

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 24, 2016

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pomraning called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Councilmembers Jim Barrow, Barbara Clark, Jerry Cummins, Dick Morgan, Steve Moss, Tom Scribner, and Mayor Allen Pomraning.

Absent: None.

City staff in attendance: City Manager Nabel Shawa, City Attorney Tim Donaldson, Deputy City Manager Tim McCarty, Fire Chief Bob Yancey, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Development Services Director Elizabeth Chamberlain, Engineer Doug Eaton, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/MOMENT OF SILENCE

Councilmember Clark led the pledge of allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

3. PRESENTATIONS

A. Commendation and recognition for innovative sustainability efforts.

Fire Chief Yancey explained how Fire Lieutenant Bo Pingree and Chris McGill, Correctional Specialist with the Washington State Penitentiary collaborated to re-purpose old turnout gear for the Fire Department. Mayor Pomraning presented Lieutenant Pingree and Mr. McGill with certificates of commendation in recognition of their innovative sustainability efforts.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Norm Ostermann, 1032 Pomona, Walla Walla, suggested the City implement a business license program and encouraged the regulation of vacation rental homes.

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Mary Lou Yocum, 660 Pleasant Street, Walla Walla, encouraged implementation of a business license and regulation of vacation rental homes.

David Malcolm, advocate for the homeless, expressed his appreciation for being a part of the community.

Jeanne Herbert, Reser Road, Walla Walla, clarified comments made by Mr. Malcolm and asked for a waste receptacle for cigarette butts at Crawford Park. Ms. Herbert also asked if park users could empty the trash can currently located at Crawford Park.

R. L. McFarland, 3731 Middle Waitsburg Road, Walla Walla, asked for more proactive safety measures on Middle Waitsburg Road, especially at the blind corner. Mr. McFarland also expressed concerns with utility work being performed as part of the development at 51 Middle Waitsburg Road and its impact on the adjacent Walker property.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Washington State Liquor & Cannabis Board: New application for Yungapeti II, 628 W. Main Street.
- B. Washington State Liquor & Cannabis Board: Special occasion license for the Downtown Walla Walla Foundation on April 9 and April 10 in an enclosed tent at 1st and Main Street.
- C. Washington State Liquor & Cannabis Board: Special occasion license for Walla Walla Symphony on March 26 and May 7 at the Reid Campus Ballroom.
- D. Washington State Liquor & Cannabis Board: New application for Shopko, 1651 W. Rose Street.
- E. Resolution No. 2016-16 awarding a bid for the Alder Street Infrastructure Repair and Replacement project (from Merriam to Roosevelt) to Apollo, Inc. in the amount of \$2,866,863.72.

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- F. Resolution No. 2016-17 approving a professional services contract with Strata for not-to-exceed \$49,134 for construction material testing on seven separate construction projects in 2016.
- G. Resolution No. 2016-18 authorizing a time and materials professional services contract with Pavement Services, Inc. for pavement testing and design of Second Avenue between Rose Street and U.S. Highway 12 in an amount not to exceed \$33,050.
- H. Resolution No. 2016-19 approving the 2016 Tourism Promotion Area Marketing Plan as reviewed and recommended by the Hotel & Motel Commission.
- I. Resolution No. 2016-20 encouraging support of the Georgetown University Energy Prize competition.
- J. Resolution No. 2016-21 authorizing a grant application to the Washington State Department of Commerce for funding to retrofit street lights to LED.
- K. Resolution No. 2016-22 authorizing the purchase of a F-250 pickup fire command vehicle from Corwin Ford of Pasco for \$48,695.
- L. Resolution No. 2016-23 authorizing the purchase of one new police patrol vehicle for the gang enforcement team from Columbia Ford in Longview for \$41,542.
- M. Resolution No. 2016-24 authorizing an Interlocal agreement with Walla Walla County for the distribution of the 2016 emergency medical services levy.
- N. Resolution No. 2016-25 awarding the bid for the Sudbury Road landfill remediation project to Culbert Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$1,677,883.52.
- O. Resolution No. 2016-26 awarding a bid for the Park Street sewer bypass project to Sharpe & Preszler Construction Company in the amount of \$162,952.56.
- P. Approval of minutes of the regular meeting held January 27, 2016.

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Q. Approval of minutes of the Work Session held February 8, 2016.

There was brief discussion regarding funding for the vehicles being purchased in Items K and L.

Council asked that Items E, H, I, and M be moved to the active agenda for separate consideration.

