

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Work Session Minutes
July 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, Fleet Services Manager Matt Edward, City Engineer Neal Chavre, Senior Planner Jon Maland, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

2. ACTIVE AGENDA

A. Arts Commission Discussion.

Deputy City Manager Olson reported this is actually two proposals: one for the formation of an arts commission and the second for a "one percent for the arts" funding.

Deputy City Manager Olson reviewed:

- Current policy requirements of Municipal Code Chapter 2.42.
- Challenges with this current policy include:
 - No formal, structured process to advise the City Council and City Manager on matters related to visual arts.
 - No focus or direction regarding performing arts, literary arts, or the economic and social value of the arts in the community.
 - Lack of form or structure has caused disruption and confusion in the community as to how the city should go about acquiring, accepting, and managing its arts collection.
- Proposed Arts Commission:
 - Patterned after arts commission in other cities.
 - Desire to have a formal, Council-appointed arts commission to help establish clear policy direction and to help encourage the development of the arts as an economic driver in Walla Walla.

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- Worked closely with ArtWalla in reviewing earlier drafts to reach consensus.
- Recommends the proposed ordinance include a provision that ArtWalla nominate a candidate to the City Council for appointment.
- Commission to be responsible for all arts, not just visual arts.
- Seven-member commission, appointed by the City Council, comprised of:
 - One person working in Walla Walla public education community, preferably in the field of arts education;
 - Two professional positions who have had professional experience or training related to the arts.
 - Three at-large positions from persons working outside of the professional practice in the arts but demonstrate a deep interest in and appreciation of cultural and artistic activities.
 - One person nominated by ArtWalla.
- Purpose of the arts commission:
 - Advocate for the arts as vital tools in building Walla Walla's community and economy for the benefit of all its citizens.
 - Advocate for a diversity of arts and cultural opportunities for our citizens to experience.
 - Act as a catalyst to bring government, arts and culture, and private sectors together for public benefit.
 - Encourage strategic investments in arts organizations that increase public connection with the arts.
 - Create a unique identity and sense of place through the development and stewardship of public art.
 - Fund programs that encourage artistic excellence and expand exposure to a wide variety of art forms.
 - Foster the development of the local arts community, encouraging an environment for the success of working individual artists.
- Selected duties of the arts commission:
 - Act in an advisory capacity to the City Council or City Manager in all matters pertaining to the arts and culture of the City.
 - Recommend to the City Council or the City Manager, as appropriate, the adoption of such ordinances, and rules and regulations as necessary for the administration and preservation of fine arts, performing arts, and aesthetic aspects of the community.

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- Act as a partner and catalyst bringing government, the arts and culture, and public sectors together for the cultural benefit of all.
- Recommend policies that encourage, conduct, sponsor, or co-sponsor public programs to further the development and public awareness of, and interest in, the arts.
- Serve as the City's art ambassadors to artists, arts organizations, and the general public.
- Communicate to the public about the City's arts programs and policies.
- Review and make recommendations upon all works of art to be acquired by the City, either by purchase, gift, or otherwise.
- Review and make recommendations with reference to any existing artwork in the City's art collection in connection with the relocation, alteration, or removal, pursuant to the deaccessioning policy.
- Prioritize public arts projects.

There was discussion on:

- Representation from the City Council on the proposed arts commission.
- It is proposed that this commission will be assigned under the Deputy City Manager/Support Services Department of the City.
- Clarification on the term "professional position."
- Whether it is the City's role or proposed arts commission role to gather broad public opinion on proposed art.
- This commission would be an advocate for the arts and not a direct investment into an arts organization.
- Creation of a context or framework for a public art policy so the City Council doesn't have to determine whether a piece of art is appropriate.

Deputy City Manager Olson reviewed the proposal to dedicate one-percent of budgeted capital construction projects of the City, excepting infrastructure repair and replacement projects and utility projects, for the acquisition of public art. The proposed arts commission would determine whether to save the funding for a limited period of time and the method of acquisition.

There was discussion on:

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- Which type of capital projects would generate the one-percent for the arts and the impact of adding one-percent to projects primarily funded through the general fund.
- Insurance on the art and whether the funds could be used for replacement or repair.
- Development of administrative guidelines on the use of funds for art.
- Exempting Transportation Benefit District projects from the one percent for art.
- Allocating a set amount in the biennium budget for art rather than one percent of capital projects.
- Whether the one percent for arts could be used for performing arts.

It was the consensus of a majority of Council to have staff develop the proposals as two separate items for future Council consideration.

B. Electric/alternative fuel vehicles.

Fleet Services Manager Edwards reviewed:

- The vehicle and equipment replacement program.
- Total number and value of the City's vehicles and equipment.
- How the vehicle replacement funds are calculated.
- The procedure used for evaluating and replacing vehicles and equipment.
- Police patrol vehicle cost and replacement funding requirements.
- Police patrol vehicle replacement cycle and uniformity justification.
- Alternative fuel fleet transition.
- Use of the reserve fund for electric vehicle supply equipment (charging pedestals).
- Payment plan for electric vehicle supply equipment.
- Electric vehicle supply equipment options.

There was discussion on:

- Backup electrical vehicle charging in emergency situations. No emergency service vehicles are required to transition to alternative fuels.
- Staff reviews and defers replacement of vehicles when feasible. Replacement funds are then reduced to just the inflationary factor.
- Clarification on cost analysis.
- Lack of electric vehicle infrastructure on east side of the state.
- It is unknown if the City has any obligation to provide electric charging stations for public use. Public charging stations would have to be metered and accept some form of payment.

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- Benefits to having vehicles manufactured by a single company.
- State and federal mandate to replace fleet vehicles, when appropriate, with alternative energy vehicles.

C. Code update and impact fee discussion.

Development Services Director Chamberlain provided a high-level overview of impact fees including:

- Impact fees are one-time charges assessed for new or expanded public facilities that will directly address the increased demand created by that development.
- Allowable use of impact fees. Must be directly linked to the development.
- Transportation impact fees.
- Parks impact fees.
- Fire impact fees.
- According to the school district, they have no plans to add additional schools so are not interested in a school impact fee.
- Determination of impact fee rates requires a study.

There was discussion on:

- Impact fees are similar to the capital facilities charges (CFC) for buying into the existing utility infrastructure.
- Whether the City can be divided into zones for determining impact of new development or if they must be determined to be city-wide.
- Cost of the necessary study to implement impact fees is unknown at this time. This is a high-level overview.
- Definition of a "new development project" is any new residential construction.
- How a rate analysis would be performed.
- Negative effect of impact fees on affordable housing.
- Whether impact fees would have an overall beneficial effect on the City. Impact fees are assessed by most western Washington cities due to the rate of growth.
- If the City implements impact fees this may force development to occur outside of the City limits. Staff explained it depends on the density of the project and whether City utilities are needed.
- Residential units only pay approximately \$.80 per \$1.00 of City services received.
- Connection fees for water, sewer and stormwater are paying for system-wide capacity.
- Impact fees may create obstacles for new housing development.

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It was the consensus of a majority of Council for staff to do a little further research on the costs for an impact fee study and types of projects that may benefit from an impact fee.

Senior Planner Maland provided an overview of the next steps in the Code update process after approving the new Comprehensive Plan.

There was brief discussion on parking requirements, feasibility of repurposing parking lots if an applicant performs a study to show an excess of parking spaces; and supporting zoning changes to provide additional land for multi-family development.

D. Strategic Plan Update.

City Manager Shawa distributed the changes to the proposed strategic plan for review.

City Clerk Hill read the comment card provided by Kathryn Hill regarding the formation of an arts commission and one-percent for arts funding.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.