

**WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL**  
**Work Session Minutes**  
**October 24, 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, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Finance Director Jean Teasdale, Development Services Director Elizabeth Chamberlain, Fire Chief Bob Yancey, Public Library Director Beth Hudson, Police Chief Scott Bieber, Human Resources Director Pam Taylor, Acting Parks & Recreation Director Andy Coleman, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

**2. ACTIVE AGENDA**

A. Presentation and discussion of the 2017-2018 budget.

Councilmember Barrow recognized the efforts of the Finance Committee and staff in developing the 2017-2018 biennium budget. The Finance Committee reviewed the proposed budget in great detail. There was dissension among the Finance Committee on the proposed property tax levy increase.

City Manager Shawa reported this is a fairly aggressive budget and outlined some of the anticipated retail expansion. The primary goals of this proposed budget are:

- Provide a balanced program of municipal services, addressing the needs of the City in a sustainable fashion.
- Develop a sustainable general fund budget where ongoing expenses are equal to or less than ongoing revenue; and the ending fund balance goal is fifteen percent.
- Maintain a ten percent fund balance for utilities.

Public Works Director Bealey reviewed:

- The street fund budget and projects.
- The stormwater fund budget and projects.
- The landfill fund budget and projects.

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- The sanitation fund budget and projects.
- The wastewater fund budget and projects.
- The water fund budget and projects.
- Utility rates, proposed increases, and overall impact to average residential utility bill.

City Manager Shawa reviewed:

- City-wide total revenues and expenses.
- General fund revenue highlights and expenses.
- Property tax levy trend and comparison with neighboring jurisdictions.
- Proposed property tax levy increase is 0.953 percent which is the implicit price deflator (IPD).
- Sales tax trend.
- One time general fund expenditures.
- Restored and new positions in the general fund.
- General fund support for streets.
- Estimated general fund ending balance for 2017 is 12.3 percent and for 2018 it is 13.6 percent.

There was discussion on:

- The proposed property tax levy increase and impact if no increase is enacted.
- Restoration of a records clerk in the police department will allow the office to be open until 5:00 p.m.
- Funding for replacement vehicles in the vehicle replacement fund.
- Seismic study for City Hall and funding for necessary building retrofit.
- City will bear full cost of funding for 48 full time equivalent police officers through 2020 if grant funds are accepted.
- Total City revenues and expenses are over \$100 million per year.

Mayor Pomraning invited public input.

Jon Campbell, 336 McCorkle Lane, Walla Walla, commented that the downtown design committee fully supports the Heritage Park plaza concept. The downtown is also excited with the opportunities presented by the Penrose Hotel and Mill Creek study.

There was further discussion on the proposed property tax levy increase and raising the ending fund balance to a minimum of fifteen percent.

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**3. OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was discussed.

**4. ADJOURNMENT**

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