

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 25, 2017

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pomraning called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Councilmembers Jim Barrow, Barbara Clark, Jerry Cummins, Dick Morgan, Tom Scribner, and Mayor Allen Pomraning.

Absent: Councilmember Steve Moss.

City staff in attendance: Acting City Manager/Development Services Director Elizabeth Chamberlain, City Attorney Tim Donaldson, Police Chief Scott Bieber and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/MOMENT OF SILENCE

Councilmember Barrow led the pledge of allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No one in the audience chose to address the City Council on any item not on the agenda.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

City Clerk Hill introduced the Consent Agenda, Items A and B, as follows:

- A. Ordinance No. 2017-03 vacating the remaining portion of Prentiss Drive and the east-west alley within Block 5 plat of College Addition. (Whitman College)
- B. Ordinance No. 2017-02 approves a franchise agreement with Charter Communications. (Second Reading)

Mayor Pomraning invited public input.

Archie Taylor, 126 Otis Street, Walla Walla, asked for assurance that the vacation ordinance does not include Nakomis Lane or Linden Lane. Mr. Taylor was assured this ordinance did not include either of those streets.

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Councilmember Barrow moved to adopt Consent Agenda Items A and B. Councilmember Cummins seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

5. ACTIVE AGENDA

A. Report on 2016 police activities.

Police Chief Bieber reviewed:

- An additional 3.5 police officers were hired in 2016 as part of the community investment to reduce violent crime.
- The Career Criminal Apprehension Team (CCAT) was established January 1, 2016 and the Gang Enforcement Team on May 16, 2016. Chief Bieber introduced the officers serving on these special teams.
- Overview of statistics and highlights of the efforts of the two teams.
- Return on investment through the reduction in violent crimes.
- Impact on gang violence and assaults.
- Overall reduction in crime statistics.
- Goal of dispatch to arrival in under ten minutes is happening 83.4 percent of the time.
- Statistics on police patrol; parking enforcement; animal control; and code enforcement activities.
- Reports that will be provided to Council in 2017.
- The relationship with the community and police officers compared to other communities in the country.

Council asked the reports to include information on how many stops were made by officers, not just those that resulted in a citation or arrest.

Mayor Pomraning invited public input.

Shirley Blundell, 1424 Jasper Street, Walla Walla, commended the police department for their work.

No action was taken.

B. Resolution No. 2017-04 approving the distribution of 2017 lodging tax revenue.

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Councilmember Scribner, Chair of the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee, reviewed:

- Role and composition of the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee.
- Application and review process for lodging tax funds.
- Variation between the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee's original proposal and the City Council's alternate proposal.
- Efforts to come to a consensus between the funding proposals.
- Four members of the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee support the compromise funding proposal:
 - Blue Mountain Arts Alliance \$1,000
 - Blue Mountain Land Trust \$1,000
 - Chamber of Commerce \$5,000
 - Chamber Music Festival \$5,000
 - City of Walla Walla/Borleske Stadium \$75,000
 - Danza Classic Ballet Foundation \$2,000
 - Downtown Walla Walla Foundation \$70,000
 - Fort Walla Walla Museum \$35,000
 - Guitar Festival \$11,000
 - Kirkman House Museum \$2,000
 - Visit Walla Walla \$618,000
 - Walla Walla Wine Alliance \$75,000
 - Lodging tax revenue exceeding amounts allocated will be retained in the lodging tax fund.

Mayor Pomraning invited public input.

Ron Williams, Executive Director of Visit Walla Walla, thanked the City Council for their work and looking out for what is best in the valley. Marketing dollars spent outside of the region have been shown to have the best return on investment and suggested that the City make sure events and festivals are effective in attracting overnight visitors. Mr. Williams also asked the City Council to consider a multi-year, percentage-based lodging tax contract for Visit Walla Walla; and enlarging the representation on the lodging tax advisory committee.

There was discussion on:

- How lodging tax funds will be disbursed and the use of the funds consistent with the State statutes.
- Impact on tourism of organizations to be funded.
- Fiduciary responsibility of City to account for use of lodging taxes and impact with the number of grants in small amounts.

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- Impact on use of funds will be quantified by the organizations at the end of the year.

**Councilmember Scribner moved to adopt Resolution No. 2017-04.
Councilmember Clark seconded the motion.**

There was additional discussion on the proposed uses of the lodging tax funds; purpose of the grants; compromises made for the allocation of funds; and clarification on the process and recommendations from the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee and City Council.

The motion to adopt Resolution No. 2017-04 unanimously carried with 5 yes votes and 1 no vote by Councilmember Barrow.

Council suggested that additional guidance be given to the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee and Visit Walla Walla for future allocations.

- C. Designating a portion of Fort Walla Walla Park area as the homeless campsite location.

Acting City Manager Chamberlain reviewed the process for determining potential locations for a homeless campsite and the proposed location at Fort Walla Walla Park.

Mayor Pomraning invited James Payne, Executive Director of the Fort Walla Walla Museum to address the City Council.

Mr. Payne reported on the need to look at the proposed site in compliance with cultural resource laws. The site is within the Fort Walla Walla Historic District with known cultural resources and may also conflict with tribal interests. Mr. Payne recommended the City contact the State Department of Archaeological and Historic Preservation for potential impacts before making a determination to move the homeless camp to this site. There was discussion on the historical significance of the general site and whether an area closer to the entrance of the VA Medical Center also has cultural significance.

