

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 24, 2019

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Clark called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Golf Course Banquet Room, 201 E. Rees Avenue.

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, City Attorney Tim Donaldson, Deputy City Manager Byron Olson, Parks & Recreation Director Andy Coleman, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Fleet Services Manager Matt Edwards, Transportation Engineer Monte Puymon, Utilities Engineer Frank Nicholson, Arborist Kyle Clemens, WESCOM Manager Steve Ruley, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/MOMENT OF SILENCE

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

3. PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Clark read and presented a proclamation declaring April 24 and April 27, 2019 as "Arbor Day" to Parks & Recreation Director Coleman. Parks & Recreation Director Coleman reviewed the Arbor Day events to commemorate the twenty-fifth consecutive year of receiving the "Tree City USA" award.

Parks & Recreation Director Coleman reported that this year's Arbor Day award is being presented to Tom and Margo Scribner in recognition of their contribution to the City's urban forest.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sally Sundin, 1088 Aubin, Walla Walla, commented on the impacts of drug addiction on the human brain, homelessness, and suggested that the

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State allow use of the green space behind their offices on Pine Street for the homeless.

Sharon Shiller, 1414 Topaz, Walla Walla, asked the City to consider broadcasting City Council meetings on KUJ radio.

John Sutliff, downtown property owner, commented on the drug addicted homeless people defecating on sidewalks and the importance of providing a hand up and not a hand out.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

City Clerk Hill introduced the Consent Agenda, Items A through G, as follows:

- A. Resolution No. 2019-49 authorizing the purchase of a new construction backhoe from Western States Caterpillar of Pasco in an amount not to exceed \$143,000.
- B. Resolution No. 2019-50 awarding the bid to Core and Main for the purchase of various brass water fittings and parts not to exceed \$81,637.16 for 2019.
- C. Resolution No. 2019-48 authorizing a grant application through the Department of Justice for replacement of eleven ballistic vests for the police department for a local matching cost of approximately \$6,000.
- D. Resolution No. 2019-51 authorizing a contract with the Blue Mountain Action Council for services by Commitment to Community in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.
- E. Resolution No. 2019-52 authorizing the City Manager to apply for the Crime Victim Advocate grant, which supports the salary and benefits of the Crime Victim Advocate position in the Police Department.
- F. Approval of minutes of the Work Session held April 8, 2019.
- G. Approval of minutes of the regular meeting held April 10, 2019.

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There was discussion on:

- Expanding the representation of Commitment to Community throughout the City and not just in selected neighborhoods; and inclusion of a report on their outreach efforts.
- Process used for proposed purchase of a new backhoe.
- Local purchasing preference is the value of the local sales tax amount.
- Contract for Commitment to Community is only for 2019 while the City looks at what it wants to achieve from the services.

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 G. Councilmember Bahena seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

6. ACTIVE AGENDA

- A. Resolution No. 2019-46 authorizing a contract amendment with the Walla Walla Alliance for the Homeless for services at the sleep center through December 31, 2020 in the amount of \$58,437.16.
- B. Resolution No. 2019-47 authorizing an amendment to the contract with Pacific Security for services at the sleep center through December 31, 2020 in the amount of \$243,981.90.

Staff reported both contracts will extend the current services being provided by the Alliance for the Homeless and Pacific Security at the sleep center. These contracts address the day-to-day operation. There are no changes proposed for the basic operation of the sleep center. A separate contract with the Alliance for the Homeless for case management services will be brought back for Council consideration.

There was discussion on:

- Scope of the contract with Pacific Security.
- Getting a report on the total cost to City to operate the sleep center for one year. Staff indicated a report is being prepared reflecting the net cost of operation to the City.
- Use of modular building for services and whether it is intended the buildings will be used for a day center. Staff responded there is no

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intent to have the modular units staffed during the daytime hours when the sleep center is closed.

Mayor Clark invited public input on Items A and B.

John Sutliff, no address provided, asked how many occupants at the sleep center are people from outside of the Walla Walla area and felt that the City should not be providing air conditioning.

John Adams, no address provided, spoke in support of expenditures to help the homeless change their behaviors and enable them to exit homelessness.

Council responded that the data reflects eighty to eighty-five percent of the people utilizing the sleep center have some local tie to the Walla Walla area. There are people utilizing the sleep center that are employed but unable to afford permanent housing.

Councilmember Cummins moved to adopt Resolution No. 2019-46. Councilmember Clubb seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

There was discussion on whether there are security alternatives that may be less expensive than the contract with Pacific Security. The contract runs through December 31, 2020. It would cost significantly more to use a police officer and would also then reduce the number of officers on patrol. The downtown business community requested a solution to the homeless that were having a negative impact on commerce and tourism. Having a security guard at the site also reduces the number of calls for service to the police department.

Councilmember Cummins moved to adopt Resolution No. 2019-47. Councilmember Clubb seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- C. Resolution No. 2019-54 authorizing a construction contract with Culbert Construction for the Isaacs Avenue (Division Street to Tausick Way) project for \$6,995,394.60.
- D. Resolution No. 2019-55 authorizing a contract with Anderson-Perry & Associates for construction engineering and management for the

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Isaacs Avenue Phase 2 project in an amount not to exceed \$706,335.

