

**WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL**  
**Retreat Minutes**  
**April 30, 2016**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Pomraning called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m. in the Fulton Community Room at the Walla Walla Police Station, 54 East Moore Street, Walla Walla.

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, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

**2. ACTIVE AGENDA**

There was discussion by staff and Council on:

- Strategic plan and economic development projects.
- Results of the 2015 Citizen Satisfaction Survey.
- Completed infrastructure projects. Council asked for the total amount spent on all infrastructure projects in a calendar year.
- Maintaining the Transportation Benefit District as a separate entity for transparency and ensuring the funds are being spent on eligible projects.
- Sidewalk repairs and sidewalk claims history.

The meeting recessed for a break at 10:30 a.m. and reconvened at 10:50 a.m.

Council discussion on projects/issues to be considered in 2017-2018 Biennium budget development included:

- Sidewalk improvements.
- Weekly email communications (similar to the weekly email put out by the School District).
- Concentrate efforts to build and develop crime watch programs in neighborhoods.
- Feasibility of a "scramble" intersection at First and Main Streets.

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- Expanding low income utility discounts to apply to all low income residents, not just seniors or those with a disability.
- Revise the water rate structure to focus on conservation.
- Conversion of residential neighborhoods to destination housing and the negative impact on affordable housing and livable neighborhoods.
- Societal impacts of panhandling, homeless people, transients and mentally ill.
- Urban forest care and management.
- Increase library hours to seven days per week.
- Allow use of lodging tax revenues for other tourism-related organizations and events in addition to Visit Walla Walla.
- Establish an ad hoc committee to explore the election of a portion of the City Council by districts or wards and to explore increasing City Council compensation.
- Continuation of community policing.
- Add an additional Council Work Session each month with departmental updates and updates from other agencies and organizations.
- Pursue County/Port economic development funds for the Memorial Pool project.
- Review the County's ballot proposal for a one-tenth of one percent sales tax increase to address homeless issues.
- Removal of the barn in the Fort Walla Walla natural area that is falling down.
- Council/staff response to issues raised by citizens during the public comment portion of the agenda.
- Mill Creek study and prevention of loss of life.
- Continued investment in infrastructure improvements.
- Elimination of County islands through annexation into the City.
- Need for public facilities (park, schools, public safety building) in the southern growth area of the City.
- Policy on City financial contributions for memorials. It was the consensus of Council that the City would support memorials through placement on City property and grounds maintenance.
- Emergency services and long distance transports.
- Addressing registration/licensing/regulation of vacation rentals including policies towards moving this market to the upper floors of buildings in the downtown area.
- Use of "areas of innovation" as a marketing tool.
- Strengthen neighborhoods and use of block captains.
- Reinstate a voucher system to replace street trees.

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- Implement a complete street ordinance.
- Continue downtown ambassador program and officers on bicycles.
- Allow property owners to piggy-back on City's contract for sidewalk grinding work at their expense.
- Explore affordable housing density bonuses; allowing tiny homes within planned unit developments; and incentives for infill development.

### **3. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Pomranning announced the City Council would take a break at 1:08 p.m. and then go directly into an Executive Session to review the performance of a public employee pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g). The Executive Session will last no more than two hours and no further business will come before the City Council in open session.

The meeting recessed for a break at 1:08 p.m. and reconvened in Executive Session at 1:25 p.m.

### **4. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.