

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
June 24, 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, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Finance Director Jean Teasdale, Development Services Director Elizabeth Chamberlain, Senior Planner Jon Maland, Environmental Engineer Leah Fisk, Transportation Engineer Monte Puymon, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

City Clerk Hill read an email sent by RL McFarland.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Resolution No. 2020-63 authorizing an agreement with the U.S. Forest Service to conduct a prescribed burn on City property in the watershed.

- B. Ordinance No. 2020-18 amending Municipal Code Chapter 13.03 and Chapter 13.30 to comply with new and revised U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Washington State Department of Ecology regulations, clarifying code language and improving and providing uniformity between the two chapters, correct formatting and grammatical errors and other matters related thereto.

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- C. Ordinance No. 2020-21 authorizing the release of a utility easement at 2305 Garrison Street.
- D. Resolution No. 2020-64 authorizing the surplus of items no longer needed by the City.
- E. Resolution No. 2020-65 awarding the bid for the 2019 Sidewalk Remediation Project to A Key Excavating, Inc. in the amount of \$177,220.
- F. Second reading and adoption of Ordinance No. 2020-20 approving a non-exclusive franchise agreement with Verizon Wireless.
- G. Resolution No. 2020-66 authorizing an agreement with Walla Walla County to allow the County to process its own permit applications and provide its own inspection services for land use activities on County-owned property located in the City limits.
- H. Approval of minutes of the Work Session held June 8, 2020.
- I. Approval of minutes of the regular meeting held June 10, 2020.

Staff provided brief reports on Items A and D.

No public comments had been submitted on any item on the Consent Agenda.

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

4. ACTIVE AGENDA

- A. Resolution No. 2020-67 updates 2020 lodging tax allocations to funded agencies.

Staff reported that due to the COVID-19 pandemic the lodging tax revenue is estimated to be down approximately \$130,000, along with reductions in tourism promotion area revenue. The agencies receiving lodging taxes have voluntarily proposed the reductions in their funding

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amounts, except for the Guitar Festival since the expenditures had already been made.

No public comments had been received on this item.

**Councilmember Koehler moved to adopt Resolution No. 2020-67.
Councilmember Huie seconded the motion. The motion unanimously
carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

- B. Resolution No. 2020-68 approving the preliminary plat for the Boyer Cottage Planned Unit Development (PUD) (PPL-20-0002) at 1239 Boyer Avenue. Quasi-judicial, closed record.

Senior Planner Maland reviewed the project.

Mayor Scribner polled the City Council for any conflicts of interest, appearance of fairness or ex-parte contacts. There were none reported.

There was brief discussion on the public comment objecting to the project; projected sale price; occupancy of each cottage; off street parking; and whether emergency service vehicles will be able to navigate the private lane.

**Councilmember Koehler moved to adopt Resolution No. 2020-68.
Councilmember Huie seconded the motion. The motion unanimously
carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

- C. Resolution No. 2020-69 approving a shoreline substantial development permit (SHR-20-0001) for the construction of carports within the existing parking lots and associated site improvements/development at 135 South Wilbur Avenue. Quasi-judicial closed record.

Senior Planner Maland reviewed the project.

Mayor Scribner polled the City Council for any conflicts of interest, appearance of fairness or ex-parte contacts. There were none reported.

**Councilmember Koehler moved to adopt Resolution No. 2020-69.
Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The motion unanimously
carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

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- D. Resolution No. 2020-70 approving the 2020 Transportation Benefit District (TBD) annual report and work plan.

Staff reviewed the annual report and work plan. There were comments by individual Councilmembers in recognition of the success of this program and the need to find additional funding for a pavement management program.

No public comments had been submitted on this item.

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2020-70. Councilmember Nakonieczny seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- E. Ordinance No. 2020-22 amending the City's utility discount program to change the income threshold to at or below 150 percent of the federal poverty guidelines.

Staff reported only 135 households are being served by this discount program, far less than what had been hoped to be served when the program eligibility was expanded. This proposed ordinance would change the income threshold from 125 percent to 150 percent of the federal poverty guidelines.

