

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 4, 2015

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

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

Absent: Councilmembers Jim Barrow and Allen Pomraning.

City staff in attendance: City Manager Nabel Shawa, City Attorney Tim Donaldson, Deputy City Manager Tim McCarty, Police Chief Scott Bieber, Finance Director Jean Teasdale, Human Resources Director Pam Taylor, Police Captain Chris Buttice, City Engineer Neal Chavre, Parks Maintenance Supervisor Andy Coleman, 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

Dorothy Knudson, 250 Rancho Villa, Walla Walla, expressed concerns and asked if a plan was in place to improve the roadway infrastructure on Middle Waitsburg Road.

Sharon Schiller, 1414 Topaz, Walla Walla, congratulated the winners of the 2015 election and expressed concerns with annexations and development without addressing the needs of the heart of the City.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

City Clerk Hill introduced the Consent Agenda, Items A and B, as follows:

- A. Resolution No. 2015-113 authorizing execution of an amendment to the Interlocal cooperation agreement establishing the Walla Walla Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization.

**WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
NOVEMBER 4, 2015
PAGE 2**

- B. Washington State Liquor Control Board: Special occasion license for Walla Walla Community Hospice at the Marcus Whitman Hotel & Conference Center, 6 W. Rose Street, on February 2, 2016.

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 and B. Councilmember Clark seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 5 yes votes and 0 no votes.

5. ACTIVE AGENDA

- A. Aviary pen construction project update.

Parks Maintenance Supervisor Coleman reported the contract for the aviary pen construction was awarded to Echogrind on April 15. Work began on June 15 and was then delayed. A meeting was held with Echogrind who has assured the City the project will be completed on schedule by the end of the year. Change orders have been issued to address the old concrete fish hatchery and drain pipes that were discovered during excavation. Most of the earthwork has been completed.

There were brief comments on the health of the birds enclosed in the smaller net pen.

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

- B. Public hearing on the 2016 regular property tax levy and sources of revenue, including:

Resolution No. 2015-114 authorizing property tax increases for debt service on voter-approved bonds.

Resolution No. 2015-115 finding substantial need for use of a regular property tax limit factor of 101 percent and authorizes use of such limit factor for purposes of setting regular property taxes to be levied in 2016 and calculating and protecting the levy capacity.

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
NOVEMBER 4, 2015
PAGE 3

Resolution No. 2015-116 authorizing a regular property tax increase.

City Manager Shawa reported staff will provide an overview of property taxes and an anti-gang activity approach.

Deputy City Manager McCarty reviewed:

- A resolution of substantial need to levy an additional one percent since the implicit price deflator was less than one percent.
- General fund revenue and expenses.
- Property tax calculation.
- Summary of property taxes.
- Levy rate history.
- 2015 homeowner property tax levy.
- City of Walla Walla levy compared to Walla Walla County and City of College Place.

Staff is seeking direction from the City Council for preparation of the ordinances to levy property taxes on November 18.

Police Chief Bieber commented that the number one threat to the community is gang violence. There are three pieces to impact gang violence: enforcement, intervention, and prevention. Police Chief Bieber reviewed:

- Top eleven efforts at combating gang activity.
- Prevention and intervention efforts.
- Four pieces to enforcement.
- Additional outreach efforts.
- Tie-in to two key strategic objectives and desired outcomes.
- Cost to implement.
- City property tax levy rate with use of the banked levy capacity. This levy rate is still lower than Walla Walla County or the City of College Place.

There was discussion on:

- Review of historical statistics on gang violence and length of time, after implementation of strategies, before an impact was made on gang crimes. A reduction in the number of police employees has led to a reactionary versus proactive approach.
- Working with neighboring jurisdictions because crime does not have geographical boundaries. The agencies will be sharing the same

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
NOVEMBER 4, 2015
PAGE 4

- records program which will help but unfortunately they do not have the capacity for additional resources.
- Tracking progress by identifying how many gang members are in town today versus in two years. Staff responded they do not have this data and are subscribing to databases that can provide this information.
 - Estimated cost of the plan proposed by the Police Department is not affordable or sustainable. Forty-four police officers were funded in 2015; the addition of two gang enforcement officers is estimated to cost \$220,000. To cover this additional cost, staff recommends using the banked levy capacity plus \$31,000 from the ending fund balance.
 - The training and time necessary to train entry level police officers and get them on the streets. Staff would propose moving two officers from patrol for an immediate impact on gang violence.
 - The strategy includes intervention and prevention programs in addition to enforcement.
 - Deportation of criminal illegal immigrants and why this is a City responsibility.
 - Staff continually looks at efficiencies and reducing costs. The only way to fund additional officers without increasing revenue is to cut other programs.

City Attorney Donaldson reported the City Council is required to hold a public hearing to consider all revenue sources.

