

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Work Session Minutes
February 8, 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, Dick Morgan, Steve Moss, Tom Scribner, and Mayor Allen Pomraning.

Absent: None

City staff in attendance: City Manager Nabel Shawwa, City Attorney Tim Donaldson, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Police Chief Scott Bieber, Parks & Recreation Director Jim Dumont, Finance Director Jean Teasdale, City Engineer Neal Chavre, Project Engineer Doug Eaton, Accounting Supervisor Liz Moeller, Communications Manager David Brauhn, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

2. ACTIVE AGENDA

A. Downtown Alder Street Fire Services Update.

Staff reviewed efforts to try to get property owners to install stub outs for fire services prior to construction of the downtown Alder Street project since there is a five-year moratorium on street cuts after a street is rebuilt. Staff made the decision to have these fire service lines installed as part of the construction project since they were not done by the property owners. The policy issues for Council direction are:

- Whether interest should be charged on the assessment; and
- Should the City charge an administrative fee?

After discussion, it was the consensus of a majority of Council to establish the assessment for recouping fire service installations to the actual cost for the work, without interest or an administrative fee. Staff indicated ordinances would be prepared for future consideration.

B. Violent Crime Plan review.

City Manager Shawwa reported that two additional police officers were authorized and funded in 2015 and another two officers have been funded in 2016 through the use of the banked levy property taxes. If the

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City Council is interested in implementing the entire violent crime reduction strategy, additional funding will be necessary from the citizens.

Police Chief Bieber provided a review of the plan to combat violent crime, including proposed intervention and prevention activities. The two viable funding sources to cover the additional \$500,000 necessary for implementation of the complete strategy both require voter approval. One would be a property tax levy lid lift and the other would be an increase of one percent in the utility business and occupation taxes.

After discussion, it was the consensus of a majority of Council to wait and see the impact of the additional police enforcement programs on violent crime; and work with schools and neighborhoods on intervention and prevention programs.

C. Indigent defense contracting.

Deputy City Manager McCarty reviewed the public defense program and new standards. The City solicited proposals for indigent public defense services and received five proposals. Staff, after a review with Judge Hedine, recommends contracting with three firms: Ponti, Wernette and Van Dorn – 400 cases; Jamie Lewellyn Law Office – 200 cases; and Irving M. Rosenberg – 200 cases. Deputy City Manager McCarty explained how the costs are calculated in accordance with the approved defense standards.

There was discussion on the program costs and the addition of an administrative staff person to handle contract management and caseload tracking, in addition to assisting other divisions within City Hall. Council asked for regular reports on the program.

D. Open Gov – Demonstration of online financial reporting tool.

Due to the time, this item was deferred to a later date.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.