

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Work Session Minutes
February 21, 2017

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pomraning called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

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

Absent: None

City staff in attendance: Acting City Manager/Development Services Director Elizabeth Chamberlain, Communications Manager David Brauhn, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

2. ACTIVE AGENDA

A. Citizen and Employee Satisfaction Survey results.

Peter Charette and William St. Amour, Cobalt Community Research, via conference call, reviewed the results of the 2016 citizen and employee satisfaction surveys. There was discussion on specific survey questions and the results. Both citizen and employee satisfaction have increased over previous years.

B. Council consideration of establishing a homelessness advisory committee.

Acting City Manager Chamberlain reported this is one of the twelve recommendations made to the City Council on January 9. Staff is seeking direction from Council on the formation of a separate committee or whether this should be a subset of the existing Council on Homelessness.

There was discussion on the formation of an ad hoc committee, their potential role, and membership.

Mayor Pomraning invited public input.

Jim Johnson, Walla Walla County Commissioner, suggested a County staff member would be more appropriate to serve on a committee rather than a County Commissioner.

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Chuck Hindman, Chair of Alliance for the Homeless, commented on the need for the homeless camp and inability to build your way out of the situation.

Chris Repass, operator of Veterans Memorial Golf Course, reported the contractors of the golf maintenance shop need the camp moved from its current site and asked Council to come to the golf course and view the existing camp.

Dan Clark, Alliance for the Homeless, asked Council to get the committee moving quickly due to the need to relocate the camp. The City needs to be involved in the day-to-day operation of the camp.

Steve Owens, 807 Whitman Street, Walla Walla, sought clarification on the purpose of a committee and the need to address downtown behavioral issues for the business owners.

Ezekiel Bay, 2036 E. Alder, Walla Walla, suggested inclusion of a diverse group on the committee.

Craig Volwiler, 3276 Plaza Way, Walla Walla, asked that the recommendations from a homeless committee be treated seriously.

Don Anderson, 880 Reser Road, Walla Walla, suggested there were unsafe structures being erected at the existing camp.

Cindy Godard-Gross, Alliance for the Homeless, requested broad representation on the committee with people currently working with the homeless camp.

There was additional discussion by Council on whether the committee should be ad hoc or ongoing and potential membership.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:36 p.m.