

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Work Session Minutes
March 9, 2015

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Cummins called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Present: Councilmembers Jim Barrow, Barbara Clark, Mary Lou Jenkins, Dick Morgan, Chris Plucker, Allen Pomraning and Mayor Jerry Cummins. (Councilmember Barrow arrived at 4:20 p.m.)

Absent: None.

City staff in attendance: City Manager Nabel Shawa, Finance Director Jean Teasdale, Development Services Director Elizabeth Chamberlain, Fire Chief Bob Yancey, Police Chief Scott Bieber, City Engineer Neal Chavre, Animal Control Officer Sallie McCullough, Engineer Monte Puymon, Legal Secretary/Deputy City Clerk Jodi Stephens and Intern Sarah Donaldson.

2. ACTIVE AGENDA

A. Barking Dogs and Chicken Issues. Presentation by Animal Control Officer Sallie McCullough and Police Chief Scott Bieber.

Animal Control Officer McCullough reviewed:

- Comparison of other cities' codes on chickens and dogs.
- Suggested amendment of the current Municipal Code provisions to make barking dogs an infraction rather than a misdemeanor. The first infraction would be a \$125 penalty and the second infraction would be a \$250 penalty. Third, and subsequent violations for the same animal, would be a criminal misdemeanor.
- Handling of roosters when responding to complaints. Many of the roosters are used for cockfighting.
- Amending the Municipal Code to reduce the number of allowed chickens from fifty to six.
- Creation of a separate Municipal Code section for the keeping of chickens.
- Allowing for the humane destruction of roosters due to a lack of facilities to hold birds for extended periods of time.

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- Amending the Municipal Code to reduce the time listening to a dog bark during the daytime hours from twenty minutes to five or six minutes before citing the owner.
- Allowing the Animal Control Officer to issue citations for barking dogs without the aid of a police officer.
- Adjusting the distance for animal outbuildings to house chickens from fifty feet to three feet from a property line.

Police Chief Bieber requested approval to move forward with amending the appropriate sections of the Municipal Code for both dogs and chickens.

There was discussion on:

- The allowable time limit for barking dogs prior to issuance of a citation.
- Streamlining the barking dog citation process.
- Keeping public involved and being transparent on the chicken issue.
- Feasibility of a permit process for raising 4-H animals.
- Noise complaints for crowing roosters.
- Humane requirements for raising animals.

Councilmember Jim Barrow arrived at 4:20 p.m.

Mayor Cummins invited public input.

Summer Aerni, 627 Lewis Street, Walla Walla, commented that limiting City residents to six chickens would limit her children's participation in 4-H programs. The number of chickens needed depends on the specific 4-H project. Chickens and rabbits are the main small animals raised by City kids in 4-H. There are 4-H programs that involve roosters, but regulating roosters is understood.

Charles Stanger offered his support of 4-H programs and youth involvement.

Mayor Cummins suggested Animal Control Officer McCullough work with legal counsel regarding the proposed ordinance/Municipal Code revisions. Council concurred with this approach.

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- B. Establishment of a city-wide sidewalk repair/replacement program. Presentation by City Engineer Neal Chavre.

City Engineer Chavre reviewed current problems and presented the proposed sidewalk replacement program.

There was discussion on:

- The responsibility of repairs on sidewalks and the City's liability for any incidents occurring on those sidewalks.
- The reasonable amount of time necessary to fix a residential sidewalk.
- If improvements could be done by neighborhoods instead of individuals.
- Having a uniform plan for sidewalk reconstruction instead of addressing on a case-by-case basis.
- Conflicts with tree roots and sidewalks.
- Having the Hearing Examiner preside over these issues rather than bringing them to Council multiple times.

Mayor Cummins invited public input.

Dominick Elia, 302 S Roosevelt Street, Walla Walla, suggested the City fix City sidewalks before telling residents that they need to fix their sidewalks.

It was the consensus of Council to have staff move forward with the proposed plan.

- C. Isaacs Avenue Corridor Study – Existing & Future Conditions. Presentation by Engineer Monte Puymon and Scott Mansur, DKS Associates.

Engineer Puymon and Scott Mansur with DKS Associates presented an overview of the existing and future Isaacs Avenue Corridor Study.

There was discussion on:

- The types of accidents that happened in the Isaacs Avenue corridor.
- The amount of accidents that happened in the Isaacs Avenue corridor versus state averages.
- The number of collisions near traffic signals.
- Landscaping for the project.
- Crosswalks and "opportunity crossings" that happen in the area.

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Mayor Cummins invited public input.

Terry Willcuts, 1324 Isaacs Avenue, Walla Walla, asked what the corridor design will be. Staff responded residents will be advised of a workshop on design ideas on April 13th.

Kurt Friederich, 1526 Ruth, Walla Walla, asked which project goals were most important. Mr. Mansur replied there were different criteria, and alternative designs for the project will be displayed at the workshop on April 13th.

Greg Knowles, Bicycle Barn on Isaacs, reported he had witnessed three accidents in the area; and asked about the potential landscaping for the project to make the area look more attractive.

Charles Stranger appreciates that the council is getting feedback on the project.

It was the consensus of Council to move forward with the Isaacs Avenue corridor planning as outlined.

D. Fire Inspection Fees. Presentation by City Manager Nabel Shawa.

City Manager Shawa and Fire Chief Yancey reported the Fire Department has been working to transfer fire inspection data to a new software system. The new software will be used to allow inspectors to enter data directly from tablets into the program during an inspection. The downtown area is currently the core focus for inspections.

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

Mayor Cummins invited businesses to contact City staff regarding fire inspections.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

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4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:59 p.m.