

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Work Session Minutes
February 13, 2017

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pomraning called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Present: Councilmembers Barbara Clark, Dick Morgan, Steve Moss, and Mayor Allen Pomraning.

Absent: Councilmembers Jim Barrow, Jerry Cummins, and Tom Scribner.

City staff in attendance: City Manager Nabel Shawwa; Development Services Director Elizabeth Chamberlain; City Engineer Neal Chavre; Transportation Engineer Monte Puymon; CDBG Coordinator Jennifer Beckmeyer; and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

2. ACTIVE AGENDA

A. Report back on Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) alley lighting.

City Manager Shawwa reported staff is seeking direction on a request made by citizens for alley lighting within neighborhoods eligible to be served with CDBG funds.

CDBG Coordinator Beckmeyer reported the five-year CDBG plan identified increased alley lighting as an objective with funding. There is an allocation of \$76,000 in the five-year budget. Improved alley lighting is still an important priority in these neighborhoods. Staff has obtained quotes from Pacific Power and can have seven street lights installed in these neighborhood alleys for \$27,282. Council can amend the 2014 and 2015 action plan budgets to fund the alley lights this year or wait until 2018.

City Manager Shawwa commented that it has been the City's unofficial policy that public funds will be used to fund lights on public streets, not alleys, so this will be a variation on policy.

There was discussion on:

- Crime rates in areas proposed for alley lighting.
- Status of the Pacific Power inventory and analysis for potential purchase of power poles by the City.

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- CDBG funds must be used in specific neighborhoods identified in the 2010 census.
- Whether the City should be placing street lights in alleys due to costs, neighborhood impacts, and environmental lighting.
- Identifying the actual problem before coming to a conclusion on a solution.
- Use funds for home repairs to include the ability of homeowners to improve exterior lighting.
- Potential impact of a change in policy to place street lights in alleys and whether a change in policy is justified just because funds are available.
- The perception of safety is important to these neighborhoods and this is a neighbor-led initiative.

B. Isaacs Avenue Phase II – Commercial Parking.

Transportation Engineer Puymon reviewed the Isaacs Avenue Phase II project goals and the issue of frontage parking for some businesses on Isaacs Avenue. Many businesses lost frontage when Isaacs Avenue was reconstructed from two lanes to four lanes approximately fifty years ago. The proposed reconfiguration with the Phase II construction will help increase safety but does not change the problem of vehicles backing over sidewalks and into travel lanes. Staff proposes to work with private property owners on a case-by-case basis to improve access and parking. Staff is not recommending a "parallel parking" concept as this would be a significant project expense and would likely reduce available parking.

There was discussion on:

- Speed limits on Isaacs Avenue.
- Safety and parking configurations.
- Some property acquisition will be necessary to meet ADA requirements and allow for driveway realignments.
- Design options.
- Need to reduce inconveniences on property and business owners during construction.
- Sidewalk slope and ADA requirements.
- Relocation of power poles for better illumination and to move them from the middle of sidewalks.
- Communication with business owners.
- Formation of an Eastgate business district.
- Elimination of square curbing.

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It was the consensus of a majority of Council to allow the engineers to proceed with the best design on a case-by-case basis.

Isaacs Avenue Phase 1 construction will begin in two to three weeks.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

There was discussion on the need for scheduling a special Work Session to review the results of the citizen and employee satisfaction surveys and to discuss formation of a homeless advisory committee. A majority of Council indicated that February 21 at 3:30 p.m. is the preferred date.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:33 p.m.