

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Work Session Minutes
August 10, 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 Jenkins arrived at 4:03 p.m.)

Absent: None

City staff in attendance: City Manager Nabel Shawa, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Finance Director Jean Teasdale, Public Works Manager Mori Struve, Utilities Engineer Frank Nicholson, Project Engineer Nathan Black, Water Treatment Plant Supervisor Tom Krebs, Solid Waste Manager Damon Taam, Sustainability Coordinator Melissa Warner, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

2. ACTIVE AGENDA

A. State legislative update. Presentation by Dave Mastin.

Mr. Mastin reported he represents a coalition comprised of the City of College Place, City of Walla Walla, Walla Walla County, and the Port of Walla Walla. Mr. Mastin reviewed:

- Lobby efforts for the coalition from 2010-2015.
- Current clients of his firm.
- 2015 was the longest continuous legislative session in history – 170 days.
- State budget and funding for local governments.

There was discussion on transportation funding and withdrawal of funding for the Public Works Board programs.

B. LT2 Water Treatment Plant upgrade status report.

City Manager Shawa reported this issue is scheduled for a decision by Council on August 12.

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Public Works Director Bealey introduced the Water Treatment Plant project team and reviewed the recommendation from the Water & Wastewater Advisory Committee to change design from a slow sand filtration to a ultra-violet (UV) disinfection system with roughing filter.

Staff reviewed:

- Need to revisit LT2 compliance technologies.
- Comparison of costs.
- Performance of the two systems.
- Operation of a UV system with roughing filter.
- Fecal coliform.
- City has a redundant water system with the watershed and wells.
- Recharging of the wells.
- Impact of a fire within the watershed.
- Other government agencies utilizing UV systems for water treatment.
- Pipe replacement and other needs for the water system.
- Current and projected long term water system debt.
- The need to balance affordable rates, pipe replacement, and LT2 treatment improvements.
- A UV system would save approximately \$11 million which can be used for other needed repairs.

There was discussion on:

- Increases in construction costs for slow sand filtration system.
- Impact on water utility rate payers.
- UV system is easier and less costly to operate, and has a more stable life-cycle cost.
- Importance of making good decisions for future generations. There are many variables that need to be considered, in addition to cost.
- Determine whether there are economic development funds available before a decision is made.
- Need to make a decision to secure the State revolving fund loan at a one percent interest rate.

Mayor Cummins invited public input.

Sharon Schiller, 1414 Topaz, Walla Walla, asked about the energy consumption necessary to operate the two different systems. Staff responded the UV system was less costly to operate.

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Dominick Elia, 302 Roosevelt, Walla Walla, spoke in support of changing to a UV system.

C. Sudbury Road landfill on-call engineering.

Public Works Director Bealey reported proposals had been solicited for professional services at the Sudbury Road landfill and described the needed services including:

- A topographic survey.
- An inert waste processing evaluation.
- A bioreactor cell feasibility/benefits study.

Staff explained the potential benefits of a septage bioreactor cell to degrade waste faster. There was discussion on the capture of landfill gases to decrease odor and the critical nature of the gas collection system.

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

3. OTHER BUSINESS

Council commented on incorrect information in a recent news article regarding a proposed marijuana retail shop.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.