There were comments on the need to assist low income households. Council suggested program advertisements be done in both English and Spanish.

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2020-22. Councilmember Huie seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- F. Town Hall Meeting – virtual or in-person.

After discussion, it was the consensus of Council to hold three virtual town hall meetings as follows:

- Town Hall Part 1: Staff presentations from Police Chief Bieber, City Attorney Donaldson, and City Manager Shawa on the following: Police practices; budget and funding; Officer Small's tattoo; and statues. Scheduled for July 9 at 6:30 p.m. for two hours.

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- Town Hall Part 2: Public comments and input. Scheduled for July 23 at 6:30 p.m. for three hours. There will be a sign-up process to speak to ensure equal representation of both sides.
 - Town Hall Part 3: Discussion and possible action by the City Council. Tentatively scheduled for August 13 or August 20 at 6:30 p.m.
- G. Approval of the May 31, 2020 accounts payable register covering check numbers 207402 through 207550, 207552 through 207656, and 991000 through 991005 totaling \$4,393,052.87.

Councilmember Moss moved to approve payment of the May 31, 2020 accounts payable register covering check numbers 207402 through 207550, 207552 through 207656, and 991000 through 991005 totaling \$4,393,052.87 except for the checks to the Blue Mountain Action Council. Councilmember Huie 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 the Blue Mountain Action Council. Councilmember Huie seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 1 abstention by Councilmember Koehler.

5. COUNCIL MEMBER MEETING REPORTS

Councilmember Moss reported attendance at the Blue Mountain Humane Society Board meeting; the Finance Committee meetings; the ad hoc recycling task force; the agenda setting meeting; the Work Session; the Valley Transit Board meeting; and the Police Advisory Council meeting.

Councilmember Huie reported attendance at the Good Roads Committee meeting, and the virtual Association of Washington Cities annual conference.

Councilmember Bahena reported attendance at the Downtown Walla Walla Foundation Board meeting, and the Work Session.

Councilmember Nakonieczny reported attendance at the Downtown Walla Walla Foundation Board meeting; the Good Roads Committee meeting; the Valley Transit Board Meeting; the Work Session; and the virtual Association of Washington Cities annual conference.

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Councilmember Clubb reported attendance at the Community Council new solutions task force; the Finance Committee meetings; the Visit Walla Walla Board meeting; the Blue Mountain Action Council Board meeting; the Work Session; and the LEOFF 1 Disability Board meeting.

Councilmember Koehler reported attendance at the Water & Wastewater Advisory Committee meeting; the ad hoc recycling task force meeting; the Valley Transit Board meeting; a meeting with Cameron Connor, neighborhood engagement coordinator; the Work Session; and the Helpline Board meeting.

Mayor Scribner reported attendance at a Grapevine radio interview; the Finance Committee meetings; the agenda setting meeting; a meeting with a citizen over an employee complaint; the Watershed Management Partnership Board meeting; the Work Session; and the LEOFF 1 Disability Board meeting.

6. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

Staff reported that the Governor and Secretary of Health have issued an order requiring face coverings in public. Staff reviewed the provisions of Resolution No. 2020-71 requesting that face coverings be worn in indoor public settings and outdoor public locations where social distancing cannot be maintained; and Ordinance No. 2020-23 requiring face coverings be worn in City buildings.

There were comments on the proper way to wear face coverings; and thanking the Blue Mountain Action Council for the distribution of 36,000 face masks for low income families.

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2020-71 requesting that face coverings be worn in indoor public settings and outdoor public locations where social distancing cannot be maintained. Councilmember Koehler seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

Councilmember Koehler moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2020-23 requiring face coverings be worn in City buildings. Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

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Council provided an update on Walla Walla County's efforts to implement House Bill 1406 to maximize funding for affordable housing.

Staff and Council recognized and commended Deputy City Manager Olson for his service as he retires on June 30.

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.