

**WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**June 13, 2018**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

Present: Councilmembers Yazmin Bahena, Jerry Cummins, Myron Huie, Steve Moss, Tom Scribner, and Mayor Barbara Clark.

Absent: Councilmember Riley Clubb.

City staff in attendance: City Manager Nabel Shawa, City Attorney Tim Donaldson, Deputy City Manager Byron Olson, Development Services Director Elizabeth Chamberlain, Fire Chief Bob Yancey, Finance Director Jean Teasdale, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Customer Service Supervisor Rachel Warren, Fleet Services Manager Matt Edwards, Senior Planner Jon Maland, Planner Melissa Shumake, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/MOMENT OF SILENCE**

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

**3. PRESENTATIONS**

Councilmember Scribner, Chair of the ad hoc Anderson Perry & Associates Scholarship Committee, reported that two scholarships were being presented this year to Holly Gannon and Seamus Duffy and introduced Jake Hollopeter, Vice President of Anderson Perry & Associates, who commented on the scholarship program. Council recognized and thanked Anderson Perry & Associates for giving back to the communities they work in through this scholarship program.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Sharon Shiller, 1414 Topaz, Walla Walla, commended the Valley Transit fare free summer and expressed concerns with the lack of benches in the bus shelters.

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**5. CONSENT AGENDA**

City Clerk Hill introduced the Consent Agenda, Items A through C, as follows:

- A. Resolution No. 2018-54 authorizing a contract with Edge Analytical for laboratory water testing for the LT2 water plant project in an amount not to exceed \$38,853.
- B. Resolution No. 2018-55 authorizing the purchase of a commercial mower for \$33,162; and two one-ton cab and chassis trucks with hook-lift systems and racks for \$160,000 from the Washington State purchasing program.
- C. Resolution No. 2018-56 accepting the bid from Air Exchange of Fairfield, California to complete the work on the vehicle exhaust system at Fire Station #1.

Mayor Clark invited public input. No one in the audience chose to address the City Council on any of these items.

**Councilmember Cummins moved to adopt Consent Agenda Items A through C. Councilmember Scribner seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

**6. ACTIVE AGENDA**

- A. Ordinance No. 2018-15 adopting amendments to the Comprehensive Plan – Walla Walla 2040 pursuant to the provisions of RCW Chapter 36.70A.

Ordinance No. 2018-16 adopting amendments to Title 20 and Title 21 of the Municipal Code relating to the periodic update to the Comprehensive Plan.

Development Services Director Chamberlain reported this is the end of a two-year project and recognized all of the community partnerships, City departments, advisory committees and stakeholders for their work on the updated Comprehensive Plan. Director Chamberlain distributed and reviewed proposed revisions made as a result of the testimony received during the public hearing; and reviewed the Planning Commission's

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recommendations on the land use map amendments. Ordinance No. 2018-16 amends the City's Municipal Code to be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan update.

There were comments on adoption of the Comprehensive Plan by reference and the goals of the City for the Mill Creek channel. The City doesn't actually own any of the channel property and can only impact the channel through adjacent development permits.

Mayor Clark invited public input.

Sharon Shiller, 1414 Topaz, Walla Walla, felt that the affordable housing policies in the Comprehensive Plan regarding densities will not actually create more affordable housing but will simply make the City more crowded.

Noah Leavitt, 625 Whitman Street, Walla Walla, had comments in support of the Walla Walla 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

Steven Pao, 334 Woodland, Walla Walla, asked that his land use amendment be included in future annual reviews of the Comprehensive Plan land use designations.

Development Services Director Chamberlain reported that the second part of the Comprehensive Plan update is reviewing the zone code, which will also be a public process. Staff will continue to look at the Pao's requested land use designation amendment.

Mayor Clark, referring to LU Policy 2.4, felt that the policy should be amended to strike the words "place to live and" as the role of the tourism agency is only to promote the area as a place to visit, not to live. There was discussion on this suggested amendment with no consensus to amend.

Council commended staff and the Planning Commission for their work on the Comprehensive Plan update.

**Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2018-15. Councilmember Scribner seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

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**Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2018-16.  
Councilmember Cummins seconded the motion. The motion unanimously  
carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

- B. Ordinance No. 2018-14 establishing a recycling commodities surcharge of \$3.30 per month.

Staff reported that this surcharge is a result of international market conditions. The City is required to continue a recycling program. With the volatility and uncertainty of the recycling commodities market, the City is unable to continue to absorb the cost of disposal of recycling materials. There have been many changes in recycling including an increase in tonnage, a decrease in the value, and an increase in the amount of contamination.

