

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 6, 2019

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Clark called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

Absent: Councilmember Yazmin Bahena.

City staff in attendance: City Manager Nabel Shawa, City Attorney Tim Donaldson, Finance Director Jean Teasdale, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Development Services Director Elizabeth Chamberlain, Deputy Fire Chief Brad Morris, Fire Captain John Knowles, CDBG Coordinator Jennifer Beckmeyer, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/MOMENT OF SILENCE

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

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sharon Schiller, Walla Walla, expressed concerns with the reporting by the Union Bulletin after the election, her pride in being a candidate, and the number of voters that did not select a candidate running in the wards.

John DeLong, Walla Walla, asked for the establishment of a citizen budget committee and commented on the lack of citizen engagement in the budget process.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Accepting resignation of Jaenemy Perez de Luengas from the Library Board.

**WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
NOVEMBER 6, 2019
PAGE 2**

- B. Resolution No. 2019-121 repealing Resolution No. 2016-84 which modified the ten percent annexation petition submitted by the Bachtold's.
- C. Resolution No. 2019-122 setting January 8, 2020 as the date to consider a ten percent annexation petition at Berney Drive and Delmont Street.
- D. Resolution No. 2019-123 setting January 8, 2020 as the date to consider a ten percent annexation petition for land adjacent to Abbott Road.
- E. Resolution No. 2019-124 setting January 8, 2020 as the date to consider a ten percent annexation petition for property adjacent to Hatch Street.
- F. Resolution No. 2019-125 ratifying the emergency purchase of hot mix asphalt for street repair work.
- G. Resolution No. 2019-126 authorizing an interagency agreement with the Walla Walla Community College regarding fire training equipment; and authorizing agreements with other agencies to utilize the City's fire drill training ground.

There was discussion on the process to remove property from the City's urban growth area, and more specifically, the land known as the Bachtold property. Council asked for a Work Session to review the City's urban growth area.

Mayor Clark invited public input.

R.L. McFarland, Walla Walla, suggested a Work Session for the City Council to review all the public input received on the Bachtold development proposal.

Councilmember Cummins moved to adopt Consent Agenda Items A through G. Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
NOVEMBER 6, 2019
PAGE 3

5. ACTIVE AGENDA

- A. Public hearing on the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) 2020 annual action plan as required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Staff provided an overview of the 2020 CDBG annual action plan and public participation in developing this plan.

There was brief discussion on the definition of affordable housing under the federal guidelines and services to residents outside of the low-income census tracts.

Mayor Clark declared the public hearing open at 7:34 p.m.

Ted Koehler, Housing Director for the Blue Mountain Action Council, commented on the benefits of the home repair program and leveraging other programs. Mr. Koehler advocated for increasing support of the home repair program with any unanticipated revenue.

Carolina Alvarado, Walla Walla, thanked the City for the alley lighting being provided through the CDBG program.

There being no further public comments, the hearing was closed at 7:41 p.m.

No action was taken by Council.

- B. Ordinance No. 2019-25 setting the 2020 recycling commodities surcharge.

Staff reported the international market for recycling commodities is extremely volatile and is making recycling not financially feasible. This proposal will allow the disposal of recycling commodities in the landfill if the cost to recycle is more than the current landfill tipping fee. This proposal is a cost containment measure for the customer.

There was discussion on:

- Preserving the existing recycling system until the commodities market stabilizes.
- Buffering the citizens from rate swings in recycling costs.

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
NOVEMBER 6, 2019
PAGE 4

- One of the Council's legislative priorities is to have the Department of Ecology establish a local sorting station so agencies are not so dependent upon foreign markets.
- This change will take effect on January 1, 2020 and has no sunset clause.
- Breakdown of fixed versus variable costs for recycling.
- Outreach plan for contamination reduction.
- Negotiation of a contribution from Basin Disposal since the City approved a longer extension to their recycling contract.

Mayor Clark invited public input.

Heather Church, Department of Ecology Solid Waste Management Eastern Regional Office, suggested there may be negative repercussions to Walla Walla Recycling if the material is diverted to the landfill. It is a delicate balance between cost containment and preserving the recycling system infrastructure.

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2019-25.
Councilmember Huie seconded the motion.

There were comments on the societal and environmental value of recycling; and support for a regional recycling center.

R.L. McFarland, representing the Solid Waste Advisory Committee, commented on looking at alternatives to recycling on a county-wide basis.

The motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2019-25 unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

C. Public hearing on 2020 revenue sources and property taxes.

Staff reviewed:

- The numerous increased expenses necessitating the need for the one percent increase in the property tax levy.
- Property tax levy calculations.
- Comparison of rates with College Place and Walla Walla County.
- Where property tax dollars go.
- Estimated property taxes.

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
NOVEMBER 6, 2019
PAGE 5

- Unrestricted general fund preliminary recap and projected ending fund balances.
- Revenue update for 2019-2020.
- General sales tax revenue.
- Utility rates for 2019 through 2021.
- Walla Walla County has requested the City's levy certification by November 15.

There was discussion on:

- Transportation Benefit District funding is not impacted by the passage of Initiative 976 since the City opted to fund the revenue through a sales tax increase and not licensing fees, although the loss of other state revenues due to passage of this initiative is unknown.
- Impact to service levels if the one percent increase is not approved or the negative impact to the ending fund balance which impacts the City's bond rating.
- Importance of having an adequate general fund reserve.
- Utility rates have been set until 2021.

Mayor Clark declared the public hearing open at 8:53 p.m.