Mayor Pomraning invited public input.

The following spoke in opposition to relocating the temporary homeless camp to Fort Walla Walla Park:

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- Dan Clark, 717 North Main Street, Walla Walla.
- Mike Denny, 1534 SE Sentry Drive, College Place.
- Gary Hurwitz, 1771 Sturm Avenue, Walla Walla.
- Chuck Hindman, 57 Paintbrush Court, Walla Walla.
- Cathy Drake, 1500 Pleasant Street, Walla Walla.
- Don Riley, 463 SE Stanford Place, College Place.
- Chris Howard, 734 University Street, Walla Walla.
- Jerry Phillips, Chair of Homeless Camp.
- Katy Rizzuti, 652 Pleasant Street, Walla Walla.
- John Zodnick, President of Walla Walla Pacific Little League.
- Joshua Hemming, 36 Tremont, College Place.
- Steve Wheeler, 946 Robin Drive, College Place.
- Tom Lamb, 130 Bryant Avenue, Walla Walla.
- Kimberly Gucharti, 250 S. 4th Street, Walla Walla.
- Ezekiel Bay, no address provided.
- Craig Volwiler, 3276 Plaza Way, Walla Walla.
- Marilyn Harri, 940 Parkside Place, Walla Walla.
- Merrikay Locati, 2152 Crawford Drive, Walla Walla.
- Linda Hanson, 730 Wauna Vista, Walla Walla.
- Aubrey Shaver, 2850 Winona Lane, Walla Walla.

The following offered general comments on homelessness.

- Ed Larish, 67 Teal Road, Walla Walla.
- Yousef Abdulwahid, 906 Highland Road, Walla Walla.
- No name provided, visitor from Utah.
- Lana Ewert, 10005 Mill Creek Road, Walla Walla.
- Shernie Wilkes, 644 Juniper Street, Walla Walla.
- Greg Ewert, 10005 Mill Creek Road, Walla Walla.
- Shirley Blundell, 1424 Jasper, Walla Walla.
- John Follett, 725 SE Greenside Drive, College Place

Councilmember Barrow moved to direct staff to provide for the temporary homeless campsite in the current location or across the street on other City-owned property and to encourage the Alliance for the Homeless to develop Conestoga-type structures for habitation. Councilmember Scribner seconded the motion.

There was discussion on:

- The Council will be considering formation of a new advisory committee on homelessness. One of the proposed tasks of this new committee will be to look at the longer-term issues.

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- Whether staff should be given an opportunity to present other alternative locations.

Councilmember Clark moved to amend the motion to delete the portion reading “and to encourage the Alliance for the Homeless to develop Conestoga-type structures for habitation.” Councilmember Morgan seconded the amendment. The amendment carried with 5 yes votes and 1 no vote by Councilmember Barrow.

The motion to direct staff to provide for the temporary homeless campsite in the current location or across the street on other City-owned property carried with 5 yes votes and 1 no vote by Councilmember Cummins.

The meeting was recessed at 9:36 p.m. and reconvened at 9:38 p.m. with Councilmember Scribner absent.

- D. Approval of minutes of the Work Session held January 9, 2017.

Councilmember Cummins moved to approve the minutes of the Work Session held January 9, 2017. Councilmember Clark seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 4 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 1 abstention by Councilmember Morgan. (Councilmember Scribner was absent for the vote)

- E. Approval of minutes of the regular meeting held January 11, 2017.

Councilmember Clark moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held January 11, 2017. Councilmember Cummins seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 4 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 1 abstention by Councilmember Morgan. (Councilmember Scribner was absent for the vote)

Councilmember Scribner returned at 9:40 p.m.

- F. Approval of the December 31, 2016 accounts payable register containing check numbers 191268 through 191446; 191448 through 191685; 990773 through 990781; 990783; 990784; 8798; and 8799 totaling \$6,100,311.34.

Councilmember Cummins moved to approve the December 31, 2016 accounts payable register containing check numbers 191268 through

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191446; 191448 through 191685; 990773 through 990781; 990783; 990784; 8798; and 8799 totaling \$6,100,311.34 with the exception of the checks to Department of Corrections. Councilmember Clark seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

Councilmember Cummins moved to approve payment of the checks to Department of Corrections. Councilmember Clark seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 5 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 1 abstention by Councilmember Morgan.

6. COUNCIL MEMBER MEETING REPORTS

Mayor Pomraning, with the consensus of Council, deferred the Council meeting reports.

7. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Barrow moved to authorize a letter of support be sent to the City's legislative representatives for funding the Walla Walla Water Partnership. Councilmember Clark seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

Councilmember Clark moved to appoint Jaenemy Perez de Luengas to the Public Library Board for a term expiring December 31, 2021; and Trina Parrish to the Historic Preservation Commission for a term expiring June 30, 2018. Councilmember Scribner seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Pomraning announced the City Council will be recessing to Executive Session to discuss with legal counsel litigation or potential litigation involving the City pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i). The Executive Session will last no more than 120 minutes and no further action will come before Council in open session. The meeting was recessed at 9:46 p.m.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:55 p.m.