

**WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**December 4, 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, Finance Director Jean Teasdale, Human Resources Director Pam Taylor, Development Services Director Elizabeth Chamberlain, Capital Projects Engineer Mike Laughery, Transportation Engineer Monte Puymon, Utilities Engineer Frank Nicholson, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/MOMENT OF SILENCE**

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

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Andrea Weckmueller-Behringer, Executive Director of the Walla Walla Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization, extended an invitation for an elected official to attend the Walkability Action Institute four-day workshop.

The following spoke in opposition of the recycling “tipping point” plan adopted by Council on November 6 and had comments on the importance of recycling to the community:

- Erendira Cruz, Sustainability Committee.
- Elissa Brown, Sustainability Committee.
- Judy Fenno, Sustainability Committee.
- Heidi Chapin.
- Nate Steward.
- Beth Call.
- Jean Dolling.

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- Joel Christianson
- Beth Powers.
- Meg Duhr.
- Carol McCormach.
- Jared (no last name provided).

David Dahlke, thanked Councilmember Cummins for his years of service on the City Council.

**4. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- A. Resolution No. 2019-131 approving the 2020 annual action plan for the Community Development Block Grant program.
- B. Ordinance No. 2019-35 approving a labor agreement with the Police Guild for 2019-2021.
- C. Ordinance 2019-34 adopting the 2020 salary schedule for non-represented employees.
- D. Resolution No. 2019-136 authorizing a contract amendment for the City Attorney.
- E. Resolution No. 2019-135 authorizing a contract amendment for the City Manager.
- F. Resolution No. 2019-132 adopting the 2020 lodging tax distribution.
- G. Resolution No. 2019-133 awarding the bid to rebuild the belt filter presses at the wastewater treatment plant to Andritz Separation, Inc. in the amount of \$402,753.58.
- H. Approval of minutes of the regular meeting held November 20, 2019.

Council asked that Item F be removed from the Consent Agenda for separate consideration.

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There were questions and brief discussion on Items B, C, and G.

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 H except for Item F. Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

**5. ACTIVE AGENDA**

F. Resolution No. 2019-132 adopting the 2020 lodging tax distribution.

Staff reviewed the revenues, expenses, and fund balance of the lodging tax fund; and the proposed grant awards.

There was discussion on:

- Establishment of a minimum fifteen percent fund balance.
- Grant application process.
- Delay between collection and disbursement and impact of lodging tax funds if there is an economic downturn.
- Funding for Friends of Children of Walla Walla.
- Plans to promote events and activities during the shoulder seasons.
- Any additional revenue disbursement will be discussed by the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee before a recommendation is made to the City Council.

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

**Councilmember Scribner moved to adopt Resolution No. 2019-132. Councilmember Huie seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

- A. Ordinance No. 2019-36 modifying the budget for the 2019-2020 biennium; and  
Ordinance No. 2019-37 establishing and modifying the capital improvement project budget.

Staff reviewed the proposed budget modifications.

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There was discussion on:

- Reimbursement for fire mobilizations.
- Property tax revenue.
- Dedication of the one-percent property tax levy increase to repairing sidewalks.
- Numbers within the ordinance compared to the numbers in the presentation.
- Financial difficulties in the ambulance fund.
- Increase in property tax revenues going to the general fund and impact on fund balance.

Mayor Clark invited public input.

R.L. McFarland, Walla Walla, commented that he believes staff committed to using the one percent increase in the property tax levy for sidewalk repair.

**Councilmember Cummins moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2019-36.  
Councilmember Moss seconded the motion.**

**Councilmember Cummins moved to amend the budget to direct staff to use the ad valorem property tax increase of approximately \$65,000 for sidewalks. Councilmember Huie seconded the motion.**

There was discussion on the impact of this amendment on the budget and the total amount that would be budgeted for sidewalks if approved. Staff indicated that if this motion is approved, the total amount budgeted for sidewalks would be \$115,000. Trip and fall claims on sidewalks are one of the highest claims within the City.

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

**The motion to amend the budget to direct staff to use the ad valorem property tax increase of approximately \$65,000 for sidewalks unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

**The motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2019-36 unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

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**Councilmember Clubb moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2019-37.  
Councilmember Cummins seconded the motion.**

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

**The motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2019-37 unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

- B. Resolution No. 2019-134 approving the 2019 Transportation Benefit District (TBD) annual report and work plan.