John DeLong, Walla Walla, commented on the overall increase in the property tax levy with the inclusion of new construction and annexations; and personnel costs.

Jordan Michaels, Walla Walla, suggested the City require homeowners to fix sidewalk defects to eliminate the City's liability.

R.L. McFarland, Walla Walla, suggested people need to be educated on the trickle-down impact of their votes, such as eliminating their own jobs through the passage of tax limiting initiatives.

Staff commented that cities cannot pass on the liability for trip and fall claims to the adjacent property owner according to the Washington Supreme Court. Enforcement of sidewalk repairs would be through the imposition of sidewalk local improvement districts on adjacent property owners.

- D. Resolution No. 2019-128 authorizing property tax increases for debt service on voter-approved bonds.

**WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
NOVEMBER 6, 2019
PAGE 6**

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

Councilmember Cummins moved to adopt Resolution No. 2019-128. Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

Ordinance No. 2019-27 fixing the property tax levy necessary to raise the amounts needed to meet the voter-approved debt services for the fire station facilities.

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

Councilmember Cummins moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2019-27. Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

Ordinance No. 2019-28 fixing the property tax levy necessary to raise the amounts needed to meet the voter-approved debt services for the police station facilities.

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

Councilmember Clubb moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2019-28. Councilmember Scribner seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

Ordinance No. 2019-29 fixing the property tax levy necessary to raise the amounts needed to meet the voter-approved debt services for the Veterans Memorial pool.

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

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2019-29. Councilmember Huie seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

**WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
NOVEMBER 6, 2019
PAGE 7**

Ordinance No. 2019-30 fixing the property tax levy for funding tax refunds.

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

Councilmember Cummins moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2019-30. Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

Resolution No. 2019-127 authorizing a regular property tax increase.

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

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2019-127. Councilmember Scribner seconded the motion.

Councilmember Cummins moved to amend Resolution No. 2019-127 to delete Section 1 to bank the one percent levy. Councilmember Clubb seconded the motion.

There was discussion on the proposed amendment and impact on City services.

The motion to amend Resolution No. 2019-127 to delete Section 1 to bank the one percent levy failed with 2 yes votes by Councilmembers Clubb and Cummins and 4 no votes by Councilmembers Huie, Moss, Scribner and Mayor Clark.

The motion to adopt Resolution No. 2019-127 carried with 4 yes votes by Councilmembers Huie, Moss, Scribner and Mayor Clark and 2 no votes by Councilmembers Clubb and Cummins.

Ordinance No. 2019-26 fixing the regular ad valorem property tax levy necessary for certain funds.

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

**WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
NOVEMBER 6, 2019
PAGE 8**

Councilmember Scribner moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2019-26. Councilmember Huie seconded the motion. The motion carried with 4 yes votes by Councilmembers Huie, Moss, Scribner and Mayor Clark and 2 no votes by Councilmembers Clubb and Cummins.

E. Approval of minutes of the Work Session held October 21, 2019.

Councilmember Moss moved to approve the minutes of the Work Session held October 21, 2019. Councilmember Scribner seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 5 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 1 abstention by Councilmember Cummins.

F. Approval of minutes of the regular meeting held October 23, 2019.

Councilmember Scribner moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held October 23, 2019. Councilmember Clubb seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 5 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 1 abstention by Councilmember Cummins.

6. COUNCIL MEMBER MEETING REPORTS

Councilmember Moss reported attendance at The Finch hotel grand opening held October 24; the Finance Committee meeting held October 29; and the early learning coalition luncheon held November 1.

Councilmember Huie reported attendance at The Finch hotel grand opening held October 24.

Councilmember Cummins reported attendance at the Good Roads Committee meeting held October 16; the Valley Transit Board meeting held October 17; a lobby trip to Washington D.C. on October 21 through October 25; the Housing Authority Board meeting held October 28; the Finance Committee meeting held October 29; and a meeting with staff from the State Auditor's office held November 4.

Councilmember Clubb reported attendance at the "Our Kids our business" fundraiser held November 1; the Planning Commission meeting held November 4; and the Metropolitan Planning Organization meeting held November 6.

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
NOVEMBER 6, 2019
PAGE 9

Councilmember Scribner reported attendance at the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee meeting held October 24; the Finance Committee meeting held October 29; the agenda setting meeting held October 30; the Water Partnership Board meeting held November 5; and the Arts Commission meeting held November 6.

Mayor Clark reported attendance at The Finch hotel grand opening held October 24; the neighborhood organization meeting held October 24; the Drug Take Back day held October 26; the agenda setting meeting held October 30; the awards ceremony for the Blue Mountain Regional Trails Plan held October 30; and a meeting with the Japanese Consulate of Seattle on November 1.

7. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Clark recognized City Manager Shawa for his ten years of service.

Councilmember Cummins suggested staff look at a program called "Safe Cam" that registers private building security cameras for police in case they may capture any traffic or crime incidents.

Development Services Director Chamberlain presented the award for the Blue Mountain Regional Trails Plan that involved thirty different entities. The first project for this plan is connecting Dayton and Waitsburg along the rail line. Council commended Director Chamberlain for her work in organizing all these agencies and creating this plan.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Clark announced the City Council would be recessing to Executive Session to:

- A. Discuss with legal counsel potential litigation to which the City is a party or is likely to become a party pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i); and
- B. Consider the selection of a site or the acquisition of real estate pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(b).

The Executive Session will last no more than two hours and no further business will come before Council in open session. The meeting was recessed at 9:47 p.m.

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
NOVEMBER 6, 2019
PAGE 10

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:23 p.m.