

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 18, 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, Deputy City Manager Tim McCarty, Finance Director Jean Teasdale, Development Services Director Elizabeth Chamberlain, Police Captain Chris Buttice, Deputy Fire Chief Brad Morris, Communications Manager David Brauhn, 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. PRESENTATIONS

Development Services Director Chamberlain reported the City of Walla Walla received the Governor's Smart Communities Lifetime Achievement Award in celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Growth Management Act and displayed the glass award. There were comments on the benefits of planned development.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Richard McFarland, 3731 Middle Waitsburg Road, Walla Walla, had questions regarding groundwork being done on both Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the development at 51 Middle Waitsburg Road and expressed concerns with the grade and fill permit listing the wrong address and work being done on a pre-existing drainage pond at the site.

Steve Smart, 817 N. Main Street, Walla Walla, tenant at the 50-unit apartments owned by the Housing Authority, expressed concerns with

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drug sales occurring within the housing project and frustration with inaction of the Housing Authority.

Eric David Malcolm, transient, commented they would like to lease a building to start a second-hand store and have a place to go during the day.

Michael Kiefel, 63 Baumeister Drive, Walla Walla, suggested that the City needs to address the larger issue of homelessness and providing comfort to anyone that is displaced. Mr. Kiefel requested toilets be provided within the downtown area.

Kristy Kiefel, 63 Baumeister Drive, Walla Walla, expressed concerns with the lack of bathrooms for homeless people and asked the City to extend the availability of public restrooms downtown or provide access to port-a-potties.

Dan Clark, 717 N. Main Street, Walla Walla, reported that November 19 is World Toilet Day and commented on the lack of public bathroom facilities. Mr. Clark asked the City to provide restroom availability 24 hours per day.

Jean Ann Herbert, Reser Road, thanked the City Council for listening to their concerns and for considering the need for public restrooms in downtown.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Washington State Liquor & Cannabis Board: Special occasion license for Blue Mountain Action Council on December 10, 2015 at Corliss Estates, 511 N. 2nd Avenue.
- B. Resolution No. 2015-117 authorizing an application for the 2015 FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant program for the purchase of a front line pumper truck.

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

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

6. ACTIVE AGENDA

A. 2015-2016 Budget modification hearing.

Finance Director Teasdale reviewed:

- City's Mission, Vision and Values.
- Major funds.
- General fund expenses and revenues.
- Proposed expense and revenue modifications.
- Estimated unrestricted fund balances.
- Street fund.
- 2016 street projects.
- Items not included within the budget modification.
- Impact on average residential homeowner from utility rate and property tax increases.

There was discussion on:

- Value established for annexed area. Staff explained the 2015 annexations were for vacant property having a low assessed value.
- Items not included in the proposed budget modification.
- Increases in utility rates include previously-approved increases in sanitation rates.

Mayor Cummins declared the public hearing open at 7:42 p.m. There being no public comments, Mayor Cummins declared the public hearing closed.

B. Adoption of 2016 property tax levies.

City Manager Shawa reported staff is recommending use of the City's banked levy capacity to fund the addition of two gang enforcement officers.

Deputy City Manager McCarty reviewed:

- Substantial unmet financial needs facing the City.
- Property tax calculations.
- Tax levy rate history.

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- City has lowest overall property tax compared to Walla Walla County and College Place.
- Total property tax levy amount.

There was discussion on:

- Reasons why the City has chosen not to set aside replacement funds for fire trucks.
- The City is providing more services than its surrounding jurisdictions for less property tax.

Councilmember Barrow moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2015-26 authorizing a property tax increase for debt service on voter-approved bonds for the police station. Councilmember Plucker seconded the motion.

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

The motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2015-26 unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

Councilmember Pomraning moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2015-27 authorizing a property tax increase for debt service on voter-approved bonds for the fire station. Councilmember Plucker seconded the motion.

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

The motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2015-27 unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

Councilmember Morgan moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2015-28 authorizing a property tax increase for debt service on voter-approved bonds for the Veteran's Memorial Swimming Pool. Councilmember Clark seconded the motion.

There was discussion on the debt service on the pool bonds. This levy amount is only what was authorized by the voters.

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

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The motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2015-28 unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

Ordinance No. 2015-29 authorizing the ad valorem property tax levy for 2016.

