

**WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL**  
**Work Session Minutes**  
**April 9, 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, City Attorney Tim Donaldson, Finance Director Jean Teasdale, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Fire Chief Bob Yancey, Police Chief Scott Bieber, Customer Service Supervisor Rachel Warren, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

Others in attendance: Andy Baker, FCS Group; Mara Machulsky, lobbyist; Harvey Crowder, Mayor of College Place; Paul Hartwig, College Place Public Works Director; and Mike Rizzitiello, College Place City Administrator.

**2. ACTIVE AGENDA**

- A. Review of low income utility discount report by Financial Consulting Services (FCS) Group.

Andy Baker, Financial Consulting Services Group, reviewed an analysis of extending the current utility discount program for low-income seniors and disabled residents to all low-income residents.

There was discussion on:

- Encouraging participation by currently-qualified seniors and disabled people. Current participation rate is only 17 percent of those that are eligible.
- Rate differentials to encourage consumer conservation efforts.
- Determining qualified families by the participation rate of students in the free/reduced lunch program.
- Will the City Council consider raising rates to expand the utility discount program and potential hardships on families? How will the City backfill the loss of revenue to the utilities?

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- Use of the utility roundup or a donation program to upgrade water fixtures in the homes of qualified low-income participants.

It was the consensus of a majority of Council to encourage higher program participation for existing low-income seniors and disabled residents through an awareness campaign with a report back on program participation in early 2019.

Council also suggested looking at establishing water conservation rates as part of the budget process.

### B. Gun ownership education.

City Manager Shawa introduced Mara Machulsky, lobbyist for the City, who provided an overview of four firearm legislative bills that passed both the House and Senate. The Association of Washington Cities is not taking any position on firearm legislation.

There were comments on the National Rifle Association spending in Washington State and possible proposals to arm teachers in classrooms.

Ms. Machulsky reviewed the efforts to get the real estate excise tax legislation for non-mandated growth management counties amended to allow for councilmanic approval of the second quarter percent taxation.

Council asked Ms. Machulsky to follow up on proposed legislation to allow for a property tax exemption for affordable housing.

### C. College Place water intertie.

City Manager Shawa reported that the City of College Place and Port of Walla Walla have both approached the City for establishment of water intertie agreements for emergency backup to their water systems. If the City Council is interested in providing for this water intertie, staff recommends:

- Intertie is to be used for only emergency backup.
- Water will be provided for a very limited duration such as thirty to sixty days.
- Pricing for the water will be at retail residential rates.

There was discussion on:

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- Neither the Port of Walla Walla or the City of College Place have the capacity to backup the City of Walla Walla but fortunately the City has two independent water sources: Mill Creek and the aquifer.
- The water intertie would only be unlocked and opened in emergency situations and only by mutual agreement.
- Whether the residential rate would include the surcharge for out-of-city customers.
- Verifying that the City's Mill Creek water right allows water sharing on an emergency basis.
- Existing interties need upgraded meters with the cost to be determined through negotiations.
- Ensuring definition of an emergency is adequately addressed in an agreement.

Harvey Crowder, Mayor of College Place, and Paul Hartwig, College Place Public Works Director, commented they are looking for an equitable intertie agreement for emergency situations and described past intertie agreements.

It was the consensus of a majority of Council to have staff prepare intertie agreements for future review and consideration subject to the City's Mill Creek water right allowing for the provision of emergency water to neighboring jurisdictions.

### **3. OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was discussed.

### **4. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m.