

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Special Work Session Minutes
June 9, 2017

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pomraning called the meeting to order at 1:00 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: City Manager Nabel Shawa, Deputy City Manager Byron Olson, Development Services Director Elizabeth Chamberlain, Finance Director Jean Teasdale, Fire Chief Bob Yancey, and Deputy City Clerk Jodi Stephens.

2. ACTIVE AGENDA

A. Update of Homeless in Walla Walla.

Deputy City Manager Olson reported on the transition from the homeless camp site to the homeless sleeping site that opened on May 22, 2017; and reviewed the amenities and rules for the sleeping center.

There was discussion on:

- Available action if the sleeping center is full.
- Sharing of tents is only allowed for couples.
- Sleeping bag(s) sanitation.
- Insurance and agreements.

Megan DeBolt, Director, and Sierra Knudson, Homeless Coordinator, Walla Walla County Human Services Department, outlined the County's plan and current operations to end homelessness. Funding and budgeted amounts to run programs will be provided to council.

Elizabeth Guerra, Director of Community Services for Blue Mountain Action Council, outlined the coordinated entry program and the services their organization offers.

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Rick Standard, Operations Director for the Christian Aid Center, outlined the availability of beds at the Christian Aid Center, and the services and plan of action they offer to help people get into housing.

Rene Rooker, Executive Director of the Walla Walla Housing Authority, reported they own and operate homes for low income individuals and families; and reviewed occupancy rates and funding.

Chuck Hindman, Chair of Alliance for the Homeless, reported the new sleep site is operating very well, the rules are working, and safety has been greatly improved from the old site. The Alliance for the Homeless plans to build thirty Conestoga tents which will withstand the weather.

There was discussion on:

- Complaints in other City parks regarding camping.
- Police calls for service to the new site versus the old site.
- The number of homeless in the City compared to other areas.
- Relationship with neighbors and business owners at the new sleeping site.
- Lack of affordable housing.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Pomraning adjourned the meeting at 2:37 p.m.