Council asked how much the one percent tax levy increase amounted to. Staff responded the one percent increase is approximately \$55,000.

Mayor Cummins invited public input.

Duane Thomson, 2007 Glen Erin Drive, Walla Walla, asked Council to consider the financial impact of any increases on citizens on fixed incomes.

There were comments regarding the eligibility of low income seniors and disabled people to qualify for exemptions on their property tax bills. Taxes cover services that are needed and that residents want at a less costly expense than if an individual were to pay for the service themselves.

**Councilmember Clark moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2015-29.
Councilmember Morgan seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes**

- C. Approval of the October 31, 2015 accounts payable register containing check numbers 185837 through 186256, 990709 through 990714, and 8562 through 8582 totaling \$3,710,335.32.

**Councilmember Plucker moved to approve the October 31, 2015 accounts payable register containing check numbers 185837 through 186256, 990709 through 990714, and 8562 through 8582 totaling \$3,710,335.32 with the exception of the check to Jerry Cummins.
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 check to Jerry Cummins. Councilmember Clark seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 1 abstention by Mayor Cummins.

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D. Approval of minutes of the Work Session held October 26, 2015.

Councilmember Pomraning moved to approve the minutes of the Work Session held October 26, 2015. Councilmember Clark seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 5 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 2 abstentions by Councilmembers Barrow and Jenkins.

E. Approval of minutes of the regular meeting held October 28, 2015.

Councilmember Pomraning moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held October 28, 2015. Councilmember Barrow seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 1 abstention by Councilmember Jenkins.

7. COUNCIL MEMBER MEETING REPORTS

Councilmember Pomraning reported attendance at a meeting with students from the Washington State University Engineering School regarding the Mill Creek channel visioning project on November 6; the Work Session held November 9; the Chamber of Commerce legislative luncheon held November 12; an interview at Whitman College regarding the Mill Creek channel held November 13; and the Water & Wastewater Advisory Committee meeting held November 18.

Councilmember Clark reported attendance at the Work Session held November 9; the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee meeting held November 10; the Chamber of Commerce legislative luncheon held November 12; a dinner with officials from the Association of Washington Cities held November 16; and the Civil Service Commission meeting held November 18.

Councilmember Plucker reported attendance at the Work Session held November 9.

Councilmember Barrow reported attendance at the Work Session held October 26; a meeting with students from the Washington State University Engineering School regarding the Mill Creek channel visioning project on November 6; the Chamber of Commerce legislative luncheon held November 12; a dinner with officials from the Association of Washington Cities held November 16; and a meeting of the Council's legislative committee held November 17.

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Councilmember Jenkins reported attendance at the Work Session held November 9; and the Blue Mountain Action Council's Carrie Street community center open house held November 12.

Councilmember Morgan reported attendance at the Work Session held November 9; and a dinner with officials from the Association of Washington Cities held November 16.

Mayor Cummins reported attendance at the VA Medical Center Veteran's celebration held November 6; the "Kitty Hall" at City Hall event held November 7; the Veteran's recognition program at Prospect Point Elementary School held November 9; the Veteran's recognition program at Walla Walla High School held November 10; the award ceremony held November 13 for the Governor's Smart Communities Lifetime Achievement Award in celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Growth Management Act; the Borleske Stadium Association Board meeting held November 16; a dinner with officials from the Association of Washington Cities held November 16; and a meeting of the Council's legislative committee held November 17.

7. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Clark commented on the sense of community during the Walla Walla Symphony performance held November 17.

Councilmember Clark asked for a discussion of the "Portland Loo" concept at the Council's January retreat.

There was discussion on the request made by Steve Smart regarding the sale of illegal drugs in the Housing Authority's apartment complex. Mayor Cummins, as the City Council representative to the Housing Authority, indicated he will gather facts and report back to the City Council.

Mayor Cummins asked the Council to provide their individual feedback on the proposed legislative goals that will be brought forward for Council consideration on December 2.

City Manager Shawa thanked the City Council for their support of the property tax increase for gang enforcement officers.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Cummins announced the City Council would be recessing to Executive Session to discuss with legal counsel representing the City, litigation or potential litigation involving 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 come before the City Council in open session.

The meeting was recessed at 8:41 p.m.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Councilmember Pomraning moved to adjourn at 9:22 p.m. Councilmember Morgan seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.