

**WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL**  
**Work Session Minutes**  
**November 9, 2015**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Cummins called the meeting to order at 4:00 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, Parks & Recreation Director Jim Dumont, Finance Director Jean Teasdale, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Police Captain Chris Buttice, Police Captain Terry Heisey, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

**2. ACTIVE AGENDA**

A. Memorial Pool update.

City Manager Shawa reported the estimated cost of the pool design is over the amount approved by voters. Staff and the design team have met with the pool subcommittee several times and made cuts to features that would not affect the actual aquatics.

Parks & Recreation Director Dumont introduced Greg McCracken and Doug DuCharme from BLRB Architects. This project has had two separate reviews to modify or eliminate components to reduce the scope and refine the base bid. Even after these efforts, the construction estimates are still higher than the bond proceeds. Staff recommends City Council approve the current design for an estimated base bid that is \$300,000 over the amount of the bond proceeds.

Mr. McCracken and Mr. DuCharme reviewed the modifications to the project scope.

There was discussion on the proposed reductions; enlisting the aid of ArtWalla for artwork to improve the street front of the building; and the potential benefit to fixed price bidding.

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Staff reported that with the need to reduce the cost of the project which resulted in a delay in going out to bid, the pool will not open until 2017.

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

### B. Financial planning for water, wastewater, and stormwater.

Public Works Director Bealey introduced staff in attendance and John Ghilarducci, consultant with FCS Group. Public Works Director Bealey reported staff is seeking direction on the different variables for consideration of a new rate ordinance and reviewed:

- System infrastructure and system funding needs for water, wastewater and stormwater.
- Utility financial planning process.
- Financial and fiscal policies to protect the utility from unforeseen financial impacts.
- Key assumptions.
- Capital needs and revenue forecasts.
- Capital facilities charges.
- Finance Committee rate recommendations for a six-year period.

There was discussion on:

- Debt payments for the LT2 water treatment upgrade for residential ratepayers are approximately \$10 to \$11 per month.
- Use of a phased in approach for rate increases.
- Impact on IRRP project funding if there are no inflationary increases.
- Benefits of the AMI water meter replacement project.
- Ability to perform work if funding was available for water distribution system repairs.
- Minimizing the impact to ratepayers.
- The current utility discount program available to low-income seniors and disabled people.
- Necessary level of funding for capital and emergency reserves.
- Proposed financial plan includes utility rates for six years with a possible review and modification at four years.

Mayor Cummins invited public input.

Randal Son, property owner along Mill Creek, encouraged the funding of system repairs as robustly as possible for water conservation.

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Richard McFarland, 3731 Middle Waitsburg Road, Walla Walla, commented on the importance of communicating needs with the public and ensuring all users are paying their fair share.

There was additional discussion on:

- The Finance Committee's recommendation and impact on the average residential utility bill increase.
- Provisions for low income residents and whether the program can be expanded to mitigate the impact of rate increases on these residents.
- Overall impact of all utility and proposed property tax increases on residents.
- Use of bond measures to let the voters decide on the level of improvements.
- Sensitivity to not asking for more than what is absolutely necessary.

C. Strategy to reduce violent gang crime.

Police Captain Buttice reviewed the comprehensive strategies developed to combat gang violence within the City.

Police Captain Heisey provided a high level overview of gang activity in the area since the late 1980's to the current time.

There was discussion on:

- Gang enforcement officer positions will be filled by determining the best person for the position.
- Identification of the gang enforcement team and whether these officers will be at a higher level of risk.
- Interagency cooperation with Walla Walla County, College Place, and Milton-Freewater.
- Emphasizing efforts to promote and develop neighborhood watch programs versus effort in planning National Night Out.
- Using a civilian to perform the duties proposed for the new administrative sergeant position. Staff commented that a civilian would not have authority to arrest people.
- Providing frequent reports on performance benchmarks to the City Council and public.

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

**3. OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was discussed.

**4. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.