

**WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**August 26, 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, Development Services Director Elizabeth Chamberlain, Human Resource Director Pam Taylor, City Engineer Neal Chavre, Building Official Riley Jones, Engineer Dean Abrams, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/MOMENT OF SILENCE**

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

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mayor Cummins invited public input. No one in the audience chose to address the City Council on any item not on the agenda.

**4. CONSENT AGENDA**

City Clerk Hill introduced the Consent Agenda, Items A, and C through L, as follows:

- A. Washington State Liquor Control Board: Special occasion license for Providence St. Mary Regional Cancer Center at the Walla Walla Community College on September 19, 2015.
  
- C. Washington State Liquor Control Board: Special occasion license for Walla Walla Catholic Schools, 919 E. Sumach Street, on October 2 and 3, 2015.

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- D. Washington State Liquor Control Board: Application in lieu of current privilege for Aloha Sushi, 7 ½ South First Avenue.
- E. Washington State Liquor Control Board: Change of corporate officers/stockholders for Otis Kenyon Wines, 23 E. Main Street.
- F. Washington State Liquor Control Board: Application for added privilege for Bowlaway Lanes, 411 Ash Street.
- G. Resolution No. 2015-89 authorizes a permit to occupy right-of-way in favor of Valley Transit, an agreement, and other documents to occupy a portion of public rights-of-way to construct and maintain four passenger waiting shelters; and authorizing an agreement with Valley Transit regarding said use.
- H. Resolution No. 2015-90 authorizes a data sharing agreement with the Washington State Department of Revenue.
- I. Resolution No. 2015-91 authorizes the purchase of a compact tractor with accessories from the Walla Walla Farmers Co-Op for \$30,504.
- J. Resolution No. 2015-92 declares certain City property as surplus and authorizes its disposal by the City Manager.
- K. Ordinance No. 2015-21 repealing Ordinance No. 2008-23 which established an assessment reimbursement area for certain street project costs in the vicinity of East Isaacs Avenue. (Isaacs Avenue latecomers agreement)
- L. Approval of minutes of the regular meeting held July 22, 2015.

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, and C through L. Councilmember Plucker seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

**5. ACTIVE AGENDA**

- A. Resolution No. 2015-93 authorizing a utility reimbursement agreement with Thomas Fox (Olive Street sewer extension latecomer agreement).

City Manager Shawa reported this is a rental duplex with a failed septic system. This sewer extension will provide service to three lots. The City will recoup an administrative fee of eighteen percent if the properties served connect to the sewer. The legislature extended the payback term of latecomer agreements to twenty years, so that is the term of the agreement.

There was brief discussion on the administrative fee of eighteen percent. This is the normal administrative handling charge for latecomer agreements.

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. 2015-93. Councilmember Jenkins seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

- B. Policy discussion and direction regarding a building code exemption, for existing structures only, if the existing structure will be housing for indigent populations.

City Manager Shawa reported the City received a request for an ordinance to exempt building codes for existing structures if they are used for indigent housing. This proposed amendment is not site specific. Staff has identified four options and is recommending option one.

Development Services Director Chamberlain reported any changes to the building codes would apply citywide and are not project specific. Staff has researched other jurisdictions that have implemented a building code waiver as allowed. Development Services Director Chamberlain reviewed the options as follows:

1. Exempt the building code for housing of indigent populations with specific requirements including a Level 1 review of the requested

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- exemption; compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act; and non-residential occupancies (such as offices) are not exempt.
2. Code amendment allowing for a building code exemption for temporary emergency indoor shelters (such as warming shelters).
  3. Adopting the proposed code amendment as presented to the City Council at the July 13, 2015 Work Session.
  4. To not adopt an exemption to the building code for housing indigent populations.

Staff recommends Option 1.

There was brief discussion on the different review levels for development projects and staff's recommendation.

Mayor Cummins invited public input.

The following spoke in opposition of a building code exemption for existing structures for housing indigent populations:

- Renee Rooker, Executive Director of the Walla Walla Housing Authority, 501 Cayuse, Walla Walla.
- Jean Dolling, 208 Detour Road, Walla Walla.
- Thomas Wilson, 517 Martha, Walla Walla.
- Gerald Watts, 2120 Stateline Road, Walla Walla.
- Kim Cowden Rowe, 529 Quarter Street, Walla Walla.
- Clint Hoffman, 620 W. Pine Street, Walla Walla.
- Wes Saunders, 540 Martha Street, Walla Walla.
- Ann Wilson, 517 Martha Street, Walla Walla.
- Brenda Watts, 610 W. Pine Street, Walla Walla.

