

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Work Session Minutes
June 11, 2018

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Clark called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

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

Absent: Councilmember Riley Clubb.

City staff in attendance: City Manager Nabel Shawa, Deputy City Manager Byron Olson, Development Services Director Elizabeth Chamberlain, Finance Director Jean Teasdale, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Transportation Engineer Monte Puymon, CDBG Coordinator Jennifer Beckmeyer, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

2. ACTIVE AGENDA

A. Discussion on City Council wards.

Councilmember Scribner recognized and commended the ward boundary committee, David Valiant, County Elections Supervisor, and City staff members Jennifer Beckmeyer and Deepti Vijayan for their work in analyzing the data and assisting with the development of four wards based on 2010 census data. There were comments on the process and input for developing the four wards. Some of the existing County voting precincts will need to be amended by the County. The ward boundaries will have to be reviewed and possibly re-drawn after each census.

The second issue is determining the election cycle for how the wards will be elected: all four wards in 2019 or two wards and two at-large positions in 2019 and then two wards and one at-large position in 2021.

There was extensive discussion on the two election cycle options for electing Councilmembers by wards.

Marilee McQuarrie, Ward Boundary Committee member, spoke in support of electing two ward positions and two at-large positions in 2019 rather than all four ward positions.

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Abra Bennett, Ward Boundary Committee member, spoke in support of electing all four ward positions in 2019.

Lynn Knapp, Ward Boundary Committee member, spoke in support of electing all four ward positions in 2019.

There were additional comments by Council on determining which election cycle is preferable, and selection of which wards will be elected first if not all wards are elected during the same cycle.

It was the consensus of a majority of Council to move forward with approval of the ward boundary map and election cycle at a Council meeting in July or August when all Councilmembers are present.

B. Micro-Business Loan Program.

Deputy City Manager Olson, CDBG Coordinator Beckmeyer, and Chamber of Commerce Director Brian Duvall outlined the development of a micro-business assistance (MBA) program utilizing Mercy Corp Northwest and its Individual Development Account (IDA) Small Business Grant and Mentorship program along with micro-lending focused on new and expanding small businesses within Walla Walla. The City has committed \$80,000 of its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for the first year of this program. The additional \$30,000 will be raised from community partners. The City of College Place has also applied for CDBG funds for a similar project and it is believed that these two programs can both be managed through Mercy Corp Northwest to strengthen the local economy of the region.

There was discussion on:

- How participation by the City of College Place may benefit Walla Walla.
- Funding of the grants for the program and program participation.
- Need for a broad network of partners to make the program work.
- The contract with Mercy Corp Northwest will not be brought before Council for consideration until program funding is secured.
- Administrative costs charged by Mercy Corp Northwest, background, and success rate. Staff indicated this information will be provided at the time a contract is considered for approval.
- Qualification of applicants and likely types of businesses that will be program participants.

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C. Pavement Management Program.

Transportation Engineer Puymon reviewed:

- Staff is proposing a five-year contract with GRI to perform an analysis and manage a pavement management program at a cost of \$230,620 over five years.
- The City's streets are a very valuable asset with currently no plan in place for management.
- The last City-wide street inventory was done in 2003.
- Citizen satisfaction surveys continue to rate City streets and maintenance very low.
- It is important that cost-effective decisions are made based on the right treatment for the right road at the right time.
- A pavement management study is necessary to adequately manage this infrastructure asset.
- Lawmakers have recognized the benefits of pavement management and a program will likely be mandatory in the future to be eligible for grants.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:19 p.m.