

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 13, 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Scribner called the virtual 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, Development Services Director Elizabeth Chamberlain, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Finance Director Jean Teasdale, Public Library Director Erin Wells, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Scribner reported that written public comments had been received from the following:

- An email from Mike Eberle regarding enforcement of the Governor's emergency proclamations.
- A letter to the finance committee from the Power House Theater requesting \$25,000 in funding next year.
- A letter from Chris Leise and friends regarding closing Main Street during the spring and summer for restaurant and business/social use.
- An email from Sharon Schiller regarding Consent Agenda Item A.
- An email from Kevin Reniche regarding the Freedom Rally and censuring two Councilmembers in attendance.
- An email from Scott Morasch regarding Active Agenda Item B.
- An email from Gary Hemenway regarding Consent Agenda Item A.
- An email from Beth Swanson regarding Consent Agenda Item A.

There was discussion on the attendance by Councilmembers Huie and Nakonieczny at the Freedom rally held downtown on May 9. It was the consensus of a majority of Council to have this issue placed on a June Work Session for further discussion.

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3. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Resolution No. 2020-51 authorizing acceptance of a grant from the Department of Justice Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program in the amount of \$45,642 for the purchase of laptop computers and personal protective equipment for the Police Department.
- B. Resolution No. 2020-53 authorizing acceptance of a grant from the Department of Justice to cover half the cost of replacing six ballistic vests at a total cost of \$6,528.60.
- C. Approval of minutes of the regular meeting held April 22, 2020.

Staff provided a report and there was discussion on Item A.

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

4. ACTIVE AGENDA

- A. Ordinance No. 2020-11 amending Section 2.96 of the Municipal Code to eliminate fines for children's library materials and forgiving all outstanding library fines on children's items.

Staff provided a report and there was brief discussion on the proposal and whether all library fees should be eliminated.

Councilmember Koehler moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2020-11. Councilmember Nakonieczny seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- B. Resolution No. 2020-56 accepting an annexation petition for land located east of Walla Walla Community College.

Staff reviewed the proposed annexation boundaries, process, and zoning. While no development application has been received, access to the

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property will likely be from the Walla Walla Community College. There was discussion on the review process for any development plans.

**Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2020-56.
Councilmember Huie seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

- C. Resolution No. 2020-54 awarding the bid for the landfill water system improvements project to Double J Excavating, Inc. in the amount of \$1,394,858.17.

Staff described the project and need for a dependable water system at the landfill. The current system, besides being unreliable, is also very expensive to operate. There was brief discussion on the project.

**Councilmember Koehler moved to adopt Resolution No. 2020-54.
Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

- D. Resolution No. 2020-55 authorizing a professional services contract with PBS Engineering & Environmental for design of the Park Street IRRP/TBD project in the amount of \$332,647.

Staff reviewed the scope of the project, boundaries, and funding.

**Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2020-55.
Councilmember Huie seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

- E. Resolution No. 2020-52 authorizing a contract with Blue Mountain Action Council for services by Commitment to Community in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.

Staff reported this is the annual renewal of the agreement for services. This agreement will expand services into an additional two neighborhoods and is funded through the general fund. There was brief discussion on expanding events to reconnect neighbors after the COVID-19 pandemic and why Community Development Block Grant funds cannot be used for these services.

Councilmember Clubb moved to adopt Resolution No. 2020-52. Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The motion carried with 5 yes votes, 1 no vote by Councilmember Huie, and 1 abstention by Councilmember Koehler.

5. COUNCIL MEMBER MEETING REPORTS

Councilmember Moss reported attendance at the agenda setting meeting; and a meeting with Mayor Scribner and Councilmember Koehler regarding lodging tax funds.

Councilmember Huie reported attendance at a Jim Bock radio interview; and a Fort Walla Walla Museum virtual board meeting.

Councilmember Bahena had no meetings to report.

Councilmember Nakonieczny reported attendance at a virtual meeting of the Chamber of Commerce.

Councilmember Clubb reported attendance at a virtual meeting of the Visit Walla Walla Board; and the Metropolitan Planning Organization board meeting.

Councilmember Koehler reported attendance at the virtual meetings for Helpline; the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee; and a meeting with Mayor Scribner and Councilmember Moss regarding lodging tax funds.

Mayor Scribner reported attendance at the Water Partnership Management meetings; the making of several City videos providing COVID-19 updates; the agenda setting meeting; and a Grapevine radio show interview.

6. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

It was the consensus of a majority of Council to place the suggestion to close parts of City streets for commercial business activities on the May 27 active agenda.

Staff reported that businesses are really struggling to survive and have asked the City for any assistance they can provide, such as sales tax payment forgiveness. It was the consensus of a majority of Council to

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bring this issue forward to the City's legislative committee, State representatives, and Federal representatives.

7. ADJOURNMENT

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