

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 20, 2019

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Clark called the meeting to order at 7:00 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, City Attorney Tim Donaldson, Deputy City Manager Byron Olson, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Parks & Recreation Director Andy Coleman, Assistant City Attorney Preston Frederickson, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/MOMENT OF SILENCE

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

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Two nurses from Providence St. Mary Medical Center commented on the status of negotiations between Providence and their union; and asked the City Council to request that Providence return to the bargaining table to negotiate in good faith.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Resolution No. 2019-129 authorizing acceptance of a grant from the Washington State Office of Public Defense to support indigent defense services in the amount of \$25,000.
- B. Ordinance No. 2019-31 adopting parks and recreation fees; and Ordinance No. 2019-32 adopting cemetery fees.

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- C. Resolution No. 2019-130 authorizing a consulting services agreement with Ken Deans regarding analysis for music and entertainment special events.

Staff gave reports on Items B and C.

Mayor Clark invited public input.

R.L. McFarland, Walla Walla, asked what the income was from the Gentleman of the Road concert and expressed concerns that some businesses lost money as a result of the event. Staff responded the City made around \$200,000 with community revenue of over \$10 million from the three-day event.

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

5. ACTIVE AGENDA

- A. Ordinance No. 2019-33 adopting a plan to improve the fairness and equity of stormwater rates and modifying Municipal Code Chapter 13.06.

Staff reviewed the plan to phase in an approach to improve the equity and fairness of stormwater utility rates. This action is one of the steps and eliminates credits that had been provided to mainly non-residential customers.

There was discussion on the proposed plan to phase in adjustments to stormwater rates and how these rates are assessed.

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

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2019-33. Councilmember Scribner seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

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- B. Approval of the October 31, 2019 accounts payable register containing check numbers 204533 through 205111, 990958 through 990963, and 9562 through 9595 totaling \$5,695,580.37.

Councilmember Cummins moved to approve payment of the October 31, 2019 accounts payable register containing check numbers 204533 through 205111, 990958 through 990963, and 9562 through 9595 totaling \$5,695,580.37 except for the checks to Jerry Cummins, Myron Huie, Alliance for the Homeless, and Walla Walla Public Schools. Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

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

Councilmember Moss moved to approve payment of the checks to Jerry Cummins. Councilmember Clubb seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 1 abstention by Councilmember Cummins.

- C. Approval of minutes of the special meeting held November 6, 2019.

Councilmember Clubb moved to approve the minutes of the special meeting held November 6, 2019. Councilmember Huie seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 1 abstention by Councilmember Bahena.

- D. Approval of minutes of the regular meeting held November 6, 2019.

Councilmember Moss moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held November 6, 2019. Councilmember Clubb seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 1 abstention by Councilmember Bahena.

6. COUNCIL MEMBER MEETING REPORTS

Councilmember Moss reported attendance at the Community Council Affordable Housing Committee meeting held November 14; the special

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meeting held November 15; the Walla Walla County Commissioners public hearing held on November 18 on HB 1406 sales tax implementation; and the Work Session held November 18.

Councilmember Huie reported attendance at the Good Roads Committee meeting held November 14; the employee recognition luncheon held November 14; the special meeting held November 15; the Work Session held November 18; and a Committee on Committees meeting held November 20.

Councilmember Bahena reported attendance at the Work Session held November 18; the Downtown Walla Walla Foundation Board meeting held November 19; the Civil Service Commission meeting held November 20; and a Committee on Committees meeting held November 20.

Councilmember Cummins reported attendance at an interview on KUJ radio held November 8; the Veterans Parade held November 11; the entrance conference with representatives of the State Auditor's office held November 12; a meeting with representatives of the Highway 12 coalition held November 13; the Good Roads Committee meeting held November 13; the employee recognition luncheon held November 14; the special meeting held November 15; and the Borleske Stadium Association Board meeting held November 18.

Councilmember Clubb reported attendance at an informational meeting with nurses at Providence St. Mary Medical Center on November 11; the Transportation Benefit District Improvement Committee meeting held November 12; and the special meeting held November 15.

Councilmember Scribner reported attendance at a lunch meeting with Councilmember Clubb held November 8; the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee meeting held November 12; the agenda setting meeting held November 13; a meeting with representatives of the Highway 12 coalition held November 13; the Public Library Board meeting held November 13; the water partnership management board meeting held November 15; the special meeting held November 15; a demonstration of a glass crushing machine held November 16; a meeting with Finance Director Teasdale regarding budget issues held November 18; the Work Session held November 18; and the Blue Mountain Humane Society Board meeting held November 19.

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Mayor Clark reported attendance at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the water treatment plant improvements held November 7; an interview on the Grapevine radio held November 8; served as a judge for the fall decorations at the Affinity apartments; the Veterans parade held November 11; a meeting of the recreation hub held November 12; the agenda setting meeting held November 13; a meeting with representatives of the Highway 12 coalition held November 13; the employee recognition luncheon held November 14; a meeting of the local disabilities network held November 14; the continuity of operations planning exercise held November 15; the special meeting held November 15; and the Borleske Stadium Association Board meeting held November 18.

7. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Huie moved to make the following reappointments/appointments:

- **Linda Scott to the Arts Commission for a term expiring December 31, 2022;**
- **Emily Bushnell to the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee for a term expiring December 31, 2022;**
- **Emilio Luna III to the Infrastructure Improvement Committee for a term expiring December 31, 2022;**
- **Kathryn Howard and Laurie Fairbanks to the Parks, Recreation & Urban Forestry Advisory Board for terms expiring December 31, 2022;**
- **David Fogarty and Brenda Bernards to the Planning Commission for a term expiring December 31, 2022;**
- **Skip Nichols to the Public Library Board for a term expiring December 31, 2024; and**
- **David Sorensen to the Transportation Benefit District Improvement Committee for a term expiring June 30, 2020.**

Councilmember Cummins seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

There was extensive discussion on the proposed Highway 12 improvements at Clinton and Wilbur and whether the City should continue to stand with the Highway 12 coalition and support an overpass versus the much less expensive roundabout alternative. Due to the passage of I-976, the State has put a hold on all transportation projects. The Highway 12

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coalition believes the Federal government would be more supportive of funding for an overpass than a roundabout.

Councilmember Cummins moved to recommend speaking with one voice with the Highway 12 coalition for a five-year period and ask for funding for a highway overpass at Clinton Street, with the understanding the City Council will look at other options for improvements after that time if the projects are not funded. Councilmember Scribner seconded the motion.

Mayor Clark invited public input.

R.L. McFarland, Walla Walla, commented on the importance of seeking Federal funding and their lack of support for at grade intersections.

The motion to recommend speaking with one voice with the Highway 12 coalition for a five-year period and ask for funding for a highway overpass at Clinton Street, with the understanding the City Council will look at other options for improvements after that time if the projects are not funded unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

There was discussion on whether the City Council should take a position and get involved in the negotiations between Providence and the nurse's union.

Councilmember Bahena moved to send a letter to Providence in support of continuing negotiations with the nurse's union. Councilmember Clubb seconded the motion.

Councilmembers expressed their individual opinions on whether this is an appropriate action for the City. Representatives from the nurse's union indicated they were not seeking formal action from the City Council but support from individual members in contacting Providence.

Councilmember Bahena with the consent of Councilmember Clubb withdrew her motion.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Clark announced the City Council would be recessing to Executive Session to review the performance of a public employee pursuant to RCW

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42.30.110(1)(g). 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 9:19 p.m. and reconvened in Executive Session at 9:40 p.m.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:39 p.m.