

**WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**December 18, 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, Fire Chief Bob Yancey, Development Services Director Elizabeth Chamberlain, Finance Director Jean Teasdale, Human Resources Director Pam Taylor, Parks & Recreation Director Andy Coleman, Engineer Johnny LeMaster, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

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

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

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Sharon Schiller, Walla Walla, commented on the importance in participating in democracy and thanked the City Council for their service.

**4. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

A. Ordinance No. 2019-39 amending the 2019-2020 biennium maintenance and operations budget; and

Ordinance No. 2019-40 amending the 2019-2020 capital improvement project budget.

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- B. Ordinance No. 2019-41 adopting the 2020-2025 capital facilities plan.
- C. Approval of minutes of the Work Session held December 2, 2019.
- D. Approval of minutes of the regular meeting held December 4, 2019.

Staff provided brief reports on Items A and B.

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 D. Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

**5. ACTIVE AGENDA**

- A. Resolution No. 2019-137 awarding the bid for the Spokane Street bridge to Harry Johnson Plumbing & Excavation, Inc. in the amount of \$1,649,925.30.

Staff reviewed the project timeline and reasons for rejecting the previous bids. There was discussion on the design of the single-span bridge and weight restrictions on the current structure.

Mayor Clark invited public input.

R.L. McFarland, Walla Walla, had questions regarding the funding being provided by the Port of Walla Walla and Walla Walla County. Staff responded.

Dorothy Knudson, Walla Walla, asked if the bid number included all aspects of the project. Staff responded affirmatively.

There was discussion on:

- The project improving safety.
- Impact on downtown economic development.
- Funding from the County being contingent upon the development of the Penrose Hotel.

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**Councilmember Cummins moved to adopt Resolution No. 2019-137. Councilmember Huie seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

- B. Reconsideration of recycling surcharge and tipping point plan and Ordinance No. 2019-42 repealing Section 6 of Ordinance 2019-25 and setting the recycling commodities surcharge at \$2.12 per month with an effective date of March 1, 2020.

Staff reported that after extensive discussion, the City Council directed preparation of an ordinance to increase the recycling surcharge to cover the expense of shipping the materials and repealing the "tipping point" plan. An educational briefing on contamination in the recycling containers and how the City's recycling material is processed was provided.

Mayor Clark invited public input.

Jason (no last name provided), asked the Council to reconsider increasing the recycling surcharge while additional solutions are explored.

Dave Dressler, College Place, reported on establishing a process to compost most garbage and asked if the City's existing contract with Basin Disposal extends over multiple years.

Jennifer Brown commented on the importance of recycling as much as possible.

Erendira Cruz, Walla Walla, expressed her appreciation for reconsideration of the "tipping point" plan and supports the new ordinance.

Beth Call, Walla Walla, expressed her appreciation for reconsideration of the "tipping point" plan, support of the new ordinance, and the proposal to establish a recycling center in Wallula.

**Councilmember Scribner moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2019-42. Councilmember Moss seconded the motion.**

Appreciation was expressed to staff for providing an education on the recycling process; and there were comments on the long-term contract with Basin Disposal for the curbside collection of recycling; and

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maintaining the current recycling infrastructure while looking at ways to improve the system.

**The motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2019-42 unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

**Councilmember Moss moved to form an ad hoc committee, with members to be appointed by the new Mayor in 2020, to review, study, and recommend recycling methods; with the primary focus on products, compliance practices, and education policies with a report back to Council by the first week in August. Councilmember Scribner seconded the motion.**

There were comments on the purpose of the ad hoc committee, timing for a report back, the relationship with the Sustainability Committee, and working with legislators to develop a regional solution.

Mayor Clark invited public input.

Bart Preecs, Chair of the Sustainability Committee, indicated he will be happy to participate with the ad hoc committee.

**The motion to form an ad hoc committee, with members to be appointed by the new Mayor in 2020, to review, study, and recommend recycling methods; with the primary focus on products, compliance practices, and education policies with a report back to Council by the first week in August unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

C. Guidance for call for artists.

Staff reported the Arts Commission is seeking guidance from Council on three issues related to the placement of art in the City Council Chambers:

1. Should any walls within the Council Chambers be restricted for art placement?
2. Should the art reflect any theme such as the Walla Walla Valley?
3. Is the City Council open to the potential purchase of art that is deemed "best in show"?

There was discussion on:

- The Arts Commission is working to finalize their solicitation form and needs direction.

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- Limiting art to Walla Walla Valley artists, which includes the Walla Walla Valley region.
- Whether City funds should be used for the purchase of art and where it would be placed.
- Which walls in the Council Chambers the art should be considered for placement.
- The art will be curated with a recommendation from the Arts Commission to the City Council.

