

**WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL**  
**Work Session Minutes**  
**August 27, 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, Parks & Recreation Director Andy Coleman, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, City Engineer Neal Chavre, Transportation Engineer Monte Puymon, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

**2. ACTIVE AGENDA**

A. Affordable Housing Report.

Councilmember Clubb reported the affordable housing task force comprised of Councilmembers Bahena, Moss and himself was formed in February by the City Council. The task force met several times per month with staff and other parties regarding ways to make housing more affordable in Walla Walla.

Housing supply has not grown as fast as demand and the task force looked at ways to increase supplies, particularly for those residents making less than the median income. Older neighborhoods in the City contain a nice mix of diversity in housing types with multi-family mixed in with single-family residential. A slogan for the City Council to consider is "Make neighborhoods diverse again." Councilmember Clubb distributed hats with this slogan.

There was discussion on:

- Developing cooperative relationships with developers and stakeholders.
- Predictability in development and building regulations.
- Many of the recommendations are being proposed for the Code update.

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- Accessory dwelling units: Change the regulations to apply a maximum standard size of 800 square feet and remove the requirement that the property owner live on the property. Accessory dwelling units are not “mobile” units and must be built on a foundation.
  - The adoption of “Appendix Q Tiny Houses” from the 2018 IRC may need further legal review.
  - Change parking standards to be based on the number of bedrooms.
  - Protecting the character of neighborhoods.
  - Targeted flexibility within development regulations.
  - Use task force recommendations for guidance in preparing and processing code amendments.
  - Co-sponsorship of an affordable housing summit.
  - Timing for presentation of code amendments to the Planning Commission with adoption by the City Council targeted for the end of the year.
- B. Request to place Gold Star Families Monument at Fort Walla Walla Park.

Parks & Recreation Director Coleman reported a request has been made for placement of a Gold Star Families monument at Fort Walla Walla park at the corner of The Dalles Military Road and Myra Road. The Parks, Recreation & Urban Forestry Advisory Board reviewed the proposal and unanimously recommended moving forward.

Penny Linterman, Pacific Northwest Liaison Volunteer for the Hershel “Woody” Williams Medal of Honor Foundation, reviewed the mission of the foundation and their request for placement of a donated monument at Fort Walla Walla Park.

There was discussion on:

- Grounds maintenance and ongoing electricity costs will be the responsibility of the City.
- Pedestrian/traffic safety/visibility will be reviewed by the City’s engineering division.
- Construction schedule.
- Exterior of the monuments are the same. The interior will be personalized to the community.
- Gold Star Families was established in 1928.

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It was the consensus of Council to proceed with the placement of a Gold Star Families monument at Fort Walla Walla Park.

C. Update on Poplar Street corridor study.

Transportation Engineer Puymon reviewed the reasons for conducting a corridor study versus just reconstructing the street.

Scott Mansur, DKS Consulting Traffic Engineer, reviewed and there was discussion on:

- Project purpose.
- Goals.
- Project schedule.
- Study area and cross sections.
- Twenty-four-hour volume trends.
- Intersection operation and level of service changes.
- Corridor travel time and improving efficiencies.
- Pedestrian and bike facilities and volumes.
- Walkability assessment.
- Bikeability assessment.
- Safety and collision analysis.
- Stakeholder outreach and input.
- Next steps.
- Improving site distance between intersections and on-street parking.
- Increasing housing density and impact on traffic analyses.
- Data to support the projected increase in traffic.
- Impact of the Walla Walla Town Center opening on the long-term traffic analysis.

D. Census bureau impact on City finances.

City Manager Shawa reported on the funding received by the City based on population and financial impacts of the census population counts.

There was discussion on:

- The importance of having an accurate population count.
- The Census Bureau is planning on proceeding with inclusion of a question on citizenship. Several State Attorney Generals have filed suit in Federal court to have this question removed.
- Impact on the issue if the City Council takes an official position.

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- Social consequences within Walla Walla and educating immigrant communities on the importance of accurate population data.
- Having the City Council take a position may be viewed as a positive statement of inclusivity to the community.
- Difference between a permanent resident versus citizen.
- Encouraging residents to answer the census questions they are comfortable answering and ignoring the questions they are not comfortable with.
- Bringing in an employee with the Census Bureau to educate the City Council.

It was the consensus of a majority of Council to place this item on a future Active Agenda.

**3. OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was discussed.

**4. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m.