Staff reviewed the 2019 completed projects, funding, and future work plan.

There was discussion on:

- Historical pavers along the Second Avenue project.
- Work performed in conjunction with the \$5,000 Domino's pizza funding for potholes.
- Improvements on Second Avenue and heavy truck traffic.

Mayor Clark invited public input.

Carol McCormach, Walla Walla, asked if this was the time to ask if a specific street was on the work plan. Staff spoke to Ms. McCormach privately.

**Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2019-134.  
Councilmember Bahena seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

- C. Public hearing on the 2020-2025 Capital Facilities Plan.

Staff provided a brief overview of the plan discussed in depth at the November 18 Work Session.

Mayor Clark declared the public hearing open at 9:03 p.m.

R.L. McFarland, Walla Walla, asked about the status of the Fern Street looping of the water line and Hayden Homes credit for this water line.

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Staff responded that Hayden Homes has paid the expense for the water line extension and will get a credit on future capital facilities fees.

Elissa Brown, Walla Walla, expressed her appreciation for the inclusion of the Howard-Chestnut intersection study in the plan.

There being no further public comments, Mayor Clark declared the hearing closed at 9:08 p.m.

No action was taken by Council.

- D. Ordinance No. 2019-38 adopting Municipal Code text amendments to Titles 2, 15, 19, and 20.

Staff reported this item was reviewed in-depth at the November 18 Work Session and the amendments are mainly a minor clean-up of the Code. The amendments to the small cell technology and sign code amendments are due to input from cellular providers and recent court decisions.

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

**Councilmember Cummins moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2019-38. Councilmember Huie seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

- E. Approval of minutes of the special meeting held November 15, 2019.

**Councilmember Moss moved to approve the minutes of the special meeting held November 15. Councilmember Clubb seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 1 abstention by Councilmember Bahena.**

- F. Approval of minutes of the Work Session held November 18, 2019.

**Councilmember Moss moved to approve the minutes of the Work Session held November 18, 2019. Councilmember Huie seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 1 abstention by Councilmember Clubb.**

## 7. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Scribner moved to schedule a discussion and possible decision to revise the ordinance establishing a “tipping point” for disposing of recyclable materials for December 18. Councilmember Huie seconded the motion.

There was discussion on:

- Implementing the recommendations of the Sustainability Committee.
- Concerns there are no assurances the recyclable materials are being reused and not sent to another landfill.
- Further study and review of all the issues surrounding recycling.

Mayor Clark invited public input.

Judy Fenno, Sustainability Committee, suggested Councilmember Moss replace Mayor Clark as the Council liaison on the Sustainability Committee.

**The motion to schedule a discussion and possible decision to revise the ordinance establishing a “tipping point” for disposing of recyclable materials for December 18 unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

## 6. COUNCIL MEMBER MEETING REPORTS

Councilmember Moss reported attendance at the Port of Walla Walla Economic Development Committee meeting held November 26; and the Work Session held December 2.

Councilmember Huie reported attendance on the Jim Bock radio show held November 22; and the Work Session held December 2.

Councilmember Bahena reported attendance at the Work Session held December 2.

Councilmember Cummins reported attendance at the Valley Transit Board meeting held November 21; and the Work Session held December 2.

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Councilmember Clubb reported attendance at the Blue Mountain Action Council Board meeting held November 21; the Council on Housing meeting held November 22; the County Commissioners meeting held November 25; the Work Session held December 2; and the Metropolitan Planning Organization Board meeting held December 4.

Councilmember Scribner reported attendance at the Valley Transit Board meeting held November 21; the agenda preparation meeting held November 27; the Work Session held December 2; the Water Partnership Board meeting held December 3; and the Arts Commission meeting held December 4.

There was brief discussion on guidance to the Arts Commission regarding art themes and walls in the Council Chambers for hanging public art.

Mayor Clark reported attendance at the Port of Walla Walla Economic Development Committee meeting held November 26; the agenda preparation meeting held November 27; the Work Session held December 2; and the Sustainability Committee meeting held December 3.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

**There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:38 p.m.**