

**WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL**  
**Work Session Minutes**  
**March 12, 2018**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Clark called the meeting to order at 3:30 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, Development Services Director Elizabeth Chamberlain, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Parks & Recreation Director Andy Coleman, Assistant City Attorney Preston Frederickson, City Engineer Neal Chavre, Senior Planner Jon Maland, Engineer Adam Klein, Planner Melissa Shumake, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

Also in attendance: Planning Commission members Kent Huxel, Daryl Pearson, Carlan Bradshaw, David Fogarty, Brenda Bernards, Amber Delph, and Barlow Corkrum.

**2. ACTIVE AGENDA**

- A. Joint session with Planning Commission on the Comprehensive Plan update.

Development Services Director Chamberlain reviewed:

- Background information on the Comprehensive Plan.
- The Comprehensive Plan update process.
- Discussion points will focus on four elements: Land Use; Housing; Economic Development; and Transportation.
- Results of survey input from participants.
- Proposed land use policy changes and implementation measures.
- Proposed housing policy changes and implementation measures.
- Proposed economic development policy changes and implementation measures.
- Next steps in the process.

Scott Mansur, DKS Transportation Planning Consultant, reviewed:

- Overview of proposed transportation goals and policies.

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- Future transportation system needs including bicycle and pedestrian connectivity/safety.
- Potential amendments to local street standards.

There was discussion on:

- Development regulations to implement and compliment new Comprehensive Plan policies.
- Difficulty in driving around town when streets are closed for special events.
- Diversity of development in residential neighborhoods.
- Definition of a family wage job and implementation of economic development policies.
- Projected growth rate of Walla Walla, Walla Walla County and City of College Place over the next twenty years and preserving the qualities that make Walla Walla a special place.
- Coordination of planning among the cities of Walla Walla, College Place, and Walla Walla County.
- Proposed changes to the City's Urban Growth Area boundaries.
- Transportation challenges and potential solutions for the Howard/Chestnut intersection.

B. Sidewalk defects.

Engineer Klein outlined:

- Anticipated cost to mitigate current sidewalk deficits is \$3 million.
- Definition of a trip hazard.
- History of trip and fall claims.
- Washington Cities Insurance Authority mandatory requirements.
- The 2016 GIS sidewalk survey identified over 10,000 potential tripping hazards.
- Mitigation measures.
- Available funding.
- 2018 projects.
- Funding necessary to address all known sidewalk mitigation.

There was discussion on:

- New developments are required to install sidewalks, but street reconstruction projects do not have funds available to necessitate the installation of new sidewalks.
- Relationship between identified trip hazards and trip and fall claims. Trip and fall claims trigger a realignment of priority projects.

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- Difficulty in making sidewalk failures and hazards the responsibility of abutting property owners.
- Calculating the costs for sidewalk mitigation.
- Potential benefit to financing sidewalk repairs to reduce trip and fall claim expenses.
- Courts have ruled that abutting property owners are not responsible for trip and fall claims.
- Notifying neighboring residents when a contractor hired by the City is working on mitigating sidewalk hazards in their area.
- Identifying a financing solution to fix sidewalks throughout the City.

C. Recycling program – China Sword Impacts.

Public Works Manager Struve introduced Derrick Dietrich, Basin Disposal, and Marty Gehrke, Walla Walla Recycling, and reviewed:

- Regulatory requirements mandate the City have a recycling program, either curbside or depot.
- The China National Sword is a mandate that mixed paper have no more than one-half of a percent contamination; fifteen to twenty percent is the City's current level of contamination. Much of recyclable materials are shipped to China, so this mandate is having worldwide impacts.
- Recycling customers need to adjust from quantity to quality. This will be a major educational effort directed toward consumers.
- Recycling costs are fluctuating dramatically with the City currently paying \$96 per ton to dispose of the material.
- The reality is that supply is exceeding demand and there is too much contamination.
- The industry's recommendation is to recycle fewer items to preserve and enhance commodity values.
- Staff recommends:
  - Maintain commitment to recycling.
  - Focus on quality not quantity.
  - Target commodities of value: mixed paper, cardboard, #1 and #2 plastics, tin, and aluminum.
  - Implement an adjustable recycling surcharge fee to offset the negative cost of commodity disposal.

There was discussion on:

- Educating recycling customers to know what items are accepted instead of the items that are not acceptable.
- Requirements for a recycling program and costs.

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- Entire solid waste plan would have to be redone if the method of recycling is changed.
- The City cannot continue operating the recycling program at a deficit without eventually bankrupting the entire solid waste collection system.
- Longer term policies that need addressed.
- Recycling markets are reeling from the changes. College Place has implemented a recycling surcharge to address the market swings.
- The City recycles approximately 130 tons per month, of which about 65 tons are mixed paper. It is highly unlikely the Spokane waste to energy facility would be interested in the City's recycling commodities.
- Encouraging local markets for recycling materials.
- Imposing a fine for households that do not recycle correctly.
- The need for additional recycling education for residential households.

### **3. OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was discussed.

### **4. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:49 p.m.