

**WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL**  
**Work Session Minutes**  
**September 9, 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. Councilmember Clubb arrived at 4:02 p.m.

Absent: None

City staff in attendance: City Manager Nabel Shawa, Deputy City Manager Byron Olson, Development Services Director Elizabeth Chamberlain, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

**2. ACTIVE AGENDA**

A. Report on Visit Walla Walla.

Deputy City Manager Olson reviewed lodging tax collection; allowed uses; budget versus actual revenues; payments to Visit Walla Walla; and tourism promotion area fees.

Ron Williams, Visit Walla Walla Executive Director, outlined their historical revenue stream from lodging taxes; indicators that tourism may be slowing; primary functions of the Visit Walla Walla organization; and seeking additional lodging tax funds to hire a winter event coordinator.

B. Update on short term rental regulations.

Development Services Director Chamberlain reported this issue was requested to be on a Work Session agenda as a result of public comments made regarding the inability to legally host "pop up" dinners at the Fat Duck Inn because they operate as both a bed and breakfast and as a type 2 short-term rental. The short-term rental regulations do not allow for special events. A solution would be for the Fat Duck Inn to cease operating as a type 2 short-term rental as the bed and breakfast permit allows for special events.

There are currently 94 type 2 short-term rentals and 13 type 1 short-term rentals. Enforcement of regulations are currently complaint based

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although there are companies that offer services to ensure the rentals are permitted and licensed.

There was discussion on:

- Reasons for enacting short-term rental regulations.
- Whether special events should be allowed in short-term rentals.
- If a type 2 short-term rental permit expires without being renewed, then the non-conforming use is vacated.
- Amount of taxes the City receives from short-term rentals.

There was no consensus to consider amendments to the short-term rental regulations.

Council asked for a report on the annual amount of lodging tax revenues generated by short-term rentals.

C. Review of multi-family property tax exemption program.

Development Services Director Chamberlain reported this issue is on the agenda to determine if there is interest by the Council in expanding the multi-family property tax exemption program from just the downtown area to all zones allowing multi-family development.

After discussion, it was the consensus of a majority of Council that further analysis is necessary to determine the beneficial impacts of the program versus the cost to taxpayers.

### **3. OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was discussed.

### **4. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m.