

**WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL**  
**Work Session Minutes**  
**August 26, 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, Tom Scribner, and Mayor Barbara Clark.

Absent: None

City staff in attendance: City Manager Nabel Shawa, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Police Chief Scott Bieber, Development Services Director Elizabeth Chamberlain, Finance Director Jean Teasdale, Parks & Recreation Director Andy Coleman, Public Works Manager Mori Struve, CDBG Coordinator Jennifer Beckmeyer, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

**2. ACTIVE AGENDA**

A. Neighborhood Engagement Program proposal.

City Manager Shawa introduced Cameron Conner, Whitman College intern working as the Neighborhood Initiative Coordinator. Mr. Conner reviewed the proposed Neighborhood Engagement Initiative with the goal of creating a safer, healthier, and more connected Walla Walla. Whitman College will continue to pay Mr. Conner to intern as the Neighborhood Engagement Coordinator through April 2020.

There was discussion on:

- Defining the size of a neighborhood and ensuring an equitable distribution of resources through each of the four wards.
- Encouraging neighborhood engagement during the fall and winter months and potential programs.
- Growing connections and establishing neighborhoods.
- Role of technology in neighborhood engagement.
- How building neighborhoods increases health and safety.
- Benefits of neighborhood communications.
- This pilot program is to assist the City in determining how to build strong neighborhoods.
- Ensuring that crime watch is included in the process.

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### B. Discussion regarding recycling commodities costs.

Public Works Director Bealey reported that due to the volatility of the recyclable commodity market, it is estimated the shortfall for 2019 will be approximately \$40,000. This is a global issue as a result of the China's National Sword program that restricts the level of allowable contamination in the recyclable material. Alternatives to the current recycling program may include source separation of materials and/or restricting the type of commodities to be recycled.

The Finance Committee recommends:

- Pay for recycling cost overrun from the sanitation fund.
- Establish a cost per ton "tipping point" for 2020 and, if cost exceeds this amount, the recyclable material will be disposed in the landfill.
- Update the 2020 recycling surcharge based on the amount established as the "tipping point."
- Pursue contamination reduction.

Staff is not advocating the City cease recycling but is seeking stability. One solution may be to only collect the most valuable types of recyclable material.

There was discussion on:

- Recycling costs and benefits to environment.
- Designating, in a simple graphic, the only type of material to be placed in recycling containers to reduce contamination.
- The value of recycling is more than just what the market is willing to pay.
- Importance of having a legislative approach and solution, such as having a State financed recycling center.
- Determining the "tipping point" as the landfill rate.
- Impact on the local bundling facility and finding a way to stabilize the entire recycling process.

### C. Discussion of panhandling signs.

Mayor Clark reported this item was placed on the agenda for a discussion on whether this is a policy issue that should come before the City Council for discussion/action.

Police Chief Bieber reported the temporary signs encouraging the public to donate to charities rather than giving to panhandlers were purchased

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for approximately \$400 and placed in response to numerous complaints from the community regarding aggressive panhandling. Before purchasing the signs, the issue was reviewed with the City Attorney. These temporary signs have virtually eliminated complaints.

There was discussion by Council on whether the decision to place these temporary signs is a policy issue to be considered by Council. A majority of Council expressed their support of staff's decision to purchase and place the temporary signs encouraging the public to donate to charities rather than giving to panhandlers.

**3. OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was discussed.

**4. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.