

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Special Work Session Minutes
April 23, 2018

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Clark called the meeting to order at 4:00 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, Deputy City Manager Byron Olson, Development Services Director Elizabeth Chamberlain, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Fire Chief Bob Yancey, City Engineer Neal Chavre, Fire Inspector Tim Thompson, Water Distribution Supervisor Adrian Sutor, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

2. ACTIVE AGENDA

A. Hayden Homes capital facilities charges (CFC) credit.

Staff explained the proposal for Hayden Homes to extend a waterline south of the terminus of Fern Avenue to provide needed water service and redundancy in the area. In exchange for this waterline extension, they are asking for a credit on future capital facilities charges. A portion of the waterline extension would be considered a part of the developer's cost to subdivide the property while the other portion serves a greater area and would provide a necessary system-wide improvement.

There was discussion on:

- Lack of street connectivity in the area due to an unsuccessful proposal and court ruling to require the extension of Fern Avenue.
- Development costs due to the riparian areas and needed bridges.
- Developable land within the City's urban growth area boundaries.
- Capital facilities charges are for system-wide improvements. This proposed waterline extension can be considered a prepayment benefitting the City's water system.
- Necessary stormwater improvements to be able to develop a 100-acre south of the proposed waterline extension.

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- B. Proposed Municipal Code amendment to establish a \$5.00 monthly charge for fire service detector check meters and a penalty for unauthorized water use from standby fire protection systems.

Public Works Director Bealey reported this proposed code amendment is to curb the unauthorized use of water from fire protection services. The City would add radio-controlled water detection meters to fire service accounts at a nominal \$5.00 per month charge. Any unauthorized water use from these accounts would be assessed penalties and may also be required to install a full-service meter at the property owners expense. This proposal would impact approximately 250 to 260 customers with standby fire services.

There was discussion on the nominal cost for the water detection device, cost for a full-service meter, and associated water consumption rates. Staff indicated they would work with the City Attorney to clarify the wording regarding a full-service meter in the proposed ordinance.

- C. Council absences.

There was discussion on current Council policy regarding excused and unexcused absences and State law that determines a Council seat vacant when a member has had three unexcused absences from regular City Council meetings.

It was the consensus of a majority of Council to have further discussion on this issue with the City Attorney.

- D. Proposal of public art donation.

Deputy City Manager Olson outlined a proposed donation of a bronze sculpture depicting a wheat farmer by Jeffrey Hill to be located at the corner of Main Street and Spokane Street.

Craig Keister and Jeffrey Hill spoke about the proposed art piece and seeking a guarantee from the City that the sculpture will be accepted before any donor funds are expended on the piece.

There was discussion on:

- Role of ArtWalla in the public art process.
- Existing policy addressing the public art placement process.

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It was the consensus of a majority of Council to have staff move forward towards the donation of a wheat farmer bronze sculpture by Jeffrey Hill.

E. Request to lower City gambling tax rate.

City Manager Shawa reported Getaway Casino had submitted a request for the City to lower its gambling tax rate from eight percent to two or four percent. This request has been reviewed with the Finance Committee who does not recommend approval of the request.

There were comments on the request to lower the City's gambling tax rate.

There was no interest expressed by any Councilmember to further consider this request.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:53 p.m.