Mayor Pomraning invited public input. No one in the audience chose to address the City Council on any of these items.

Councilmember Barrow moved to adopt Consent Agenda Items A through D, F, G, J through L, and N through Q. Councilmember Cummins seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

6. ACTIVE AGENDA

A. Ordinance No. 2016-01 establishing authority to charge for the installation of private fire services included as part of City projects; and

Ordinance No. 2016-02 establishing the amounts due by each property owner for installation performed as part of the 2015 Alder Street capital improvement project.

City Manager Shawa reported staff determined to stub out six inch fire lines to abutting property owners as part of the downtown Alder Street project. The City Council has the authority to charge administrative fees and interest on the cost to provide these fire service lines. Staff recommends that Council only assess the actual cost to provide these stub outs. These charges will become due at the time the property owner connects to the service.

There was discussion on:

- Unlike with a latecomers agreement, these charges do not expire.
- The ordinance does not include any administrative charges or interest.
- These lines provide the designated properties with the capacity to install fire sprinkler systems.

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Mayor Pomraning invited public input.

R.L. McFarland, 3731 Middle Waitsburg Road, Walla Walla, asked whether each address in the Drumheller Building is required to have a separate fire service line and why the fee for such a large building is lower than other properties.

David Woolson, President and CEO of the Walla Walla Valley Chamber of Commerce, commented they have a high sensitivity to the costs of doing business. They are supportive of staff's recommendation that no interest or administrative fees be assessed for the construction of the fire service stub outs.

Jim Harold, property owner on Alder Street, expressed his concern for the survival of small businesses and the cost of over \$16,000 to stub the fire service line to his property on Alder Street in comparison to the cost for a property he owns on Rose Street.

Doug Eaton, Project Engineer, reported that each parcel is required to have a separate fire service line, not each address. The costs for installation of these lines varied depending on the nature of the necessary improvements. The proposed charges are the actual costs incurred by the City, including prevailing wages, and are comparable to the cost of a private contractor.

Councilmember Barrow moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2016-01. Councilmember Morgan seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

Councilmember Barrow moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2016-02 with the clarification that the amounts would be due at the time the connection to the fire service line is made. Councilmember Scribner seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- B. Resolution No. 2016-27 setting March 23, 2016 as the date to consider a ten percent annexation petition for approximately 100 acres located east of Cottonwood Road and west of Kendall Road.

City Manager Shawa reported this resolution would set the date of March 23 to consider the ten percent annexation petition.

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There was discussion on:

- Border of original Cottonwood area annexation.
- Property is under ownership of a single property owner.
- Providing adequate notice of meeting to property owners.

Mayor Pomraning invited public input.

R.L. McFarland, 3731 Middle Waitsburg Road, Walla Walla, commented on the importance of clarifying exactly where this property is located. Staff indicated this item merely sets the date of the public meeting and does not establish the boundaries at this time.

Councilmember Cummins moved to adopt Resolution No. 2016-27. Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- C. Approval of the January 31, 2016 accounts payable register containing check numbers 187003 through 187359; 990731 through 990734; and 8598 through 8611 totaling \$3,586,452.04.

Councilmember Cummins moved to approve the January 31, 2016 accounts payable register containing check numbers 187003 through 187359; 990731 through 990734; and 8598 through 8611 totaling \$3,586,452.04. Councilmember Morgan seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- D. Resolution No. 2016-19 approving the 2016 Tourism Promotion Area Marketing plan as reviewed and recommended by the Hotel & Motel Commission.

Deputy City Manager McCarty reported this is the annual recommendation of a marketing plan for the use of the tourism promotion area assessment funds. The Hotel & Motel Commission met and approved this marketing plan. The funds are passed through to Tourism Walla Walla (aka Visit Walla Walla) to administer the plan. This plan compliments the other promotional and marketing efforts of Visit Walla Walla. There was brief discussion on whether the City Council is able to modify the plan.

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

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Councilmember Cummins moved to adopt Resolution No. 2016-19. Councilmember Clark seconded the motion. The motion carried with 6 yes votes and 1 no vote by Councilmember Scribner.

- E. Resolution No. 2016-20 encouraging support of the Georgetown University Energy Prize competition.

City Manager Shawa reported the City is currently in 9th place in the competition to reduce energy and natural gas consumption and reviewed the efforts in City-owned buildings.

There was brief discussion on:

- The prize is \$5,000,000.
- How variances in populations and climates are addressed. Erendira Cruz, Sustainable Living Center, explained how the statistics are normalized for temperatures and population gains and losses.

