

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Work Session Minutes
May 9, 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, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Parks & Recreation Director Jim Dumont, Finance Director Jean Teasdale, Solid Waste Manager Damon Taam, Public Works Operations Manager Mori Struve, Solid Waste Supervisor Dave Jensen, Solid Waste Coordinator Melissa Warner, Parks Maintenance Supervisor Andy Coleman, Arborist Kyle Clemens, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

2. ACTIVE AGENDA

- A. Recognition of Emma Bishop, Whitman College intern, for her work on behalf of the City.

City Manager Shawa commended Ms. Bishop for the two projects she completed on behalf of the City: business license research and downtown recycling. Mayor Pomraning presented Ms. Bishop with a certificate of recognition for her service.

- B. Landfill Master Plan.

Public Works Director Bealey introduced Wayne Kraft, Washington State Department of Ecology; Kevin Tureman, County Environmental Health; CR Nanavati, Environmental Information Logistics; Erin Berish, CTI and Associates; and landfill staff in attendance. Public Works Director Bealey stressed the importance of the decisions needing to be made regarding the landfill and their potential impact over the next fifty to one-hundred years. Staff is seeking Council direction on one of three options, beginning with the construction of Area 7, Cell 3:

1. As is (dry tomb).
2. Septage bioreactor.

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3. As is (dry tomb) through closure of Area 7, and then use as a transfer station.

Ms. Berish reviewed the planning options, assumptions, and background for each of the three options.

There was discussion on:

- Closure and post-closure landfill care including potential and ongoing liability.
- Financial projections.
- Operational tip fee increases and range of required increases.
- Interest by the penitentiary in the purchase of methane gas generated by the landfill.
- Continuing liability, even if City chooses to close the landfill and transfer solid waste.
- Sale of carbon credits will not have an adverse financial impact since this program is only good for a ten-year period.
- Change rate structure to allow for a low-income discount, not just for seniors or disabled persons.

A consensus of a majority of Council supported moving forward with pursuing the conversion to a septage bioreactor starting with Area 7, Cell 3.

C. Street trees.

Parks & Recreation Director Dumont reviewed a recent Supreme Court Case No. 91555-5 in which the court held that municipalities have a duty to maintain roadway vegetation and its impact on the maintenance of street trees. The importance of planting the right tree in the right place was stressed; and the existing requirements of the City's street tree ordinance were reviewed. Staff is suggesting an amount be budgeted on an annual basis to remove hazardous trees. This proposal will be considered as part of the City's budget process.

There was discussion on:

- Importance of the City's urban forest and addressing potential liability.
- A program for removing and replacing street trees.
- Establishing partnerships with educational organizations.

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3. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m.