

**WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL**  
**Work Session Minutes**  
**September 21, 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 Plucker arrived at 4:45 p.m.)

Absent: None

City staff in attendance: City Manager Nabel Shawa, Deputy City Manager Tim McCarty, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Development Services Director Elizabeth Chamberlain, Streets Supervisor George Bell, City Engineer Neal Chavre, Public Works Operations Manager Mori Struve, Stormwater Coordinator Brad Daly, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

**2. ACTIVE AGENDA**

A. Shakespeare Walla Walla use of amphitheatre.

City Manager Shawa reported the Walla Walla Community College had been leasing and using the amphitheatre at Fort Walla Walla Park and introduced Ron Williams, Executive Director of Shakespeare Walla Walla, and Doug Bayne, Walla Walla Community College Resource Development Director.

Mr. Williams reviewed the potential for use of the amphitheatre by community groups and bringing in bigger name groups.

Mr. Bayne reported the summer musical model is not sustainable and the Walla Walla Community College Foundation is not in the production business. The Foundation supports the Shakespeare Walla Walla proposal.

There was discussion on:

- Shakespeare Walla Walla would manage the events and run the facility.
- Need to know what the costs are to the City for a useable facility in a safe condition.

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It was the consensus of a majority of Council to have Shakespeare Walla Walla prepare a formal proposal identifying costs for basic improvements to the amphitheatre for comfort and safety.

Mayor Cummins invited public input.

The following had comments regarding the proposal to use the amphitheatre by Shakespeare Walla Walla:

- Richard Hoffman, PO Box 2318, Walla Walla.
- Beth Call, 102 Otis, Walla Walla.

B. Walla Walla County's 5-year plan to end homelessness.

Dr. Harvey Crowder, Walla Walla County Community Health Director, and Debbie Dumont, Walla Walla County Human Services Manager, reviewed the County's 5-year plan to end homelessness.

There was discussion on:

- Allocation and management of funding.
- Proposed plan doesn't include a facility, such as a day center, to meet immediate needs.
- Plan focuses on working to put homeless people in permanent housing.
- An allocation in current funding is available for emergency shelter while permanent housing is being sought.
- This plan is being presented to the City Council as information only. The Council on Homelessness welcomes public input.

Mayor Cummins invited public input.

The following expressed concerns with the County's 5-year plan to end homelessness not addressing the need for a day center; and the proposal to have funding go through the County to reduce the administrative burden on other agencies:

- Dan Clark, 717 N. Main Street, Walla Walla.
- Richard Hoffman, PO Box 2318, Walla Walla.
- Beth Call, 102 Otis, Walla Walla.

C. Overview of the draft Stormwater Master Plan.

Public Works Director Bealey introduced Public Works staff in attendance and consultants, Bill Rice and John Knutson.

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An overview of the stormwater system and existing infrastructure was provided. Stormwater management is administered and regulated through the Department of Ecology. There are several criteria that must be met under the NPDES stormwater permit. This master plan developed three options to consider for implementation. These options were reviewed by the Water & Wastewater Advisory Committee. The committee recommends Option A.

Staff is seeking guidance from Council on the following three options, along with the capital improvement program, and development review cost recovery:

Option A (at an average annual cost of \$1,941,000 - a \$3.01 monthly increase above the existing level) is a program that provides minimal upgrades to the City's regulatory program, primarily to increase the scope and effectiveness of public information and education efforts, and stormwater system maintenance program. This option also includes minimal activities to proactively manage the stormwater utility, such as a 20-year stormwater pipeline video inspection program (5% of the system per year; similar to what has been done with the City's sanitary sewer system), and revisions to the existing stormwater utility fee assessment system. Finally, this option also allows the City to take advantage of a grant being offered by the Department of Ecology to purchase a new high efficiency street sweeper to enhance the City's existing street sweeping program. Acceptance of this grant will improve water quality in our surface waters by reducing pollutant loading from city streets while at the same time reducing maintenance requirements for catch basins and flooding caused by plugged storm drains. This grant will pay 75% of the cost to purchase the sweeper, operate (including labor) and maintain it for three years. The City's match for the grant is approximately \$66,200 in year one, and \$41,700 in years two and three. All costs beyond year three will be the City's sole responsibility (approximately \$108,000 per year).

Option B (at an average annual cost of \$1,740,000 - a \$2.06 monthly increase above the existing level) this option provides a regulatory program designed to meet only the minimum requirements of the stormwater permit with a reactive utility management program, but with the same enhanced street sweeping as described under Option A.

Option C (at an average annual cost of \$1,641,000 - a \$1.49 monthly increase above the existing level) provides a regulatory program

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designed to meet only the minimum requirements of the stormwater permit with a reactive utility management program and without the enhanced street sweeping (declines acceptance of the DOE grant for the street sweeper).

City Manager Shawa asked for consideration of an additional Work Session on October 26 for the budget.

There was discussion on:

- The recommendation by the Water & Wastewater Advisory Committee and difference in cost between Option A and Option C is not that great.
- Ramping up rates over a period of time to attain the necessary level of service versus a large rate increase at once.
- Requiring the removal of parked vehicles from streets during street sweeping times.
- Stormwater requirements for eastern Washington are not realistic based on potential impact. The minimum services necessary to meet requirements should be considered.
- Ensuring matching funds are identified before applying for grant opportunities.

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

**3. OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was discussed.

**4. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.