

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Work Session Minutes
December 12, 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.
(Councilmember Clark arrived at 4:19 p.m.)

Absent: Councilmember Dick Morgan.

City staff in attendance: City Manager Nabel Shawa, Fire Chief Bob Yancey, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Finance Director Jean Teasdale, Development Services Director Elizabeth Chamberlain, Deputy Fire Chief Brad Morris, City Engineer Neal Chavre, Stormwater Coordinator Brad Daly, Development Engineer Jay Peninger, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

2. ACTIVE AGENDA

A. City stormwater utility: update on rates and charges.

Public Works Director Bealey reviewed:

- Mission of the stormwater utility.
- Rates and charges to support the utility:
 - Rate structure review – currently charging per equivalent residential unit. Trend is changing towards a base rate plus consumption charge.
 - Policy decision on the approach for development review cost recovery (private developments).
- Stormwater utility services mandated and provided to all rate payers.
- Stormwater utility services mandated and provided related to construction and development of the property.
- Stormwater cost recovery options for development:
 - Flat fee – easiest to administer.
 - Varying fee based on value of project or number of equivalent residential units.
 - Actual cost – most time consuming to administer but the most equitable option.

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Staff is seeking direction on stormwater cost recovery for development and recommends moving forward with the actual cost option.

There was discussion on stormwater related costs; apportionment of costs; how charges are determined; and resolving disputes.

A majority of Council indicated their support for charging one-hundred percent of actual stormwater costs for new development.

B. 9th Street commercial development proposal.

City Manager Shawa reported this is an economic development proposal for the property located on 9th Avenue and The Dalles-Military Road next to the Pepsi warehouse and offices. The development proposal is two to three retail/service businesses, employing from thirty to forty-five people with estimated retail sales of \$2,500,000 to \$3,000,000 annually and property value of \$2,000,000 to \$2,500,000. The barrier to development of this subject property is it is several hundred feet from closest sewer line. One concept to finance this extension would be to create an internal tax increment financing model.

There was discussion on the concept.

No interest was expressed by a majority of Council to further discuss the concept to extend sewer services to the land on 9th Avenue and The Dalles-Military Road.

Councilmember Scribner left the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

C. Ambulance billing and collection services.

City Manager Shawa and Fire Chief Yancey reported a contract will be coming before the City Council on December 21 to outsource ambulance billing. The City continues to struggle with the financial condition of the ambulance fund and has been looking at ways to save money. The cost of service study for ambulance reflected it is costing the City \$325,000 per year to provide ambulance services outside of the City limits. The general fund is subsidizing the ambulance fund and an interfund loan may become necessary. Staff will continue looking at options in 2017 and will meet with surrounding jurisdictions.

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There was discussion on:

- How outsourcing ambulance billing is expected to help collection. References on proposed billing company. Term of contract and impact of early termination.
- There will be no planned reduction in staff. Outsourcing the billing will eliminate the need to hire additional staff.
- Eliminating services to outside jurisdictions.
- Subsidizing ambulance services with City general funds.
- Overlap between fire and emergency medical services.
- Asking other jurisdictions to pay their fair share for ambulance services.
- An update will be scheduled for the Council's May 2017 Work Session.
- All transmittal of information will be secure and HIPAA compliant.
- The emergency medical services levy requires Fire Districts to provide emergency medical response which is basic life support and is within the realm of the contracts with the County for use of the funds.
- Dispatching protocols for appropriate level of care.
- Level of care is not a factor in the distribution of emergency medical service levy funds.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.