

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Work Session Minutes
June 13, 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, Fire Chief Bob Yancey, Deputy Fire Chief Brad Morris, Finance Director Jean Teasdale, Human Resource Director Pam Taylor, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Police Chief Scott Bieber, Water Distribution Supervisor Adrian Sutor, Communications Manager David Brauhn, Utilities Engineer Frank Nicholson, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

2. ACTIVE AGENDA

A. Ambulance Financial Analysis.

City Manager Shawa reviewed the purpose and reasons for the ambulance financial analysis and introduced Fire Chief Yancey and Peter Moy, consultant with FCS Group.

Mr. Moy and Fire Chief Yancey reviewed:

- Study objectives.
- Key study tasks.
- 2015 Fire Department expenditures.
- Key assumptions.
- Cost of service framework.
- 2015 "In City" net emergency medical service costs.
- 2015 "Out of City" net emergency medical service costs.
- Emergency medical services costs by jurisdiction.
- "Out of City" estimated revenue sources.
- Key policy options include:
 - Maintain the status quo and continue to partially support contracted services provided outside of the City limits. (No increased costs to other jurisdictions.)
 - Work with the fire districts, City of College Place, and Walla Walla County to increase the amount paid to the City for

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emergency medical services and ambulance services either through each jurisdiction's own resources and/or through the County's EMS allocation to the City. (Ideal, recoup one-hundred percent of identified service costs.)

- Stop providing emergency medical services to other jurisdictions and only provide services within the City limits. (\$837,000 reduction in ambulance funding.)
- Consider reorganizing fire and emergency medical services by creating a regional fire authority that is a separate entity from the City and other jurisdictions. (Unknown financial implications.)
- Additional revenue options include establishment of an ambulance utility.
- Monthly ambulance utility rate comparisons.
- Key assumptions.
- Projected incident growth.
- Expenditure forecasts.
- Suggested next steps:
 - For the remainder of 2016 and into 2017, meet with County Fire Districts and City of College Place.
 - Allow them time to digest this information, review, and challenge the data.
 - Discuss and explore options and alternatives.

There was discussion on:

- Establishment of an ambulance utility versus a reduction in force.
- Contractual obligations to provide ambulance services throughout Walla Walla County.
- Options to discontinue ambulance services outside of the City limits.
- Waitsburg ambulance ceased operations in 2015.
- Timing and length of negotiations for continuing services to College Place and Fire District No. 4.
- 2014 location of service call data is not as precise and refined as the 2015 data.

Council was asked to submit any additional questions to the City Manager so staff could begin discussing this complex issue with other jurisdictions. Staff was asked to provide a status report by December, 2016.

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B. Water Use Efficiency Goals.

Water Distribution Supervisor Sutor reported that staff took a very conservative approach to the establishment of goals that do not require additional funding and reviewed the following:

- Regulations under Washington Administrative Code Sections 246.290.810 and 246.290.830.
- Proposed goals for both water supply and demand include:
 - Install AMI metering system.
 - Capital improvement program to replace failing distribution piping.
 - Leak detection and repair.
 - Reduce water loss by one percent per year.
 - Leak notification to customers.
 - Online customer portal.
- Next steps are to hold a public forum on the goals and have Council formally adopt them.

There was discussion on:

- The AMI water meter replacement project.
- Notifying customers of water leaks and establishing rates to penalize for wasting water by not fixing leaks within a reasonable time period.
- Implementation of an online customer portal.
- Educating the public on smart water use is anticipated to be a goal after the City gets its unaccounted water loss under control.

It was the consensus of a majority of Council to review the goal of establishing a customer portal within two years.

C. Interlocal agreement for a special investigations unit.

Police Chief Bieber reported he hopes to bring forth an Interlocal agreement to join a special investigations unit of agencies in the Tri-cities area to provide investigative resources in instances where a law enforcement officer is involved, and the incident resulted in serious injury or death to an individual (i.e. officer involved shootings). Police Chief Bieber outlined:

- The reasons for joining this special investigations unit.
- The role of a special investigative unit.
- The need for an impartial, transparent, and systematic investigative process to conduct an officer involved shooting investigation.

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- Having officers with specialized training and in-house experts. Costs would involve staff time and travel of approximately twenty staff days per year.

There was discussion on the benefit to the City of Walla Walla since officer involved shootings are historically very minimal and whether the City has available staff resources to participate in the specialized training and potential calls for service.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

There was consensus of a majority of Council to have the Mayor sign a letter of commitment for a Blue Mountain Region Trails Application for National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.