

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Work Session Minutes
February 25, 2019

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Clark called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Present: Councilmembers Yazmin Bahena, Riley Clubb, Jerry Cummins, Myron Huie, Steve Moss, and Mayor Barbara Clark.
(Councilmember Huie arrived at 4:04 p.m. and Councilmember Moss arrived at 4:07 p.m.)

Absent: Councilmember Tom Scribner.

City staff in attendance: City Manager Nabel Shawa, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Transportation Engineer Monte Puymon, Engineer Johnny LeMaster, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

Also present: Chris Hyland, Director of the Walla Walla Watershed Management Partnership; Judith Johnson, Chair of the Watershed Management Partnership; and Brian Burns, Executive Director of the Tri-State Steelheaders.

2. ACTIVE AGENDA

A. Walla Walla Watershed Management Partnership.

Chris Hyland and Judith Johnson of the Walla Walla Watershed Management Partnership reviewed:

- Reasons and timeline for formation of the water management partnership by the State legislature.
- Board membership.
- Main activities.
- Coordination with the Department of Ecology Office of Columbia River.
- Efforts to seek legislative reauthorization through 2021 to establish a thirty-year strategic plan.
- Looking at water infrastructure projects with a long-term vision.
- State funding through "Flood plains by design" program.

There was discussion on:

- Funding for aesthetic programs along Mill Creek.
- Purchasing property for ecological opportunities along Mill Creek.

WORK SESSION MINUTES

FEBRUARY 25, 2019

PAGE 2

- Reauthorization of the Water Management Partnership.
- Budget for the partnership.
- Lack of water in the Walla Walla basin to increase water flow to necessary levels for fish.
- Involvement of the tribes in the partnership.
- Coordinating all of the agencies and pieces of the puzzle to have a positive impact.
- No local preferred plan is being developed for presentation to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as part of their general investigative study of the Mill Creek channel.
- Benefits of using setback levies to ecologically improve water passage in the basin.

B. City Bridge Program.

Transportation Engineer Puymon reviewed:

- Evaluation of National Bridge Inventory files to determine compliance work.
- Bridge load ratings and postings; and scour reports.
- Review of non-NBI structures over Mill Creek (such as parking lot caps).
- State and federal databases and schedule for inspections.
- Bridge Program Phase I – 2013-2014.
- Bridge Program Phase II – 2014-2015.
- Bridge Program Phase III – 2015-2016.
- Bridge Program Phase IV – 2016-2018 and prioritization of bridge replacement projects.
- Acceptance of two Washington State Department of Transportation bridge grants in 2018 for replacement of the Spokane Street bridge and the Rose Street bridge.
- Work by Street Division to refurbish the Marcus Street pedestrian bridge.
- Future bridge replacements. Staff is proposing not replacing the 5th and 6th Avenue bridges over Mill Creek when they fail due to the number of bridges in the area, and costs of replacement.

Brian Burns, Executive Director of the Tri-State Steelheaders reported on their inability to perform fish passage improvements in the area of the 5th and 6th Avenue bridges because of the concrete support piers.

There was discussion on:

WORK SESSION MINUTES

FEBRUARY 25, 2019

PAGE 3

- Whether the City can afford to maintain and replace the number of bridges currently in place.
- List of bridges and load restrictions.
- Why the city is not leading the effort rather than the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to address the Mill Creek flood control channel.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.