Mayor Cummins declared the public hearing open at 8:12 p.m. There being no public testimony, the public hearing was closed.

City Attorney Donaldson explained that Resolution No. 2015-114 is related to the property tax levy on voter-approved bonds. Deputy City Manager McCarty reported the tax levies for the voter-approved bonds are: Fire station bond \$323,920 plus five percent for delinquency for a total of \$340,116; the Police station bond \$831,913 plus five percent for delinquency for a total of \$873,409; and the Memorial Swimming pool bond \$286,680 plus five percent for delinquency for a total of \$301,014.

The actual ordinances to levy property taxes will be brought back for Council consideration on November 18.

**WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
NOVEMBER 4, 2015
PAGE 5**

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

**Councilmember Clark moved to adopt Resolution No. 2015-114.
Councilmember Plucker seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 5 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

Resolution No. 2015-115 finding substantial need for use of a regular property tax limit factor of 101 percent and authorizing use of such limit factor for purposes of setting regular property taxes to be levied in 2016 and calculating and protecting the levy capacity.

City Attorney Donaldson reported the implicit price deflator is less than one percent. Council may only raise property taxes over the implicit price deflator if there is a finding of substantial need for a one percent increase. This resolution must be approved by a super majority of the whole Council (five votes).

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

**Councilmember Morgan moved to adopt Resolution No. 2015-115.
Councilmember Jenkins seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 5 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

Resolution No. 2015-116 authorizing a regular property tax increase for the City pursuant to RCW 84.55.120.

City Attorney Donaldson reported that based on the City Council's action to approve Resolution No. 2015-115, versions A and C of Resolution No. 2015-116 can be disregarded. Version B would levy the one percent but would preserve the banked levy capacity. Version D would levy both the one percent increase and all of the banked levy capacity.

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

There was discussion on:

- Supporting the efforts of the Police Department but ensuring the general population understands the possibility of using the City's banked levy capacity.

**WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
NOVEMBER 4, 2015
PAGE 6**

- Need to act quickly and supporting the effort to reduce gang violence.
- There will be additional opportunity for community feedback during the next two weeks until the ordinance levying the ad valorem property tax is considered.
- The ordinance will take a majority vote of the City Council (four votes).
- The total banked levy amount is \$169,542.

Councilmember Clark moved to adopt Resolution No. 2015-116 to levy the full one percent, new construction, annexations, and banked levy capacity. (Version D) Councilmember Plucker seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 5 yes votes and 0 no votes.

6. COUNCIL MEMBER MEETING REPORTS

Councilmember Morgan reported attendance at the Finance Committee meeting held November 2.

Councilmember Jenkins had no meetings to report.

Councilmember Plucker reported attendance at the Finance Committee meeting held November 2.

Councilmember Clark reported attendance at the Mill Creek visioning session held at the Walla Walla Community College by Washington State University landscape students on November 2; and the Sustainability Committee meeting held November 3.

Mayor Cummins reported attendance at the Metropolitan Planning Organization Board meeting held November 4.

7. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Jenkins moved to reappoint the following:

- **Infrastructure Improvement Committee for terms expiring December 31, 2018: Kurt Othberg, Doug Simmons, Paul Wemhoener.**
- **Lodging Tax Advisory Committee for terms expiring December 31, 2018: Ted Cohan and Kay Wessel.**
- **Parks, Recreation & Urban Forestry Advisory Board for terms expiring December 31, 2018: Susan Fleming and Skyler Rude.**

**WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
NOVEMBER 4, 2015
PAGE 7**

- **Planning Commission for terms expiring December 31, 2018: Kent Huxel and Daryl Pearson.**

Councilmember Morgan seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 5 yes votes and 0 no votes.

Councilmember Clark commented that the new plan for Isaacs Avenue would have a pedestrian refuge and crosswalk enhancements at the location where a pedestrian was recently hit and killed.

Mayor Cummins distributed copies of the City's 2015 state and federal legislative priorities and the Association of Washington Cities legislative priorities and asked Council to review and make any suggested revisions. Councilmember Clark suggested supporting the National League of Cities efforts to amend legislation to require local sales taxes on all Internet sales.

Mayor Cummins announced that City Hall will become "Kitty Hall" on Saturday, November 7 from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. for cat adoptions through the Blue Mountain Humane Society. Zoey, Mayor Cummins' adopted puppy, will be the honorary chair of the event.

City Manager Shawa reported the Alder Street Improvements appear to have a traffic calming effect through the downtown. The holiday decorations from Main Street will be relocated to Alder Street and new, larger scale, decorations will be purchased for Main Street.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Cummins, with the consent of City Attorney Donaldson, announced that the Executive Session scheduled to discuss litigation or potential litigation has been cancelled.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.