

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 22, 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Scribner called the virtual Zoom meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Councilmembers Yazmin Bahena, Riley Clubb, Myron Huie, Ted Koehler, Steve Moss, Susan Nakonieczny, and Mayor Tom Scribner.

Absent: None.

City staff in attendance: City Manager Nabel Shawa, City Attorney Tim Donaldson, Deputy City Manager Byron Olson, Finance Director Jean Teasdale, Development Services Director Elizabeth Chamberlain, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

City Clerk Hill reported one email comment had been received and forwarded to Council regarding the need to reopen the City to business activities. Mayor Scribner reported this item will be brought up under Active Agenda Item B.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Resolution No. 2020-48 authorizing a professional services contract with Aspect Consulting for operation and maintenance of the landfill gas collection, flare, and leachate collection systems in an annual amount not to exceed \$68,280.
- B. Resolution No. 2020-49 authorizing the annual agreement with the U.S. Forest Service for Mill Creek watershed monitoring and patrol for a cost of \$98,392.
- C. Resolution No. 2020-50 ratifying the City Manager's emergency declaration for repairs to Well No. 1.

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D. Approval of minutes of the regular meeting held April 8, 2020.

Staff provided brief reports on Items B and C.

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Consent Agenda Items A through D. Councilmember Bahena seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

4. ACTIVE AGENDA

A. Ordinance No. 2020-15 amending the 2019-2020 biennium maintenance and operations budget; and Ordinance No. 2020-16 establishing new projects and amending the capital improvement project (CIP) budget.

Staff reviewed the proposed amendments. There was brief discussion on the reduction in business license revenue; the grant for realignment of headstones at the cemetery; and payoff of Memorial Swimming pool bonds.

Councilmember Koehler moved to adopt Ordinances 2020-15 and 2020-16. Councilmember Clubb seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

B. COVID-19 budget impact and initial responses.

Staff reported the Council Finance Committee had met to review the general fund. The financial impacts due to the COVID-19 pandemic are unknown at this time but estimates put the sales tax revenue loss between \$1.5 million and \$2.2 million. Staff believes the loss will be approximately \$1.85 million. The following budget reductions are being implemented:

- All non-essential travel and training is eliminated.
- A delay in projects that will not have a detrimental impact.
- Employee reductions through attrition.
- Extending vehicle life and reducing vehicle replacements.

Staff has identified over \$1 million in budget savings and is also hoping the Federal government will assist local governments. Some of the ending fund balance will be used as emergency reserves but not all. This approach is recommended by the Municipal Research & Services Center and keeps most City services intact.

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There was discussion on the budgetary impacts and not knowing what the pandemic impact will be on the City. Another financial impact that is being looked at are lodging tax revenues and contractual obligations with other organizations.

Staff reported that the Port of Walla Walla is asking the City of Walla Walla, Walla Walla County and City of College Place to help fund a local lab at Providence St. Mary Medical Center to perform testing for COVID-19. There was discussion on the testing process and when this local lab may be operational.

Staff reviewed the Unified Incident Command, daily Zoom meetings, and response to emergencies. During this pandemic, the County Community Health Director is in charge. Due to the rapid rise in positive tests, the contact tracing is stressing the public health system. Staff is working to identify ways the City can assist the County. There was discussion on the composition of the Unified Incident Command, testing, and establishing mitigation measures.

There was discussion on the numerous requests received regarding allowing people to return to work. Staff reviewed the legal precedents in balancing constitutional rights versus public health. The Governor determines whether an emergency exists and when it is over. It is inadvisable to try to speed up a return to normalcy through civil disobedience.

No action was taken by Council.

- C. Approval of the March 31, 2020 accounts payable register containing check numbers 206669 through 207081; 990989 through 990991; and 9656 through 9660 totaling \$2,926,226.08.

Councilmember Moss moved to approve payment of the March 31, 2020 accounts payable register containing check numbers 206669 through 207081; 990989 through 990991; and 9656 through 9660 totaling \$2,926,226.08 with the exception of the checks to Blue Mountain Action Council, Walla Walla School District, and Myron Huie. Councilmember Koehler seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

Councilmember Moss moved to approve payment of the checks to Blue Mountain Action Council and Walla Walla School District. Mayor Scribner seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 4 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 3 abstentions by Councilmembers Bahena, Koehler, and Nakonieczny.

Councilmember Moss moved to approve payment of the checks for Myron Huie. Councilmember Nakonieczny seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 1 abstention by Councilmember Huie.

5. COUNCIL MEMBER MEETING REPORTS

Councilmember Moss reported attendance at the agenda setting meeting; the Finance Committee meeting; and the Valley Transit Board meeting.

Councilmember Huie reported attendance at a Jim Bock radio show interview.

Councilmember Bahena reported attendance at the Downtown Walla Walla Foundation Board meeting.

Councilmember Nakonieczny reported attendance at the Chamber of Commerce business assistance meeting; a meeting of Downtown merchants; the Valley Transit Board meeting; and the Downtown Walla Walla Foundation Board meeting.

Councilmember Clubb reported attendance at the Visit Walla Walla Board meeting; the community land trust task force meeting; and the Finance Committee meeting.

Councilmember Koehler reported attendance at the Governor's elected officials teleconference; the Valley Transit Board meeting; the Emergency Management Board meeting; and the Valley Transit Board meeting.

Mayor Scribner reported attendance at a KTEL radio program; the agenda setting meeting; and the Finance Committee meeting.

6. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

City Clerk Hill reported an email had been received from R.L. McFarland asking if the City Council had been kept up to date regarding the ongoing negotiations with the Port of Walla Walla regarding the "Water Intertie" between the City and the Port. Staff indicated they would prepare a response back to Mr. McFarland.

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.