

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 13, 2019

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Clark called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Blue Ridge Elementary School Auditorium, 1150 W Chestnut, Walla Walla.

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

Absent: None.

City staff in attendance: Acting City Manager/Development Services Director Elizabeth Chamberlain, City Attorney Tim Donaldson, Technology Services Director Chris Owen, Fleet Services Manager Matt Edwards, and Deputy City Clerk Jodi Stephens.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/MOMENT OF SILENCE

Councilmember Scribner led the pledge of allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

John Knapp offered the services of the Democratic party to help with the new ward system implementation without endorsing anyone.

Sharon Shiller felt that snow removal on sidewalks should be a priority.

Kathy McDole and daughter spoke in opposition to the installation of roundabouts.

Naomi Blinick asked that the City consider smaller size trash containers at a reduced fee to encourage less waste.

Jesus Espana asked if the City would be paving the portion of Rees Avenue where the homeless sleep center site will be located.

R.L. McFarland reported Middle Waitsburg Road between Blue Mountain Drive and Lower Waitsburg Road is in terrible condition and asked if funding was available for repair.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Deputy City Clerk Stephens introduced the Consent Agenda, Items A through F, as follows:

- A. Resolution No. 2019-29 declaring city property surplus and authorizing disposal.
- B. Resolution No. 2019-30 approving a contract for construction materials testing with GeoProfessional Innovations in the amount of \$57,792.
- C. Resolution No. 2019-31 sets a public hearing date of April 10, 2019, for the Dell Avenue Annexation, generally located west of Irene Street and adjacent to Dell Avenue
- D. Resolution No. 2019-33 authorizing an agreement with Walla Walla County for sleep center relocation reimbursement costs in the amount of \$50,000.
- E. Resolution No. 2019-34 authorizing a contract with Materials Testing & Inspection for Geotechnical Engineering Services in the amount of \$39,343.63
- F. Approval of minutes of the regular meeting held February 27, 2019.

Mayor Clark invited public input. No one in the audience chose to address the City Council on any of these items.

Councilmember Cummins moved to adopt Consent Agenda Items A through F. Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

6. ACTIVE AGENDA

- A. Resolution No. 2019-32 authorizes the purchase of four new hybrid sport utility vehicles not to exceed a total price of \$128,000 (\$32,000 each) from McCurley Integrity Toyota of Walla Walla.

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Fleet Services Manager Edwards reported this purchase will replace four existing vehicles with new hybrids. The new hybrids will have all-wheel drive for safer travel in adverse conditions.

There was discussion on:

- Keeping older vehicles due to low mileage. Staff advised against keeping these older vehicles due to the high cost of maintaining them.
- Feasibility of purchasing used newer-model vehicles rather than brand new to keep costs down. Staff reported this is difficult with fleet vehicles because of the competitive bidding process and unknown history of used vehicles
- Hybrid versus regular gas vehicles due to the low mileage and how the vehicles are driven. There are new State regulations the City is required to follow with the implementation of electric/hybrid vehicles into its fleet.

Mayor Clark invited public input.

Megelen Duhr-Schultz appreciates the steps the City is taking to reduce our carbon footprint.

Naomi Blinick recently had an electrical inspection from the City and appreciates how quickly staff was able to accommodate her request. This is a good investment and allows employees to do their jobs.

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2019-32.
Councilmember Clubb seconded the motion. The motion passed with 5 yes votes and 2 no votes by Councilmembers Scribner and Huie.

- B. Ordinance No. 2019-04 provides for the prohibition of sitting or lying in designated areas in conjunction with the future relocation of the Sleep Center.

City Attorney Donaldson reported this addresses the problems with homeless persons remaining on sidewalks and planters in areas surrounding the sleep center site. This ordinance will amend the prohibited area to the new site and the prohibition in the existing area will expire May 1, 2019.

Mayor Clark invited public input.

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Susan (last name indecipherable) lives in the area near the future sleep center site and fears problems with crime and drugs. She sees homeless individuals going through garbage cans and smoking marijuana near the library and church where they have free access to Wi-Fi.

Jesus Espana commented his residence will be half a mile from the sleep center and asked if this ordinance will encompass the whole area around the new site and also to the end of Rees Avenue.

Andrew, no last name provided, asked for accessibility to sharps containers and whether this ordinance will also cover loitering on sidewalks.

Naomi Blinick stated she lives on West Elm Street, close to the current sleep center site and has not had any problems with crime or needles.

City Attorney Tim Donaldson responded to the questions from the public. It is not legal to smoke marijuana in public, nor is it legal to go through garbage bins, and people are not allowed to trespass on to private property. This new ordinance will encompass Rees Avenue out to the city limits and includes the public right-of-way. There is the potential for a future annexation of property in the area.

Councilmember Cummins moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2019-04. Councilmember Huie seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

C. Ordinance No. 2019-05 amending the no camping ordinance.

City Attorney Tim Donaldson reported this amendment will close loopholes in the current ordinance to address areas where it is unsafe for people to camp. The exemption is if the sleep center is full, this allows people to camp on sidewalks. There was clarification on the provisions in the ordinance.

Mayor Clark invited public input.

Andrew, no last name provided, asked if Council communicates with the Alliance for the Homeless.

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Susan (last name indecipherable) inquired whether the sleep center will be first come, first served. When people leave items in the bins at the sleep center but don't return, this creates problem for homeless that need to use the space.

Jesus Espana asked where people camp if the sleep center is full.

