

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Work Session Minutes
August 8, 2016

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

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

Absent: Councilmembers Jim Barrow and Dick Morgan.

City staff in attendance: City Manager Nabel Shawa, Deputy City Manager Troy Bell, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Finance Director Jean Teasdale, Parks & Recreation Director Jim Dumont, Development Services Director Elizabeth Chamberlain, City Engineer Neal Chavre, Public Works Manager Mori Struve, Water Distribution Supervisor Adrian Sutor, Water Treatment Supervisor Tom Krebs, Project Engineer Mike Laughery, Sanitation Supervisor Dave Jensen, Municipal Arborist Kyle Clemens, Stormwater Coordinator Brad Daly, Utilities Engineer Frank Nicholson, Project Engineer Monte Puymon, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

2. ACTIVE AGENDA

A. Part 1: Public Works Capital Facilities Plan.

Public Works Director Bealey reported the preparation of this plan was a significant team effort, introduced staff in attendance, and reviewed the importance and road map for successful planning.

Public Works Director Bealey and Project Engineer Laughery reviewed the proposed public works capital facilities projects. There was discussion on the planned expenses for stormwater, landfill, and sidewalks. Council suggested development of a strategy to address the substandard sidewalk facilities and the need for a dedicated revenue stream for sidewalks.

B. 2017 Legislative Priorities

City Manager Shawa reported on the purpose behind the City Council adopting legislative priorities and reviewed the proposed 2017 State and Federal legislative priorities. These priorities were developed by staff and the Council's legislative committee. A meeting has been tentatively

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scheduled for August 22 with the Port of Walla Walla, City of College Place, and State lobbyist Dave Mastin.

There was discussion on:

- Preparing a draft bill for the State legislature to allow cities within Growth Management Act opt-in counties the same ability to levy real estate excise taxes as cities within Growth Management Act mandated counties.
- Supporting increases in kindergarten through 12th grade funding.
- Advocating and lobbying efforts on Federal issues.
- Seeking Federal funds for water infrastructure and bridge repair/replacement.

C. Street tree discussion.

City Manager Shawa reported staff bases decisions on tree removals on fact and a rational approach.

Parks & Recreation Director Dumont introduced Kyle Clemens, Municipal Arborist; Larry Moore with Town & Country Tree Trimming; and Ken Armstrong, Forestry Manager with PacifiCorp.

There was discussion on:

- Number of trees within the City's urban forest.
- Importance of planting the right type of tree in the right space.
- Over 3,000 trees have been planted since 2001.
- Threats to the City's urban forest.
- City's code requires all work done on street trees be performed by a certified arborist under a permit issued by the City.
- Permits are denied if the tree is healthy. There are no regulations regarding the planting or removal of private trees.
- The removal of thirty trees on Chestnut Street, reasons why they were removed, and contact with area residents.
- Protection of street trees and communicating impacts on trees from City projects.
- Downtown tree replacement plan.
- Value of trees in Walla Walla.
- Specific reasons for removal of trees on Chestnut Street due to the infrastructure project and health of the trees.

Mayor Pomraning invited public input.

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Larry Moore, Town & Country Tree Trimming, reported the wrong trees were planted in the wrong space on Chestnut Street. The tree health could not be determined until the canopies had been pruned for the street project.

There was additional discussion on the need to manage the urban forest as a City asset with a replacement schedule and funding; the difference in allowable tree canopies on residential streets versus arterial streets; and the consideration by Council of potential measures to protect the City's urban forest.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.