There was discussion on:

- Pattern of recycling in states that have built in incentives, such as bottle bills.
- Importance of educating and communicating what are allowable recyclable materials.
- Having a sunset provision in the ordinance that triggers a review of the surcharge.
- Staff continues to discuss the issue with the Department of Ecology to determine available avenues if there is no market for recyclable material.
- The City has a contract with Basin Disposal and there will be a financial obligation even if the City is legally able to cease the recycling program.
- Implementing programs to encourage the City to purchase goods made from recyclable materials.
- Assurances that recycling commodities are actually going to a market and not into a landfill. There is currently a domestic market for certain plastics and aluminum, but mixed paper continues to be a problem.
- The City is submitting a grant request to fund an educational component for recycling.
- Amending purchasing policies to include a "green" and local purchase requirements.

Mayor Clark invited public input. No one in the audience chose to address the City Council on this issue.

**Councilmember Scribner moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2018-14. Councilmember Moss seconded the motion.**

**Councilmember Cummins moved to amend the ordinance to add a sunset clause of January 31, 2019 on the \$3.30 surcharge. Councilmember Huie seconded the motion.**

There was discussion on the forty-five day notice requirement which only applies to increases in rates, not decreases in rates. This sunset clause would allow staff to have twelve months of data to analyze for any future surcharge amount.

**The amended motion to add a sunset clause of January 31, 2019 on the \$3.30 surcharge failed with 2 yes votes by Councilmembers Cummins and Huie and 4 no votes by Councilmembers Bahena, Moss, Scribner and Mayor Clark.**

**Councilmember Scribner moved to amend the ordinance to require a review by the City Council on or before January 31, 2019. Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The amendment unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

**The motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2018-14 as amended unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

**Councilmember Cummins moved to direct the City Manager to prepare a cost cap proposal for recycling costs for presentation to the Department of Ecology. Councilmember Moss seconded the motion.**

There was discussion on the intent of the motion. Staff reported that asking the citizens of Walla Walla to write a blank check to support recycling is very alarming. The intent is to work with other cities to impact a change. It was the consensus of a majority of Council that it affirmatively supports working with Washington cities and the Department of Ecology to address the instability and rising costs of the recyclable commodities markets.

**Councilmember Cummins, with the consent of Councilmember Moss, withdrew his motion to direct the City Manager to prepare a cost cap proposal for recycling costs for presentation to the Department of Ecology.**

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- C. Resolution No. 2018-60 authorizing a contract with MurraySmith to update the City's water system plan in an amount not to exceed \$199,770.

Staff reported the City is required by State law to update its water system plan. This contract requires a high degree of technical expertise which results in a higher hourly cost. There have been many updates and improvements to the City's water system since the last plan update. Council commented that permanent City employees do not have the available time or expertise necessary to perform this update.

Mayor Clark invited public input. No one in the audience chose to address the City Council on this issue.

**Councilmember Scribner moved to adopt Resolution No. 2018-60. Councilmember Cummins seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

- D. Resolution No. 2018-59 awarding the bid for the 2018 water capital improvement program project to Premier Excavation in the amount of \$549,990.

Staff reported there was only one bid submitted for this water improvements project. It was slightly over the engineer's estimate but after a review of the bid there is nothing that appears to be out of line with the estimate. This project will address a number of failing water lines and leaks.

Mayor Clark invited public input. No one in the audience chose to address the City Council on this issue.

**Councilmember Cummins moved to adopt Resolution No. 2018-59. Councilmember Huie seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

- E. Resolution No. 2018-58 authorizing the purchase of the traffic signal equipment for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue improvements – Rose Street to US 12 project.

Staff reported that traffic signal replacements are usually done as part of the overall improvement project. The City is trying to expedite completion of this project by pre-purchasing the traffic signal replacement.

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Mayor Clark invited public input. No one in the audience chose to address the City Council on this issue.

**Councilmember Cummins moved to adopt Resolution No. 2018-58. Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

- F. Resolution No. 2018-57 authorizing the sale of landfill carbon credits to The Climate Trust for approximately \$228,280.50 in revenue for the landfill fund.

Staff reported that this is the second time the City has been successful in selling its carbon credits associated with the disposal of methane gas at the landfill. The City tracks and sells these carbon offset credits through a complex verification process.

There was discussion on the process of burning and validating the methane gas necessary to sell the carbon credits. Staff thanked the City Council for taking the risk and making the investment necessary to validate the carbon credits for this revenue stream.