There was discussion on:

- What misconduct is and impacts of choosing not to use the sleep center site. If the sleep center site is full people can camp on sidewalks. Those that choose to not use the sleep, either by choice or misconduct, must find somewhere else to sleep. The City is not required to provide a "lawless" area.
- Appeal process for those that have been trespassed from the sleep center.
- Capacity issues at sleep site and notification to police department of overflow, managed area contracts and night security.
- Alliance for the Homeless staff is working on handling the items left by other campers and not returning. Availability is on a first come, first serve basis. The new site will have better storage.
- Council and staff meet regularly with the Alliance for the Homeless.

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2019-05. Councilmember Huie seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- D. Approval of minutes of the rescheduled Work Session held February 21, 2019. (Councilmember Jerry Cummins absent)

Councilmember Scribner moved to approve the minutes of the rescheduled Work Session held February 21, 2019. Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 1 abstention by Councilmember Cummins.

- E. Approval of minutes of the Work Session held February 25, 2019. (Councilmember Tom Scribner absent)

Councilmember Cummins moved to approve the minutes of the Work Session held February 25, 2019. Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 1 abstention by Councilmember Scribner.

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- F. Approval of the February 28, 2019 Accounts Payable Register containing check numbers 201450 through 201775; 990922 through 990925; and 9338 through 9367, totaling \$3,277,088.76.

Councilmember Cummins moved to approve the February 28, 2019 accounts payable register containing check numbers 201450 through 201775, 990922 through 990925, 9338 through 9367, totaling \$3,277,088.76, with the exception of the checks to Riley Clubb, Jerry Cummins and Alliance for the Homeless. Councilmember Huie seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

Councilmember Moss moved to approve payment of the checks to Riley Clubb, Jerry Cummins, and Alliance for the Homeless. Councilmember Bahena seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 4 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 3 abstentions by Councilmembers Clubb, Cummins and Mayor Clark.

- G. Resolution No. 2019-22 authorizing a contract with Evco Sound and Electronics for services and equipment for audio and video upgrades for the City Hall Council Chambers in the amount of \$131,716.

Technology Services Director Owen outlined the procurement process for this upgrade and outlined the phases within the proposal. If all three phases are done simultaneously there will be an eleven percent savings. Funding for this project will come from the general fund.

Mayor Clark invited public input.

Richard McFarland spoke in support of approving all three phases.

Sharon Shiller asked if the new upgrade for video streaming will only require one person to operate system.

Jordan Michaels had questions regarding streaming for home access, ability to broadcast over radio, and warranty provisions.

Naomi Blinick spoke in support of approving all three phases

There was discussion on:

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- LED screen life span and any additional travel and labor costs if job is not completed on time.
- Warranty, maintenance costs, and operational costs. Operation will be handled via tablet by one staff person.
- KUJ radio is no longer broadcasting City Council meetings

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2019-22.
Councilmember Scribner seconded the motion. The motion passed with 6 yes votes and 1 no vote by Councilmember Cummins.

7. COUNCIL MEMBER MEETING REPORTS

Councilmember Moss reported attendance at the Water & Wastewater Advisory Committee meeting on February 20; the Work Session held February 21; the Work Session on February 25; the ad hoc affordable housing task force meeting on February 26; the Police Department Captain interviews on February 27; the Parks, Recreation & Urban Forestry Advisory Board meeting on March 4; the Work Session on March 11; and the series on River Restoration Northwest projects at Gesa Powerhouse Theatre on March 7.

Councilmember Huie reported attendance at the Jim Bock radio show on February 15; the Fort Walla Walla Museum board meeting held February 19; the Good Roads Association meeting on February 20; the Work Session on February 21; the Work Session on February 25; the Work Session held March 11; and the Fort Walla Walla Museum Board meeting on March 12.

Councilmember Bahena reported attendance at the Valley Transit Board meeting on February 21; the Work Session held February 21; the Work Session held February 25; the ad hoc affordable housing task force meeting held February 26; and the Work Session held March 11.

Councilmember Cummins reported attendance at the Housing Authority Board meeting on February 25; the Work Session held February 25; the Valley Transit Board meeting on February 26; the Work Session on March 11; and the Borleske Stadium Association Board meeting on March 11.

Councilmember Clubb reported attendance at the ad hoc affordable housing task force meeting on February 26; the Planning Commission

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meeting on March 4; the Metropolitan Planning Organization Board meeting on March 6; and the Work Session held on March 11.

Councilmember Scribner reported attendance at the Valley Transit general manager position interviews on March 1; the Watershed meeting on March 5; the agenda preparation meeting on March 6; a meeting with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding a local preference plan for Mill Creek on March 6; the Work Session on March 11; and the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee meeting on March 12.

Mayor Clark reported attendance at the Downtown Walla Walla Foundation Annual meeting on February 19; the agenda preparation meeting on February 20; the Work Session on February 21; an Arbor Day planning meeting held February 12; the Work Session on February 25; a meeting regarding Mill Creek on March 1; the agenda preparation meeting and a Mill Creek local preference plan meeting on March 6; the Grapevine radio show on March 8; the Borleske Stadium Association Board meeting on March 11; the Arbor Day planning meeting on March 13; the Work Session on March 11; and the Leadership Walla Walla meeting on Sustainability on March 13.

8. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

There was discussion on:

- Conditions on Rees Avenue and lack of mail delivery due to the street condition.
- Spokane Street improvements are funded through the economic development project and not general street fund dollars.
- The local preferred plan for Mill Creek was completed and submitted to Walla Walla County.
- The relocation project for the sleep center will start on March 18 with the anticipated move occurring on April 1.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.