

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Rescheduled Work Session Minutes
February 21, 2019

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Clark called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. in the training room at Fire Station No. 1, 200 S. 12th Avenue.

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

Absent: Councilmember Jerry Cummins.

City staff in attendance: City Manager Nabel Shawa, Development Services Director Elizabeth Chamberlain, Fire Chief Bob Yancey, Technology Services Director Chris Owen, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Parks & Recreation Director Andy Coleman, Finance Director Jean Teasdale, City Engineer Neal Chavre, Transportation Engineer Monte Puymon, Engineer Johnny LeMaster, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

2. ACTIVE AGENDA

A. Mill Creek general investigative study.

Mark Kajita, Chair of the Mill Creek Coalition, reviewed the role of the Mill Creek Coalition; taxing authority for flood control district, funding for the general investigative study, and the reduction in the amount of the local cost share for the study due to the lobbying efforts of local officials in Washington D.C. After the study is complete, congress will have to authorize funds for any project. Any components other than those in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plan would have to be funded one hundred percent by the local community. Also, any plan must have a cost-benefit ratio of one to one.

Brett Walters, Planning Branch Chief with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, reviewed:

- Study authority and non-federal sponsor for the cost-share is Walla Walla County as the Mill Creek flood control taxing authority.
- Planning process.
- Schedule.
- Scope of federal interest.
- The National Economic Development Plan (NED plan) is the default selected alternative although a Locally Preferred Plan (LPP) can be

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- selected subject to approval by the headquarters of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; costs and benefits of the NED Plan and LPP are compared and scrutinized; and non-federal sponsors must pay for one hundred percent of costs above the NED Plan.
- Primary planning objective is to reduce the potential for catastrophic flooding of Walla Walla and associated loss of life and property.
 - Scope of the Mill Creek flood control project.
 - Problems include increased flood risks endangering property and life safety; performance, capacity, and reliability of existing system has degraded over time; development along distributaries has reduced ability to divert flood flows; and existing systems presents passage and habitat problems to endangered species act fish.
 - Mill Creek flood of 1996.
 - Key infrastructure at risk.
 - Opportunities and constraints.
 - Structural and non-structural measures.
 - Array of alternatives to be carried forward.
 - Underground channel.
 - Levee setback alternative in the area of the old Tausick Way landfill.

There was discussion on:

- Difference between preparing a local preference project and beautification efforts for the channel.
- Any LPP must be specific enough to be able to identify design and costs.
- Modifications can be proposed through the Section 408 coordinator through the non-federal sponsor (Walla Walla County).
- Plans must address requirements for fish passage and the project will likely make things more fish friendly.
- Importance of the cost/benefit analysis.
- Any input into a possible local preference plan must be provided to the County by March 20.
- Amenities that could possibly be added after the project is complete.
- Potential examples of other successful local preference plans.
- Advantages versus disadvantages of taking over control of the channel.
- Current channel offers less flood protection now due to the construction of properties along Yellowhawk Creek resulting in a reduction in the ability to divert floodwater from Mill Creek.
- Levee setback alternative along the old Tausick Way landfill.

B. Cyber security presentation.

Technology Services Director Owen provided information on the City's efforts to educate staff on information security and the work by the Technology Services Department to maintain and secure the City's technology systems and networks.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.