Mayor Clark invited public input. No one in the audience chose to address the City Council on this issue.

**Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2018-57. Councilmember Scribner seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

- G. Approval of minutes of the regular meeting held May 23, 2018.

**Councilmember Cummins moved to approve the minutes of the meeting held May 23, 2018. Councilmember Scribner seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

- H. Approval of the May 31, 2018 accounts payable register containing check numbers 197935 through 198291; 990870 through 990872; and 9171 through 9187 totaling \$4,232,435.49.

**Councilmember Cummins moved to approve the May 31, 2018 accounts payable register containing check numbers 197935 through 198291;**

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990870 through 990872; and 9171 through 9187 totaling \$4,232,435.49 with the exception of the checks to Alliance for the Homeless and Myron Huie. Councilmember Scribner 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 the Alliance for the Homeless and Myron Huie. Councilmember Scribner seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 4 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 2 abstentions by Councilmember Huie and Mayor Clark.

**7. COUNCIL MEMBER MEETING REPORTS**

Councilmember Moss reported attendance at the Summer Parkways event on June 3; the Parks, Recreation & Urban Forestry Advisory Board meeting held June 4; the Cannara, Italy sister city committee meeting held June 5; the Work Session held June 11; the Community Council luncheon held June 12; the Finance Committee meeting held June 12; the ad hoc affordable housing committee meeting held June 12; and the Heritage Park design meeting held June 12.

Councilmember Huie reported attendance at the Work Session held June 11; the Community Council luncheon held June 12; the Fort Walla Walla Board meeting held June 12; the Heritage Park design meeting held June 12; and a Committee on Committees meeting held June 13.

Councilmember Bahena reported attendance at the Work Session held June 11; the ad hoc affordable housing committee meeting held June 12; and a Committee on Committees meeting held June 13.

Councilmember Cummins reported attendance at the Work Session held June 11; the Community Council luncheon held June 12; and the Finance Committee meeting held June 12.

Councilmember Scribner reported attendance at a Public Works tutorial with Public Works Director Bealey held June 1; the Summer Parkways event held June 3; the Water Management Partnership Board meeting held June 5; the agenda preparation meeting held June 6; the Work Session held June 11; the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee meeting held June 12; the Finance Committee meeting held June 12; the Heritage Park design meeting held June 12; and the Public Library Board meeting held June 13.

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Mayor Clark reported attendance at the Summer Parkways planning meetings held May 24, May 25, and May 31; the Emergency Management Board meeting held May 31; a welcome event for the Letter Carriers Union on June 1; the Summer Parkways event held June 3; a meeting with representatives of the County and College Place held June 6; the agenda preparation meeting held June 6; the Community Development Block Grant Advisory Committee meeting held June 7; a Grapeline radio interview held June 8; the Mayor's walk held June 10; the Work Session held June 11; and the Heritage Park design meeting held June 12.

**8. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS**

**Councilmember Huie moved to make the following reappointments:**

- **Civil Service Commission: Fred Mitchell for a term expiring June 30, 2024;**
- **Sustainability Committee: Erendira Cruz and Judi Fenno for terms expiring June 30, 2021;**
- **Transportation Benefit District Improvement Committee: Dominick Elia and Michael Fredrickson for terms expiring June 30, 2021; and**
- **Housing Authority Board: Elizabeth Humphrey for a term expiring June 30, 2023.**

**Councilmember Scribner seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

Council asked that an item on reviewing the purchasing policy, including the purchase of items made from recyclable materials and local purchasing, be scheduled for a future Work Session.

Staff reported on the failure of the main programmable logic control for pump station 4 at the wastewater treatment plant and introduced Resolution No. 2018-61 ratifying an emergency declaration. The staff at the wastewater treatment plant are to be commended for their 24-hour staffing to keep the plant operational.

**Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2018-61.**

**Councilmember Huie seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

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Mayor Clark reported that Councilmember Clubb is absent due to his attendance at a wedding out of the country. No action was taken by Council.

City Manager Shawa reported on the first delegation of students and parents leaving for Cannara, Italy; and Councilmember Cummins is scheduled to be on the radio on June 15 at 8:00 a.m.

**9. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Clark announced that the City Council would be recessing to Executive Session to consider the selection of a site or the acquisition of real estate pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(b) and to discuss with legal counsel litigation or potential litigation to which the City is a party or is likely to become a party pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i). The Executive Session will last no more than two hours and no further business will come before Council in open session.

The meeting was recessed at 9:31 p.m.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

**There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:23 p.m.**