

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
July 11, 2018

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

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

Absent: None.

City staff in attendance: City Manager Nabel Shawa, City Attorney Tim Donaldson, Deputy City Manager Byron Olson, Parks & Recreation Director Andy Coleman, Development Services Director Elizabeth Chamberlain, Fire Chief Bob Yancey, Library Director Beth Hudson, Senior Planner Jon Maland 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.

Deputy City Manager Olson showed a short video and presented the Association of Washington Cities Municipal Excellence Award for the City's work and partnerships on homeless initiatives.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lester Sternberg, 600 Chase Avenue, Walla Walla, expressed concerns with loose dogs and inappropriate behavior from a neighboring residence, and the City's lack of response to his concerns.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Acceptance of resignation of Carlos Flores from the Parks, Recreation & Urban Forestry Advisory Board effective September 30,

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2018.

- B. Resolution No. 2018-70 approving a shoreline substantial development permit for the wastewater treatment plant headworks project.
- C. Approval of minutes of the regular meeting held June 25, 2018.

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 Moss seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

5. ACTIVE AGENDA

A. Council Wards.

Councilmember Scribner, Chair of the Ward Boundary Committee, reported a revised map has been prepared and distributed that includes newly annexed property on the south side of the City. This annexation did not result in any population change to the south ward. There are primarily two issues for the City Council to consider:

1. Approval of the proposed ward boundary map; and
2. How the wards shall be elected: two ward positions and two at-large positions in 2019 or all four ward positions in 2019.

Councilmember Scribner thanked the members of the ward boundary committee and staff members Deepti Vijayan, Jennifer Beckmeyer, and County Elections Supervisor David Valiant for their assistance. The committee was tasked with drawing four ward boundaries that were essentially all the same in population size (not more than a ten percent deviation between wards). Members also considered socio-economic and cultural diversity when determining the ward boundaries. Historically, the City has had the lowest representation on the City Council from people living in the East and West wards. This proposal to divide the City into wards will also reduce any likelihood the City might be legally threatened with voting rights act violations.

Council agreed to discuss and act on the two issues separately.

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Mayor Clark invited public input.

Danielle Garbe, Executive Director of the Sherwood Trust, thanked the Council and ward boundary committee for their thoughtfulness and effort. The Sherwood Trust is available to assist in ways to promote community involvement.

Councilmember Scribner moved to approve the boundaries of the four wards: East, West, South, and Central, as shown on the boundary map. Councilmember Moss seconded the motion.

There was brief discussion on the sufficiency of the map for designating the four wards at this time.

The motion to approve the boundaries of the four wards: East, West, South, and Central, as shown on the boundary map unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

City Attorney Donaldson reported that when areas are annexed, it is staff's intent that these annexed areas will be placed in the ward that has the largest boundary line adjacent to the annexed area. This provision will be included in the ordinance that will be brought back for Council consideration. Council concurred with this approach.

There was extensive discussion on whether all four wards should be elected in 2019 or split into two ward positions and two at-large positions. Councilmembers Cummins, Huie, Moss and Scribner indicated their preference for the election of two ward and two at-large positions in 2019 with the remaining two wards and one at-large position during the election in 2021. Mayor Clark and Councilmembers Bahena and Clubb expressed their preference for holding the election of all four ward positions in 2019 and the three at-large positions in 2021.

Mayor Clark invited public input.

Sharon Shiller, 1414 Topaz, Walla Walla, spoke in support of electing all four ward positions in 2019.

Marilee McQuarrie, 40 Wilshire Street, Walla Walla, spoke in support of electing two ward positions and two at-large positions in 2019. Ms.

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McQuarrie also asked the City Council to consider raising Council compensation.

Tracy Hickman, 1835 Woodmere Loop, Walla Walla, spoke in support of electing two ward positions and two at-large positions in 2019. Ms. Hickman also suggested the City Council consider raising Council compensation.

There was additional discussion by Council on the benefits and disadvantages of the election cycles for implementing wards along with their personal opinions.

Councilmember Scribner moved to adopt the two wards and two at-large position election cycle in 2019. Councilmember Cummins seconded the motion.

There were additional comments on ward representation and the proposed election cycle.

The motion to adopt the two wards and two at-large position election cycle in 2019 carried with four yes votes by Councilmembers Cummins, Huie, Moss and Scribner and three no votes by Councilmembers Bahena, Clubb, and Mayor Clark.

Council asked if it was acceptable to choose which two ward positions would be up for election in 2019. Staff acknowledged that Council may make this decision.

Councilmember Scribner moved that the East and West ward positions be up for election in 2019. Councilmember Moss seconded the motion.

Mayor Clark invited public input.

Danielle Garbe, 826 Whitman Street, Walla Walla, commented that further study may be necessary to determine which two wards should be elected first.

Tracy Hickman, 1835 Woodmere Loop, Walla Walla, reported that the ward boundary committee had discussed and agreed that if the choice could be made by the City Council then the East and West wards should be selected first.

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Khazi Joshua, 2 E. Birch Street, Walla Walla, asked if the City Council knew how the community feels regarding which wards should be voted on first.

Misty Head, 818 E. Willow, Walla Walla, commented that the public has not had the opportunity to comment on which of the wards should be elected first.

Councilmember Cummins moved to table the decision on which wards should be elected in 2019 until the July 25 meeting. Councilmember Scribner seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

City Attorney Donaldson commented that the City Council will also need to designate which positions will become ward positions at the next City Council meeting.

- B. Ordinance No. 2018-21 prohibits smoking or vaping tobacco or marijuana in City parks.

City Manager Shawa reported this proposal had been reviewed by the Parks, Recreation & Urban Forestry Advisory Board which recommended approval.

