

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Special Meeting Minutes
August 22, 2016

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pomraning called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

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

Absent: Councilmember Dick Morgan.

City staff in attendance: City Manager Nabel Shawa, Deputy City Manager Troy Bell, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

Also Present:

Dave Mastin, Lobbyist.

Port of Walla Walla: Commissioners Mike Fredrickson, Peter Swant, and Executive Director Pat Reay.

City of College Place: Councilmembers Jerry Bobbitt, Mike Cleveland, Larry Dickerson, Loren Peterson, Heather Schermann, Melodie Selby, Mayor Harvey Crowder, City Administrator Mike Jackson, and Human Resource Manager Amy Strang.

Walla Walla County: Commissioner Jim Duncan and Community Development Director Tom Glover.

2. ACTIVE AGENDA

A. 2017 Legislative Update by Dave Mastin.

Mr. Mastin explained the general work and role of lobbyists and his focus on specific high priority issues to the area. It is important to come together as a group to maintain the collaboration on issues affecting the Walla Walla valley.

City Manager Shawa reviewed the City of Walla Walla's process and reasons for establishing legislative priorities.

There was a roundtable discussion on:

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- The State capital project budget will have more funding capacity than the operating budget.
- Importance of having a cohesive list of projects to lobby for funding.
- Funding for a study of Mill Creek.
- College Place will likely be seeking loan forgiveness from the Department of Health over failure of one of their wells.
- How lobbyists work to promote the needs of their clients and balance potentially competing priorities. Lobbyists cannot work for clients with opposing positions.
- Transportation funding for an overpass at Highway 12 and Clinton Street/Middle Waitsburg Road.
- The Port of Walla Walla is attempting to create additional light industrial areas for living wage jobs and is seeking funding for infrastructure improvements for the Wallula Gap water system and the Sudbury Light Industrial Park.
- Operating funds for the soon to be constructed youth center and construction funds from the Housing Trust Fund.
- Reinstating funding for the Public Works Board for infrastructure improvements.
- Department of Corrections will be asking for \$6 million for the medium security facilities at the penitentiary.
- No new revenues are likely except possibly for education.
- Support for allowing cities the ability to impose their own taxes and fees if they are not specifically prohibited (Home Rule).
- Lobbying is more effective and credible to stay focused and ask for manageable amounts for funding, rather than taking a broader approach.
- Adopting legislative priorities early for discussion with the Governor's staff for possible inclusion in the Governor's proposed budget.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.