

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Work Session Minutes
January 9, 2017

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pomraning called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. at the Fulton Community Room, 54 E. Moore Street.

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, City Attorney Tim Donaldson, Development Services Director Elizabeth Chamberlain, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

2. ACTIVE AGENDA

A. 9th Street commercial development proposal.

City Manager Shawa introduced Tim Bush who has asked the City Council to reconsider extending a sewer line to support an economic development project at 9th Street and The Dalles-Military Road. Mr. Bush has increased his proposed contribution to the cost for extension of the sewer line from \$25,000 to \$50,000.

There was discussion on the proposed project including its potential impact on improvements to the intersection by the State, and vehicular access to the site such as restricting turning movements to right turns in and out.

Mayor Pomraning invited public input.

Kenneth Bowen, 515 North Roosevelt, Walla Walla, had comments regarding access to the site directly off of 9th Street.

Tim Hockett, 570 County Road 448, Walla Walla, suggested it may be less costly to extend the sewer line from the car dealership on 9th Street. There were comments on the difficulties of extending utilities across the railroad tracks.

WORK SESSION MINUTES

JANUARY 9, 2017

PAGE 2

There were additional comments regarding extension of the sewer line and vehicular access if the site were developed.

City Manager Shawa reported staff will work to put together a proposal for future City Council consideration.

B. Homeless policy guidance.

City Manager Shawa reported staff has been trying to create a cohesive policy to address chronic homelessness in Walla Walla and reviewed:

- Activities and meetings since the November 7, 2016 Work Session presentation, including a meeting with School Superintendent Wade Smith and School Board Chair Dr. David Hampson regarding camp site locations.
- Definition of chronically homeless. The current chronic homeless count for Walla Walla County is around thirty-five to forty people.
- Recommendations include:
 1. Homeless campsite recommendation is at Fort Walla Walla Park along the Poplar Street side. Campsite opens the first week of April coinciding simultaneously with the closing of the Par 72 campsite. Staff suggests the City Council proceed with the formal identification of the campsite in conjunction with the adoption of a no camping and no sit/lie ordinances on February 8, 2017.

A homeless advisory committee could be helpful in reviewing and suggesting operational procedures and infrastructure improvement to Council and staff. Unless otherwise directed by Council, staff will proceed to work towards an April opening at Fort Walla Walla Park with improvements to include perimeter fencing and gates, portable toilets, a potable water source and trash receptacles. The camp will be operated on the primary basis as a place to sleep, not a place to live. The camp will be open and accessible during the range of dusk to dawn. One issue is whether the daily removal of personal property and tents should be required.

2. Adopt a no camping ordinance in conjunction with the campsite selection.

WORK SESSION MINUTES

JANUARY 9, 2017

PAGE 3

3. Adopt a no sit/lie ordinance in conjunction with the no camping ordinance.
4. Create a new "chronic homeless committee."
5. Support barrier free housing.
6. Support Walla Walla County's affordable housing ballot proposition (one tenth of one percent sales tax increase) for additional public funding.
7. Support a resource center, perhaps in conjunction with the Rising Sun Club Housing which provides counseling, computer access, daily lunches and a backyard patio. The Rising Sun Club House, Blue Mountain Action Council, Help Line, Heart to Heart and other social services that serve homeless needs are located within reasonable walking distance from the recommended camp site at Fort Walla Walla Park.
8. Support a Walla Walla Works initiative using the Albuquerque, New Mexico model. Preliminary cost estimates to run such a program by the Blue Mountain Action Council are \$45,000 annually. Staff suggests a six month pilot project to determine feasibility.
9. Increase downtown police presence and engagement. The City's 2017-2018 budget provides for continuing the downtown ambassador program and enhanced police foot and bicycle patrols.
10. Consider a limited time pilot project to lease Crawford Park and portions of City Hall parking lot to Valley Transit for operation and enforcement.
11. Once Council action has been taken, staff will coordinate with Pathways Home Coordinated Entry System for education and community outreach.
12. Seek ways to facilitate and increase affordable housing through the Comprehensive Plan update.

WORK SESSION MINUTES

JANUARY 9, 2017

PAGE 4

There was discussion on:

- The shifted focus in the report to chronically homeless and numbers from point in time count in January 2016. This shift in focus would neglect the needs of a majority of the County's homeless population.
- Fort Walla Walla Park is being recommended over the Par 72 site to reduce conflicts with adjacent uses such as nearby recreational activities and construction of a new golf maintenance building.
- Provisions and impact of a no camping ordinance and no sit/lie ordinance.
- Monitoring and management of the campsite.
- Requiring people to move their belongings every day.
- Getting "buy-in" from the labor unions representing City employees for the Walla Walla Works initiative.
- Cost for delivery of services for the homeless campground.
- Formation of a new committee on homelessness versus use of the existing Homeless Council.
- Emergency vehicle access at the proposed Fort Walla Walla site.

Mayor Pomraning invited public input.

The following offered input on the proposed plan:

- Jim Johnson, Walla Walla County Commissioner.
- Rachel Miller, 427 South 1st Street, Walla Walla.
- Dorothy Knudson, 250 Rancho Villa, Walla Walla.
- Chuck Hindman, 57 Paintbrush Court, Walla Walla.
- Tim Hockett, 570 County Road 448, Walla Walla.
- Norm Ostermann, 1032 Pomona, Walla Walla.
- Elio Agostini, Downtown Walla Walla Foundation.
- Chris Howard, Walla Walla Audubon Society, 734 University Street, Walla Walla.
- Craig Volwiler, 3276 Plaza Way, Walla Walla.
- Vic Phillips, New Beginnings Chapel, Walla Walla.
- Annette Craig, Rustic Place, Walla Walla.
- Dan Clark, 717 N. Main Street, Walla Walla.
- David Hampson, 626 Whitman Street, Walla Walla.
- Shernie Wilkes, 644 Juniper Street, Walla Walla.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

**WORK SESSION MINUTES
JANUARY 9, 2017
PAGE 5**

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.