Parks & Recreation Director Coleman reported a similar proposal had been reviewed and approved by the Parks, Recreation & Urban Forestry Advisory Board in 2015 for a no smoking zone 25 feet around any playground or ballfield. Due to a number of reasons, this proposal had not made it before the City Council for consideration.

The new proposal would ban smoking or vaping in any City park, except the golf course. This is not intended to eliminate anyone from the parks but is to support public health by reducing exposure to secondhand smoke, provide healthier role modeling, and reduce littering. The police have indicated it is easier to enforce a ban than a distance limitation. A majority of Walla Walla County residents participating in a survey support smoke-free parks. The County Health Department will provide the necessary signage. Penalties are up to \$500 for persons over 16 years old that violate the smoking ban, and up to \$100 for persons under 16 years old.

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There was discussion on:

- The Parks, Recreation & Urban Forestry Advisory Board supported a complete smoking ban in the parks by a unanimous vote.
- People are changing their habits and it is becoming socially unacceptable to smoke around children.
- Penalties are imposed at the discretion of the judge. The proposed ordinance incorporates the general penalties that are applied throughout the code.
- The golf course is privately operated with approximately seven years remaining on their lease.
- The cemetery is not included in the definition of a park, so the ban would not apply.
- Enforcement of a ban causes concern and will likely only occur on a complaint basis.
- Demographics of smokers show that they tend to be lower income and less educated.

Mayor Clark invited public input.

Misty Head, 818 W. Willow, Walla Walla, commented that recent statistics show that vaping is going down. Smoking odors are unpleasant but that should not be a reason for banning smoking in the parks. Ms. Head suggested the use of designated smoking areas similar to those in major amusement parks.

Sharon Shiller, 1414 Topaz, Walla Walla, spoke in opposition to a smoking ban in the parks.

Ted Koehler, Vice Chair of the Parks, Recreation & Urban Forestry Advisory Board, commented that a smoking ban improves the appeal of the park system. It is much harder to enforce no smoking boundaries than an outright ban.

Lana Bushman, 1614 S. 4th, Walla Walla, owner of a vape shop, commented on her efforts to provide a healthier alternative to cigarette smoking.

Tracy Hickman, 1835 Woodmere Loop, Walla Walla, spoke in support of a smoking ban in parks.

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Council expressed their individual opinions on whether to ban smoking in parks.

Mayor Clark moved to remand the issue to the Parks, Recreation & Urban Forestry Advisory Board with a request to consider the establishment of no smoking zones in City parks. Councilmember Scribner seconded the motion.

There was brief discussion on the motion.

The motion to remand the issue to the Parks, Recreation & Urban Forestry Advisory Board with a request to consider the establishment of no smoking zones in City parks carried with 4 yes votes by Councilmembers Clubb, Huie, Scribner and Mayor Clark, and 3 no votes by Councilmembers Bahena, Cummins, and Moss.

Councilmember Huie left the Council Chambers at 9:25 p.m. and returned at 9:29 p.m.

- C. Approval of the June 30, 2018 accounts payable register containing check numbers 198292 through 198721, 990873 through 990884, and 9188 through 9207 totaling \$12,435,302.41.

Councilmember Cummins moved to approve payment of the June 30, 2018 accounts payable register containing check numbers 198292 through 198721, 990873 through 990884, and 9188 through 9207 totaling \$12,435,302.41 with the exception of the checks to Baker Boyer Bank and Alliance for the Homeless. Councilmember Clubb 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 Baker Boyer Bank and Alliance for the Homeless. Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 4 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 2 abstentions by Councilmember Clubb and Mayor Clark.

6. COUNCIL MEMBER MEETING REPORTS

Councilmember Moss reported attendance at the Work Session held July 9; and the ad hoc affordable housing committee meeting held July 10.

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Councilmember Bahena reported attendance at the Association of Washington Cities conference on June 26 through June 29; the walk with the Mayor held July 8; the Work Session held July 9; and the ad hoc affordable housing committee meeting held July 10.

Councilmember Cummins reported attendance at the Housing Authority Board meeting held June 26; the Association of Washington Cities Conference on June 27; the walk with the Mayor held July 8; a meeting regarding Powerhouse Theater funding held July 9; and the Work Session held July 9.

Councilmember Clubb reported attendance at a meeting regarding the reorganization of the current Council on Homelessness held July 9; the Work Session held July 9; the ad hoc affordable housing committee meeting held July 10; and the Metropolitan Planning Organization meeting held July 11.

Councilmember Scribner reported attendance at the Blue Mountain Humane Society Board meeting held June 26; the agenda preparation meeting held July 5; the Work Session held July 9; the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee meeting held July 10; the Water Management Partnership meeting held July 10; and the Mill Creek coalition meeting held July 11.

Mayor Clark reported attendance at the preparation meeting held June 26 for the Marshall's store grand opening; the 4th of July celebration at Pioneer Park; the agenda preparation meeting held July 5; the walk with the Mayor held July 8; and the Work Session held July 9.

Councilmember Huie reported attendance at the Association of Washington Cities conference held June 26 through June 29; the 4th of July celebration at Pioneer Park; the Work Session held July 9; and the Fort Walla Walla Museum Board meeting held July 10.

7. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

City Manager Shawa introduced Resolution No. 2018-71 authorizing submission of an application for a BUILD grant and acceptance of such grant and taking other necessary action with respect to such grant program.

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This resolution shows City Council support of this very competitive \$5,000,000 grant.

**Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2018-71.
Councilmember Huie seconded the motion. The motion unanimously
carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

There was discussion on fireworks and whether the subject should be considered at a future Work Session. It was the consensus of a majority of Council to have this item on a future Work Session.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:47 p.m.