
- Long term benefits, community spirit, excitement, and unity.

Council commended Parks & Recreation Director Dumont for his work and leadership on this historic event.

D. Approval of minutes of the regular meeting held July 8, 2015.

Councilmember Pomraning moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held July 8, 2015. Councilmember Clark seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 5 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 2 abstentions by Councilmembers Barrow and Morgan.

E. Approval of the Accounts Payable register dated July 31, 2015 containing check numbers 184730 through 185149, 990695 through 990700, and 8525 through 8531 totaling \$4,816,548.93.

Councilmember Plucker moved to approve payment of the Accounts Payable register dated July 31, 2015 containing check numbers 184730 through 185149, 990695 through 990700, and 8525 through 8531 totaling \$4,816,548.93 with the exception of the checks to Jim Barrow, Blue Mountain Action Council, Jerry Cummins, Allen Pomraning, and Walla Walla School District. Councilmember Barrow seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

Councilmember Plucker moved to approve payment of the checks to Jim Barrow, Jerry Cummins and Allen Pomraning. Councilmember Morgan seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 4 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 3 abstentions by Councilmembers Barrow, Pomraning, and Mayor Cummins.

Councilmember Barrow moved to approve payment of the checks to Blue Mountain Action Council and the Walla Walla School District.

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Councilmember Clark seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 5 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 2 abstentions by Councilmembers Jenkins and Plucker.

6. COUNCIL MEMBER MEETING REPORTS

Councilmember Morgan reported attendance at the Work Session held August 3; the National Night Out celebration held August 4; the Work Session held August 10; the Gentlemen of the Road public safety planning meeting held August 12; and also reported walking the entire downtown venue on August 12.

Councilmember Jenkins reported attendance at the Work Session held July 13; the Senior Citizens Board meeting held July 23; and the Work Sessions held August 3 and August 10.

Councilmember Barrow reported attendance at the Port of Walla Walla Economic Development Committee meeting held July 28; the Downtown Walla Walla Foundation Board meeting held July 28; the Work Session held August 3; the Water Partnership Board meeting held August 4; the National Night Out celebration held August 4; the World War II Commemorative Committee meeting held August 5; the United Way Board meeting held August 5; a meeting with Cathy McMorris Rodgers held August 6; a meeting with the commander of the Armed Forces recruiting service held August 6; the Work Session held August 10; and the Blue Mountain Humane Society Board meeting held August 11.

Councilmember Plucker reported attendance at the Work Session held August 3; the Parks, Recreation & Urban Forestry Advisory Board meeting held August 3; the agenda preparation meeting held August 5; and the Work Session held August 10.

Councilmember Clark reported attendance at the Port of Walla Walla Economic Development Committee meeting held July 28; the Work Session held August 3; a meeting with Cathy McMorris Rodgers held August 6; the Work Session held August 10; the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee meeting held August 11; a meeting of the Metropolitan Planning organization regarding the long-term transportation plan held August 12; and the meeting held by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding the levees along Mill Creek held August 12.

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Councilmember Pomranning reported attendance at the Port of Walla Walla Economic Development Committee meeting held July 28; the Work Session held August 3; the Metropolitan Planning Organization meeting held August 5; a meeting with Cathy McMorris Rodgers held August 6; judged the mud race fundraiser held August 8; the Work Session held August 10; and the Public Library Board meeting held August 12. Councilmember Pomranning also thanked Councilmember Plucker for arranging the placement of a tractor at the Gentlemen of the Road venue.

Mayor Cummins reported attendance at the Housing Authority Board meeting held July 27; the debriefing on the Blue Creek fire held July 31; the Work Session held August 3; the agenda preparation meeting held August 5; presentation of the first civic award to Pete Reid on August 6; a meeting with Cathy McMorris Rodgers held August 6; and the Work Session held August 10.

7. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Jenkins moved to make the following appointments to the Parks, Recreation & Urban Forestry Advisory Board:

- **Connie Egerer for a term expiring December 31, 2016; and**
- **Skyler Rude for a term expiring December 31, 2015.**

Councilmember Plucker seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

Councilmember Clark suggested Council consider lowering the speed limits on Main Street and Alder Street in the downtown area to 20 miles per hour. City Attorney Donaldson reported it will be necessary for the City Engineer to review a change in speed limits. A majority of the Council agreed with this suggestion.

Councilmember Clark inquired about having the consultant performing the water rate study look at structuring rates so water conservation and water revenues are not opposing forces. City Manager Shawa suggested this be raised with the consultant, FCS, at a future Work Session.

Mayor Cummins read a letter of thanks to the Walla Walla community for their support of the fire personnel working on the Blue Creek fire from Captain Mike Wood of the Missoula Fire Crew.

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8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.