

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Work Session Minutes
October 8, 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, Tom Scribner, and Mayor Barbara Clark.

Absent: Councilmember Steve Moss.

City staff in attendance: City Manager Nabel Shawa, Finance Director Jean Teasdale, Police Chief Scott Bieber, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Development Services Director Elizabeth Chamberlain, Technology Services Director Chris Owen, Deputy Fire Chief Brad Morris, Accounting Supervisor Liz Moeller, Recreation Supervisor Angela Potts, Parks Maintenance Supervisor Wes Walker, City Engineer Neal Chavre, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

2. ACTIVE AGENDA

A. 2019-2020 Budget Update.

City Manager Shawa reported staff has been working on preparing the 2019-2020 biennium budget for several months and reviewed the process. This Work Session is a high-level review and will focus on the general fund and new program proposals. The proposed budget is balanced and tied to the newly-adopted strategic plan. Staff reviewed the following:

- Budget schedule.
- Mission, vision, and values.
- Strategic Plan initiatives.
- Primary goals.
- Major operating funds.
- Total 2019-2020 expenditures by fund.
- Total 2019-2020 general fund revenues by type.
- Total 2019-2020 general fund expenditures by department.
- New items in the proposed 2019-2020 budget.
- New ongoing expenditures in the 2019-2020 budget.
- Additional resources for City-wide training and professional development.
- Property tax comparison.
- General fund revenue assumptions.

WORK SESSION MINUTES

OCTOBER 8, 2018

PAGE 2

- General fund preliminary recap for 2019-2020.
- Ambulance utility fee:
 - The ambulance fund is not financially sustainable for a number of reasons.
 - Ambulance fund recap for 2019-2020.
 - Ambulance financial study results by FCS.
 - Six-year plan for estimated ambulance utility rates starting at \$3.50 in 2019; \$6.00 in 2020; \$6.50 in 2021; \$6.70 in 2022; \$6.90 in 2023; and \$7.11 in 2024.
 - Monthly ambulance utility rates from cities across Washington State.
- Urban forestry funding:
 - The strategic plan includes an objective to manage the City's urban forest.
 - Examples of trees and limbs removed or felled.
 - Urban forest management plan was approved by the City Council in 2003 and contained notable recommendations.
 - 2019-2020 proposed deployment for the urban forestry program.
 - Impact of urban forests on reducing stormwater runoff and funding the urban forestry plan through a stormwater fee increase.
 - Stormwater proposed rate increases for urban forestry management plan starting with \$.80 in 2019 with a three-percent increase each year.
- Overall utility rates reflecting the new rates and previously-approved adjustments.

There was discussion on:

- Utility excise fees and taxes.
- Administrative fees charged to City utility funds.
- Revenues for street fund.
- Hostage negotiator throw phone.
- Ambulance utility and calculation of rates for multi-family dwellings and businesses.
- Having a one-page summary for all proposed fee and property tax increases.
- Developing different profiles for illustrating budgetary impacts to residents.
- Expansion of utility discount program to all low-income utility customers, not just low-income senior or disabled customers.

WORK SESSION MINUTES

OCTOBER 8, 2018

PAGE 3

- Providing an explanation on proposed budget increases in certain departments.
- B. Poplar Street corridor grant applications.

Staff reported they are seeking input from Council on traffic control alternatives for the Alder/Park Street and Alder/Palouse Street intersections to make the Poplar Street corridor more competitive for two possible grants.

The Poplar Street corridor study is currently underway for the City's highest collision corridor. The corridor planning process will determine lane configurations, safety and efficiency improvements, and stakeholder priorities. Staff applied for two grants earlier this year: A Federal Safety Grant (initial ask - \$2.9M) and a State Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Grant (initial ask - \$762k).

Options have been reviewed for both the Alder/Park Street and Alder/Palouse Street intersections and the recommended option for both is a mini roundabout. Roundabouts are shown to improve safety and traffic movement by reducing potential conflict points and calming traffic. The grant administrator is asking the City to commit to an intersection option. Staff would have preferred for the corridor study to be completed prior to making this commitment but also does not want to pass by an opportunity for grant funding.

No one on the Council expressed any objection to considering mini roundabouts at the Alder/Park Street and Alder/Palouse Street intersections.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor Clark announced the last "Walk with the Mayor" is scheduled for October 14 and to let her know if another Councilmember would like to participate.

4. ADJOURNMENT

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