

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
December 16, 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, Allen Pomraning, and Mayor Jerry Cummins.

Absent: Councilmember Jim Barrow.

City staff in attendance: City Manager Nabel Shawa, City Attorney Tim Donaldson, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Parks & Recreation Director Jim Dumont, Finance Director Jean Teasdale, Fire Chief Bob Yancey, Development Services Director Elizabeth Chamberlain, City Engineer Neal Chavre, Project Engineer Monte Puymon, 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. PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Cummins read and presented a proclamation declaring December 19, 2015 as "Holly Day - Celebrating Children's Dreams for Their Futures" to Cheryl Heller, President of the Danza Classica Ballet Foundation. Ms. Heller introduced dancers in attendance and Brittney Ryan, author of the Holly Claus book series. Ms. Ryan recognized the efforts of choreographer and dance instructor, Idalee Hutson-Fish, and commented on the world premier of "Holly Claus – the ballet of dreams."

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ben Freedman, sophomore at Whitman College, expressed concerns with pedestrian safety along Isaacs Avenue. Mr. Freedman suggested placement of a street light at the crosswalk by Whitman College.

Adam Rathmore, sophomore at Whitman College, advocated for a homeless shelter.

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
DECEMBER 16, 2015
PAGE 2

Zachary Hewlin, Whitman College, advocated for passage of a ban on disposable plastic shopping bags.

Gary Ho, sophomore at Whitman College, asked for implementation of a safe injection site for the use of illegal drugs.

Steve Smart, 817 N. Main Street, Walla Walla, expressed concerns with the lack of a response by the Walla Walla Housing Authority and lack of transparency.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Washington State Liquor Control Board: New application for Trattoria Colea, 1129 S. 2nd Avenue, Suite D.
- B. Washington State Liquor Control Board: Change of corporate officers/stockholders for Public House 124, 124 E. Main Street.
- C. Acceptance of resignation of Federico Diaz from the Public Library Board.
- D. Ordinance No. 2015-36 amending the 2015-2016 maintenance and operations budget.

Ordinance No. 2015-37 establishing new projects and amending the 2015-2016 capital improvement project budget.
- E. Resolution No. 2015-124 authorizing an application to the Federal Emergency Management Agency assistance to firefighters grant program for funding an additional remote radio site to improve emergency communications.
- F. Resolution No. 2015-125 authorizing an application to designate Pioneer Park on the local register of historic places.
- G. Resolution No. 2015-126 accepting a grant from the Department of Ecology for the purchase, operation and maintenance of a new high efficiency regenerative air street sweeper.

**WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
DECEMBER 16, 2015
PAGE 3**

- H. Resolution No. 2015-127 awarding a contract to CB&I Environmental for the routine operation and maintenance of the Sudbury Road Landfill flare system.
- I. Resolution No. 2015-128 awarding a contract to CB&I Environmental to repair the landfill gas collection and flare system at the Sudbury Road landfill.
- J. Resolution No. 2015-129 adopting the 2015 general sewer plan update.
- K. Resolution No. 2015-130 setting a date to consider a ten percent annexation petition for approximately 31 acres located east of State Route 125 and adjacent to Taumarson Road.
- L. Resolution No. 2015-131 authorizing an amendment to the employment agreement with Nabel Shawa.
- M. Resolution No. 2015-132 ratifying an emergency declaration and contract to Columbia Pumping and Construction for repairs to the Water Treatment Plant reservoirs.

Mayor Cummins invited public input.

Richard McFarland, 3731 Middle Waitsburg Road, Walla Walla, asked for a brief report on Item F. Development Services Director Chamberlain reported this is a recommendation from the Historic Preservation Commission and described the area and historic features of Pioneer Park.

Councilmember Plucker moved to adopt Consent Agenda Items A through M. Councilmember Jenkins seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

6. ACTIVE AGENDA

- A. Resolution No. 2015-134 authorizing an agreement with the Washington State Transportation Improvement Board for the Isaacs Avenue urban arterial program grant in the amount of \$3,594,500.

Project Engineer Puymon described the multi-modality safety improvements to be made to the Isaacs Avenue corridor from Rose Street to Wilbur Street. The design process will begin in 2016 with construction in

**WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
DECEMBER 16, 2015
PAGE 4**

2017. Staff is working with the railroad to abandon the current railroad crossing on Isaacs Avenue and will develop alternative plans if unsuccessful. The last train to use this crossing was over two years ago. The Public Works Department was commended for their efforts in securing this grant.

Mayor Cummins invited public input.

Joe Fondahn, 1834 Amelia, Walla Walla, suggested turning the existing railroad line into a "rails to trails" project.

Councilmember Morgan moved to adopt Resolution No. 2015-134. Councilmember Jenkins seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- B. Resolution No. 2015-133 approving a professional services contract with Anderson Perry & Associates for the design of the Isaacs Avenue Improvement project (Phases 1 and 2) in the amount of \$1,809,775.

Project Engineer Puymon reviewed project funding and described the economies of scale by contracting for design of the entire project. If the City is successful in obtaining additional Federal funds then a contract amendment is likely. The City will be using ground penetrating radar in an attempt to identify any unknown infrastructure.

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. 2015-133. Councilmember Plucker seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- C. Temporary placement of porta-potties in downtown.

Parks & Recreation Director Dumont and Elio Agostini, Downtown Walla Walla Foundation Director, reviewed the proposed locations for two portable toilets in the downtown area and servicing schedule.

There was discussion on:

- Outreach to targeted community.
- Ensuring cleanliness by more frequent servicing.

**WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
DECEMBER 16, 2015
PAGE 5**

- Monitoring of the portable toilets.
- Measures for determining if the pilot project is successful.
- Looking at a more permanent solution during the trial period.

Mayor Cummins invited public input.

Joe Fondahn, 1834 Amelia, Walla Walla, suggested the public parking lot behind Inland Printing as an alternative location and asked for the bushes in the parking lot to be pruned back for safety.

Beth Call, 102 Otis, Walla Walla, thanked the City Council for addressing this issue.

R.L McFarland, 3731 Middle Waitsburg Road, Walla Walla, suggested additional servicing and cleaning may be necessary. Mr. McFarland also suggested having "All Star Public Restrooms" by employing homeless people to monitor the facility.

Councilmember Pomraning moved to direct staff to rent two portable toilets for the downtown area for ninety days with daily cleanings, Monday through Friday, by contract. Councilmember Plucker seconded the motion.

Councilmember Clark moved to amend the motion to allow the Parks and Recreation staff to determine the cleaning schedule with preapproval to increase cleaning to five times per week, if necessary. Councilmember Jenkins seconded the motion to amend. The amended motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

The motion to direct staff to rent two portable toilets for the downtown area for ninety days and allowing the Parks and Recreation staff to determine the cleaning schedule with preapproval to increase cleaning to five times per week, if necessary, unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- D. Resolution No. 2015-135 encouraging respect for the diverse population of our community and nation.

Councilmember Clark reported she proposed this resolution due to recent acts of disrespect and violence against Muslims. These acts are very worrisome and it is important for the City Council, as leaders within the community, to speak out against them. The Dean of Students at Whitman

**WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
DECEMBER 16, 2015
PAGE 6**

College had also reported to her there were acts of intolerance against students of color at the school.

Mayor Cummins invited public input.

Beth Call, 102 Otis, Walla Walla spoke in support of the resolution.

There was discussion on whether this is an appropriate action and role for the City Council.

Councilmember Clark moved to adopt Resolution No. 2015-135. Councilmember Pomraning seconded the motion. The motion failed to pass with 2 yes votes by Councilmembers Clark and Morgan, and 4 no votes by Councilmembers Jenkins, Plucker, Pomraning, and Mayor Cummins.

- E. Approval of the November 30, 2015 accounts payable register containing check numbers 186257 through 186575, 990715 through 990718, and 8583 through 8594 totaling \$1,969,210.65.

Councilmember Plucker moved to approve the November 30, 2015 accounts payable register containing check numbers 186257 through 186575, 990715 through 990718, and 8583 through 8594 totaling \$1,969,210.65. Councilmember Clark seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

7. COUNCIL MEMBER MEETING REPORTS

Councilmember Morgan reported attendance at the signing of the pact of friendship with Cannara, Italy held December 8; the Work Session held December 14; and the special meeting with the State legislators held December 16.

Councilmember Jenkins reported attendance at the Work Session held December 14.

Councilmember Clark reported attendance at the Association of Washington Cities Elected Official Essentials training held December 5; the signing of the pact of friendship with Cannara, Italy held December 8; the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee meeting held December 8; the LEOFF 1 Disability Board meeting held December 8; the Borleske Stadium Association Board meeting held December 14; the Work Session held

**WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
DECEMBER 16, 2015
PAGE 7**

December 14; the special meeting with the State legislators held December 16; and the Civil Service Commission meeting held December 16.

Councilmember Plucker reported attendance at the Parks, Recreation and Urban Forestry Advisory Board meeting held December 7; and the Work Session held December 14.

Councilmember Pomraning reported attendance at the signing of the pact of friendship with Cannara, Italy held December 8; the Work Session held December 14; the special meeting with the State legislators held December 16; the Port of Walla Walla Economic Development Committee meeting held December 16; and the Water & Wastewater Advisory Committee meeting held December 16.

Mayor Cummins reported attendance at the Association of Washington Cities Elected Official Essentials training held December 5; the signing of the pact of friendship with Cannara, Italy held December 8; the LEOFF 1 Disability Board meeting held December 8; the Public Works Assistance Board meeting held December 11; the Valley Transit awards banquet held December 13; the Work Session held December 14; and the special meeting with the State legislators held December 16. Mayor Cummins also reported serving as a driver for Topsy Taxi on December 15.

8. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Jenkins moved to make the following appointments:

- **Katharine Curles and David Rolph to the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee for terms expiring December 31, 2018;**
- **Tim Odeen to the Historic Preservation Commission for a term expiring June 30, 2018;**
- **Linda Eki to the Infrastructure Improvement Committee for a term expiring December 31, 2018;**
- **Joshua Wicks to the Parks, Recreation and Urban Forestry Advisory Board for a term expiring December 31, 2018;**
- **Carlan Bradshaw to the Planning Commission for a term expiring December 31, 2018;**
- **Julia Ireland to the Public Library Board for a term expiring December 31, 2020;**
- **Skip Nichols to the Public Library Board for a term expiring December 31, 2019; and**

**WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
DECEMBER 16, 2015
PAGE 8**

- **Judy Fenno to the Sustainability Committee for a term expiring June 30, 2018.**

Councilmember Plucker seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

There was discussion by Council regarding the comments made by Mr. Smart as they relate to the Walla Walla Housing Authority.

Mayor Cummins presented Councilmembers Jenkins and Plucker with their four-year service pins.

City Manager Shawa reported the City had received its certificate of achievement for its 2014 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

City Attorney Donaldson expressed staff's appreciation for the four years of service by Councilmember Jenkins and Councilmember Plucker and presented each with a commemorative award in recognition of their service.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Councilmember Plucker moved to adjourn at 9:14 p.m. Councilmember Morgan seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m.