

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Work Session Minutes
May 14, 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, City Attorney Tim Donaldson, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Development Services Director Elizabeth Chamberlain, Finance Director Jean Teasdale, Parks & Recreation Director Andy Coleman, Fire Chief Bob Yancey, Senior Planner Jon Maland, City Engineer Neal Chavre, Customer Service Supervisor Rachel Warren, Planner Melissa Shumake, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

2. ACTIVE AGENDA

A. Walla Walla 2040 – Comprehensive Plan Update.

Development Services Director provided a broad overview of the process and some of the major policy changes in the periodic update of the City's Comprehensive Plan. The plan is also going through a major reorganization.

There was discussion on:

- The correspondence received regarding the Mill Creek channel and how the shoreline management plan and critical areas ordinance are the appropriate policy documents to address the various issues surrounding Mill Creek.
- Amendments to shoreline buffers would have to be done in both the Comprehensive Plan and the critical areas ordinance.
- Zoning amendments to encourage low cost and student housing within the Walla Walla Community College area.
- Residential densities, land use, and zoning to encourage affordable housing.
- Amending policy within "Community Character" to remove the reference as a "superior second home destination."

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- Role of Visit Walla Walla is not to promote Walla Walla as a desirable place to live.

Development Services Director Chamberlain reviewed each of the proposed land use map amendments, the staff recommendations, and the Planning Commission recommendations. There were questions and clarifications on some of these proposed map amendments.

B. Recycling surcharge/China National Sword impact.

Staff reviewed there are only two options available for consideration regarding the rapidly increasing costs to dispose of recyclable material:

- Impose a temporary recycling surcharge fee; or
- Ask the Department of Ecology to allow the City to modify its solid waste management plan to discontinue its curbside recycling program. Even if permission is granted by the Department of Ecology, there will be significant expenses to terminate the contract with Basin Disposal.

Staff recommends the Council consider a variable recycling surcharge fee in the amount of \$2.42 per month with a ceiling of \$3.17 per month in 2018.

There was discussion on:

- Tonnage rate for recycling materials is fluctuating monthly.
- Need for domestic markets for reuse of recyclable materials, especially mixed paper.
- The difficulty in changing existing policies and legislation that promotes recycling.
- The City of Walla Walla landfill will not be penalized because the City of College Place suspended their recycling program.
- How the recyclable materials collected within the City are processed.
- If the City is unable to decide to suspend the recycling program, then this is not a local decision.
- Contractual obligation with Basin Disposal for curbside recycling.
- Feasibility and cost of using the waste to energy Spokane facility to burn mixed paper.
- Recycling participation rate is approximately sixty percent.
- Commingled recycling versus customer sorted.
- Need for a glass recycling program.
- Recycling is an efficient use of resources.

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City Clerk Hill read the following questions/comments from Dan Mallery:

- Does an increase change or not what we can put in our recycle container?
- Is there a penalty from the State if we do not recycle?
- Can we put a limit on our tonnage of recycle and overage goes to the landfill?
- Can we do what Spokane is doing?
- Did College Place have a contract with BDI?

Staff responded to the questions posed by Mr. Mallery.

It was the consensus of a majority of Council to have staff bring back a proposed recycling surcharge for consideration at a regular meeting.

D. Continued discussion of policy on City Council absences.

There was discussion on the current policy and whether any changes should be considered.

It was the consensus of a majority of Council to maintain the existing policy regarding Council absences.

C. Flag protocol.

City Manager Shawa explained that the City has followed state and federal guidelines regarding lowering the flag to half-mast. Recently a request was made to lower the flag to half mast to honor a local member of the armed forces that was killed in a non-duty related accident. There being no guidelines, the Mayor agreed to the request. Guidance is sought on whether there is any interest in developing local flag flying protocol.

It was the consensus of a majority of Council to follow federal and state flag declarations.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Clark announced that the City Council would be recessing to Executive Session to discuss with legal counsel litigation or potential

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litigation to which the City is a party or is likely to become a party pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) for no more than two hours. No additional business will come before Council in open session. The meeting was recessed at 6:26 p.m.

5. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.