Mayor Pomraning invited public input.

Erendira Cruz, Sustainable Living Center, reviewed the criteria for the prize and the City's standing in the competition. Ms. Cruz thanked everyone for their efforts and outreach; and encouraged participation in the Walla Walla Power Play bingo.

Sandra Cannon, 803 Valencia, Walla Walla, suggested other measures to get the word out to residents about the Georgetown University Energy Prize competition.

Councilmember Clark moved to adopt Resolution No. 2016-20. Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- F. Resolution No. 2016-24 authorizing an Interlocal agreement with Walla Walla County for the distribution of the 2016 emergency medical services levy funds.

Fire Chief Yancey reported this agreement is for the ongoing distribution of emergency medical service levy funds. The formula used for the distribution of the funds is the same as when the levy was implemented in 1990. The City receives approximately \$1,400,000 for ambulance services.

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There was discussion on:

- The formula used for the division of the levy funds and whether it is equitable for the City to provide county-wide ambulance service.
- Whether a decision by the City Council to approve this agreement will require the City to continue to provide ambulance services on a county-wide basis.
- Timing for review of the ambulance financial services study.

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

Councilmember Cummins moved to adopt Resolution No. 2016-24. Councilmember Barrow seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- G. Resolution No. 2016-16 awarding a bid for the Alder Street infrastructure repair and replacement project to Apollo, Inc. in the amount of \$2,866,863.72.

Public Works Director Bealey reported this is one of two infrastructure repair and replacement projects (IRRP) for 2016. The bid is substantially below the engineers estimate so the IRRP fund will not need to borrow money to complete both projects this year.

There was discussion on:

- Estimated start date for the projects is late March or early April.
- The majority of the funding is through the utility funds. The replacement traffic signal and the rapid flashing beacons will be funded through the real estate excise tax.
- Placement of traffic signals for public safety.
- Evaluating whether to install fiber optic conduit as part of the project.

Mayor Pomraning invited public input.

R.L. McFarland, 3731 Middle Waitsburg Road, Walla Walla, spoke in support of the concept of placing fiber optic conduit down Alder Street.

Councilmember Morgan moved to adopt Resolution No. 2016-16. Councilmember Scribner seconded the motion.

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There were additional comments about the Isaacs Avenue project serving a similar area as Alder Street and placement of fiber optic cable in residential neighborhoods.

The motion to adopt Resolution No. 2016-16 unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

7. COUNCIL MEMBER MEETING REPORTS

Councilmember Moss reported attendance at a meeting with Whitman College President Murray on February 12.

Councilmember Morgan reported attendance at the Historic Preservation Commission meeting held February 22.

Councilmember Barrow indicated he would defer his report until the next City Council meeting.

Councilmember Cummins reported attendance at the Good Roads Committee meeting held February 17; the Valley Transit Board meeting held February 18; the Housing Authority Board meeting held February 22; a tour of the Christian Aid Center held February 23; and the Chamber of Commerce Open House held February 24.

Councilmember Clark reported attendance at a meeting with Whitman College President Murray on February 12; the Senior Center spaghetti fundraiser held February 12; the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee meeting held February 17; and the Civil Service Commission meeting held February 17.

Councilmember Scribner had no meetings to report.

Mayor Pomraning reported attendance at a meeting with Whitman College President Murray on February 11; and the Good Roads Committee meeting held February 17.

8. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

There was discussion on:

- Comparing the cost of doing business in Walla Walla with other communities including identifying whether the City is unfairly impacting businesses.
- Identifying and regulating vacation rental housing for the payment of taxes and safety of guests.
- Trash disposal at Crawford Park.
- A request by Christ Lutheran Church to establish a columbarium has been referred to staff.
- The maintenance building at the Veteran's Memorial Golf Course was destroyed in a fire along with equipment. The Washington Cities Insurance Authority is investigating. The Walla Walla Community College and Walla Walla Country Club have offered the use of their equipment if necessary to maintain the course.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Pomraning announced the City Council would be recessing to Executive Session to:

- Discuss with legal counsel representing the City litigation or potential litigation involving the City pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i); and
- Consider the selection of a site or the acquisition of real estate pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(b); and
- Consider the minimum price at which real estate will be offered for sale or lease pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(c).

The Executive Session will last no longer than one hundred twenty minutes and no further business will come before Council in open session. The meeting was recessed at 9:28 p.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Councilmember Cummins moved to adjourn at 10:39 p.m. Councilmember Morgan seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 10:39 p.m.