Transportation Engineer Puymon reviewed the process for development of a corridor study. Phase 1 was constructed in 2017 and this project is for Phase 2. Due to the holistic approach in designing this corridor to be multi-modal, the City was successful in obtaining \$11.67 million in grants. This is a multi-year project with completion in 2020. The contract with Anderson-Perry & Associates is for construction management. There was discussion on the scope of the services to be performed as part of the construction management contract; the complexity to meet all City, State, and Federal requirements for the project; and coordination with property owners and businesses along the corridor.

Mayor Clark invited public input.

R.L. McFarland, 3731 Middle Waitsburg Road, Walla Walla, asked the City to consider the same level of oversight for construction within private developments.

Councilmember Huie moved to adopt Resolution No. 2019-54. Councilmember Scribner seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

Councilmember Huie moved to adopt Resolution No. 2019-55. Councilmember Bahena seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- E. Resolution No. 2019-53 authorizing a five-year contract extension with Jacobs/OMI for operation of the wastewater treatment plant.

Staff reported there had been a detailed discussion at the April 8 Work Session. The original agreement was entered into in 2000. This has been a great teamwork between the City and Jacobs/OMI. OMI has received many performance compliance and safety awards. There are \$6 to \$7 million dollars of improvements necessary at the plant and it is important to maintain the continuity of operations.

Mayor Clark invited public input. No one in the audience chose to address the City Council on this item.

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Councilmember Cummins moved to adopt Resolution No. 2019-53. Councilmember Huie seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

7. COUNCIL MEMBER MEETING REPORTS

Councilmember Huie reported attendance at the Good Roads Committee meeting held April 17; and the Work Session held April 22.

Councilmember Bahena reported attendance at the Downtown Walla Walla Foundation Board meeting held April 16; the Valley Transit Board meeting held April 18; and the microbusiness program graduation ceremony held April 23.

Councilmember Cummins reported attendance at a KUJ radio interview held April 12; the Helpline Soupport fundraiser held April 17; the Good Roads Committee meeting held April 17; the Valley Transit Board meeting held April 18; the Housing Authority Board meeting held April 22; the Work Session held April 22; the Arbor Day celebration held April 24; and the Linden Place open house held April 24.

Councilmember Clubb reported attendance at the Governor's Committee on Disabilities meeting held April 11; the Visit Walla Walla Board meeting held April 17; the Blue Mountain Action Council Board meeting held April 18; the Work Session held April 22; and the microbusiness program graduation ceremony held April 23.

Councilmember Scribner reported attendance at the agenda preparation meeting held April 17; the Valley Transit Board meeting held April 18; the Work Session held April 22; and the Blue Mountain Humane Society Board meeting held April 23.

Mayor Clark reported attendance at the summer parkways event planning meeting held April 11; a Whitman College outreach event held April 11; the Governor's Committee on Disabilities meeting held April 11; a leadership meeting of the Governor's Committee on Disabilities meeting held April 12; a radio interview on the Grapevine held April 15; the Emergency Management Board meeting held April 16; the Helpline Soupport fundraiser held April 17; the agenda preparation meeting held April 17; the Arbor Day committee meeting held April 17; the Sustainability Committee meeting held April 18; a lunch meeting with City Manager

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Shawa and the new Chamber of Commerce Executive Director held April 22; the Work Session held April 22; the Arbor Day celebration held April 24; and the working group on a recreation hub held April 24.

8. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

City Manager Shawa reported that a letter of support for the 2019 Governor's Smart Communities Award for the Blue Mountain Region Trails Plan has been prepared and staff is seeking Council authorization for the Mayor to sign.

Councilmember Cummins moved to authorize the Mayor to sign a letter of support for the 2019 Governor's Smart Communities Award for the Blue Mountain Region Trails Plan. Councilmember Scribner seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- A. Resolution No. 2019-56 ratifying the declaration of an emergency purchase for soft start electrical components for Well #3.

City Manager Shawa reported that with the LT2 improvements at the water treatment plant it became necessary to switch to City wells for water. It was determined that Well #3 required immediate electrical repairs so an emergency declaration was issued to be able to by-pass the normal purchasing requirements. Even though the repairs were less than \$20,000, Council action is necessary to ratify this emergency declaration.

Mayor Clark invited public input. No one in the audience chose to address the City Council on this issue.

Councilmember Scribner moved to adopt Resolution No. 2019-56. Councilmember Cummins seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

City Clerk Hill asked for volunteers to serve on an ad-hoc Anderson-Perry scholarship committee to choose an applicant for the scholarship award. Councilmembers Bahena, Clubb and Scribner volunteered to serve on this ad-hoc committee.

Councilmember Cummins moved to appoint Councilmembers Huie, Bahena, and Clubb as the voting delegates at the Association of Washington Cities Annual Conference with Councilmember Cummins to

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serve as an alternate voting delegate. Councilmember Clubb seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

Council determined that the public comments by Sally Sundin were not a City issue for discussion.

Council suggested that the issue of having a live radio broadcast of City Council meetings be discussed at a future meeting when the City Council Chamber remodel is complete.

Staff reported that the issue of public urination and defecation is taken seriously, and police officers do respond when notified of the issue.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.