The following spoke in support of a building code exemption for existing structures for housing indigent populations:

- Dan Clark, 717 N. Main Street, Walla Walla.
- Kim Wilson, 2237 Crosshaven, Walla Walla.
- Steven Morgan, no address provided.
- Dorothy Knudson, 250 Rancho Villa, Walla Walla.

There was discussion on:

- The need to comply with building codes when a property is changing use. Staff would have to look at each exemption request individually.
- The difference in the review levels and public notification.

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- An exemption would assist in serving a segment of the homeless population that is not currently served by existing resources.
- Whether staff should be put in the position of approving or denying building code exemptions.

Councilmembers expressed their individual opinions on the options and whether to continue the matter.

**Councilmember Barrow moved to table the issue of policy direction on building code exemptions for indigent housing for sixty days. Councilmember Jenkins seconded the motion.**

Councilmember Clark offered comments on the reasons the ordinance has been proposed.

**The motion to table the issue of policy direction on building code exemptions for indigent housing for sixty days failed with 3 yes votes by Councilmembers Barrow, Jenkins and Morgan and 4 no votes by Councilmembers Clark, Plucker, Pomraning and Mayor Cummins.**

There was additional discussion on the options.

**Councilmember Plucker moved to not consider an exemption to the building code for housing indigent populations. Councilmember Jenkins seconded the motion. The motion carried with 4 yes votes by Councilmembers Jenkins, Plucker, Pomraning and Mayor Cummins and 3 no votes by Councilmembers Barrow, Clark and Morgan.**

The meeting was recessed for a break at 8:38 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 8:45 p.m.

C. Approval of minutes of the special Work Session held August 3, 2015.

**Councilmember Barrow moved to approve the minutes of the Work Session held August 3, 2015. Councilmember Clark seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 1 abstention by Councilmember Pomraning.**

D. Gentlemen of the Road Stopover – Wrap up report.

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Parks & Recreation Director Dumont showed a video clip of the Gentlemen of the Road stopover held August 13 through August 15. It is estimated there were over 20,000 people in attendance. Thursday night there were 5,000 people that paid the \$5.00 downtown entrance fee with an estimated attendance of 8,000 people.

Parks & Recreation Director Dumont reviewed public safety statistics from the event and general areas that went well or needed improvements. Walla Walla is considered the "Best of the best" stopovers.

There was brief discussion on the visitors from Italy; speeding tickets issued by the State Patrol; and the majority of citizen complaints were due to street closures.

Lydia Friederich, 1526 Ruth Street, Walla Walla, reported the ten visitors from Italy were amazed at the organization of the event and thoroughly enjoyed their time in Walla Walla.

Council thanked Parks & Recreation Director Dumont for his personal and professional work on the event; and also recognized the efforts of the Union Bulletin to keep the community informed, and the work by City sanitation and street crews.

**6. COUNCIL MEMBER MEETING REPORTS**

Councilmember Morgan had no meetings to report.

Councilmember Jenkins had no meetings to report.

Councilmember Barrow reported attendance at a meeting with staff from Senator Cantwell's office on August 20; and the Blue Mountain Action Council Board meeting held August 24.

Councilmember Plucker reported attendance at the Valley Transit Board meeting held August 20.

Councilmember Clark reported attendance at the Civil Service Commission meeting held August 19; and a meeting with incoming Whitman College students regarding sustainability held August 21.

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Councilmember Pomraning reported attendance at the Good Roads Committee meeting held August 19; and a meeting held with Walla Walla Community College on August 24 regarding hosting future meetings on the subject of the Mill Creek channel.

Mayor Cummins reported attendance at the Emergency Management Board meeting held August 18; the Good Roads Committee meeting held August 19; the Valley Transit Board meeting held August 20; the Public Works Trust Board meeting held August 21; the Walla Walla Housing Authority Board meeting held August 21; a walk-about of downtown on August 24; and presentation of a civic award to Andy Asmus on August 22.

**7. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS**

Council asked about the progress on the aviary project. Staff responded that there was unknown infrastructure encountered which has led to project delays.

City Manager Shawa commented on the installation of new pickleball courts where the tennis courts were located at Pioneer Park at no cost to the City.

**8. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Cummins announced the City Council would be recessing to Executive Session to discuss the strategy or position to be taken by the City Council in the course of collective bargaining, professional negotiations, or grievance or mediation proceedings and to review proposals made in negotiations pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(b), and to discuss litigation and potential litigation, in which the City is a party or is likely to become a party, with legal counsel representing the City pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i). The Executive Session will last no more than two hours and no further business will occur in open session.

Councilmember Jenkins was excused from the meeting at 9:26 p.m.

The meeting was recessed to Executive Session at 9:26 p.m.

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9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:51 p.m.