**Councilmember Clubb moved to allow the use of all walls in the Council Chambers for the placement of artwork. Councilmember Bahena seconded the motion.**

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

**The motion to allow the use of all walls in the Council Chambers for the placement of artwork unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

**Councilmember Moss moved to consider art from regional artists without any specific theme. Councilmember Cummins seconded the motion.**

There were comments on the value of having art that serves as a reminder of the importance and long-term impact of decisions that are made in the Council Chambers.

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

**The motion to consider art from regional artists without any specific theme unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

**Councilmember Cummins moved to not include the potential purchase of “best in show” art in the guidelines. Councilmember Clubb seconded the motion.**

There was discussion on whether this would be an inducement or lead to expectations that the City will purchase the “best in show” art.

Mayor Clark invited public input.

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R.L. McFarland, Walla Walla, agreed it would be best not to establish an expectation that art would be purchased.

**The motion to not include the potential purchase of “best in show” art in the guidelines carried with 6 yes votes and 1 no vote by Councilmember Scribner.**

- D. Approval of the November 30, 2019 accounts payable register containing check numbers 205112 through 205430, 990964 through 990966, and 9596 through 9618 totaling \$4,316,668.51.

**Councilmember Cummins moved to approve payment of the November 30, 2019 accounts payable register containing check numbers 205112 through 205430, 990964 through 990966, and 9596 through 9618 totaling \$4,316,668.51 except for the checks to Jerry Cummins. Councilmember Clubb seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

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

## **6. COUNCIL MEMBER MEETING REPORTS**

Councilmember Moss reported attendance at his last State Housing Finance Commission meeting; and the Work Session held December 16.

Councilmember Huie reported attendance at the Jim Bock radio interview held December 6; the Association of Washington Cities Elected Officials Workshop held December 7; a meeting regarding a future music festival held December 9; the Work Session held December 16; and the Committee on Committees meeting held December 18.

Councilmember Bahena reported attendance at the Work Session held December 16; the Civil Service Commission meeting held December 18; and the Committee on Committees meeting held December 18.

Councilmember Cummins reported attendance at the School District Equity and Access Committee meeting held December 5; the Valley

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Transit safety awards presentation held December 8; the Housing Authority Board retreat held December 10; the Valley Transit ribbon-cutting for the electric trolleys held December 11; the Borleske Stadium Association Board meeting held December 16; and the Work Session held December 16.

Councilmember Scribner reported attendance at the Association of Washington Cities Elected Officials Workshop held December 7; a meeting regarding a future music festival held December 9; the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee meeting held December 10; the Valley Transit ribbon-cutting for the electric trolleys held December 11; the Mill Creek coalition meeting held December 11; the Library Board meeting held December 11; a meeting with Councilmember Moss held December 13; the Work Session held December 16; the Blue Mountain Humane Society Board meeting held December 17; and the Water Management Partnership Board meeting held December 18.

Mayor Clark reported attendance at the holiday tree lighting ceremony held December 7; the agenda setting meeting held December 11; the Valley Transit ribbon-cutting for the electric trolleys held December 11; the Grapevine radio show held December 13; the Borleske Stadium Association Board meeting held December 16; the Work Session held December 16; the special meeting held December 16; and an interview with the Union Bulletin held December 18.

**7. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS**

**Councilmember Huie moved to make the following appointments:**

- **Martha Anderson to the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee for a term expiring December 31, 2022;**
- **Jordan Michaels to the Infrastructure Improvement Committee for a term expiring December 31, 2022;**
- **Katie Hopper to the Parks, Recreation & Urban Forestry Advisory Board for a term expiring December 31, 2022;**
- **Laurie Stroud to the Public Library Board for a term expiring December 31, 2021; and**
- **David Haire to the Water & Wastewater Advisory Committee for a term expiring June 30, 2020.**

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

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- A. Recognition of service of Councilmember Jerry Cummins and Mayor Barbara Clark.

Bruce Johnson and Fire Chief Yancey acknowledged and thanked Barbara Clark for her twenty-two years of service and Jerry Cummins for his twenty-eight years of service.

City Attorney Donaldson presented Councilmember Cummins and Mayor Clark with crystal mementos in recognition of their being the longest serving members on the City Council.

City Manager Shawa presented Councilmember Cummins and Mayor Clark with tree certificates for a tree to be planted in a City park of their choosing.

Mayor Pro Tem Scribner presented Mayor Clark with her mayoral gavel.

Mayor Clark and Councilmember Cummins commented on some of their notable accomplishments during their tenure on the City Council.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

**There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.**