

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 9, 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 Elizabeth Chamberlain, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Utilities Engineer Frank Nicholson, Transportation Engineer Monte Puymon, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

City Clerk Hill reported six email had been received expressing concerns with the Culp protest rally from:

- Paula Nichols
- Glenda Rumb
- Nadine Stecklein
- Patrice Townsend
- Kevin Reniche
- Linda Gunshefski

These emails have been forwarded to the City Council and will become part of the record of the meeting.

There was discussion on:

- No permit was issued because of the current restrictions on size of gatherings and prohibition on live music. A request was made but was told no special event permits were being issued.
- The difference between events held on public right-of-way versus public property.
- Staff will be clearer in the future that events such as the Culp protest rally will not be allowed under the current pandemic restrictions.
- The City of Walla Walla has a policy under its special events permits. This policy would not have allowed the event. While the City denied

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the permit request it did not make clear the event would not be allowed. Staff only monitored the event to make sure it remained peaceful.

- Councilmembers do not give up their rights as a private citizen. The City Council can develop their own protocols, but they would not be binding.
- Councilmembers must answer to the voters, not their fellow Councilmembers.
- People have the right to support a candidate or position, even Councilmembers.
- Exploitation of gray areas in process and need to enforce special event permit requirements.
- Need to wear masks and follow safe distance guidelines to protect self, family, and community.
- Requiring a special event permit is dependent on whether the activity affects the ordinary use of the property. The City is not currently issuing any special event permits. Violators are subject to being issued an infraction.

Councilmember Huie read a statement in support of his rights as a private citizen; efforts to assist in securing a sight for the Culp campaign rally protest; and felt his actions were being singled out in comparison to actions by other Councilmembers.

City Clerk Hill reviewed the three additional email received from Tim Kaufman-Osborn, Linda Gunshefski, and Cindy Widmer.

It was the consensus of a majority of Council to discuss special event permits at a future Work Session.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Resolution No. 2020-87 authorizing a professional services contract with David Evans & Associates for thirty percent design of the Poplar Street reconstruction – Colville to 5th Avenue project in the amount of \$291,012.

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- B. Resolution No. 2020-88 updating the authorization to invest in the Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP) to add Elizabeth Chamberlain, Deputy City Manager/City Treasurer.
- C. Resolution No. 2020-89 authorizing a change to the City's delegates to the Washington Cities Insurance Authority (WCIA).
- D. Approval of minutes of the Town Hall meeting held August 13, 2020.
- E. Approval of minutes of the special meeting held August 19, 2020.
- F. Approval of minutes of the Work Session held August 24, 2020.
- G. Approval of minutes of the regular meeting held August 26, 2020.

There was brief discussion on Item A.

There was no public input on any item on the Consent Agenda.

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

4. ACTIVE AGENDA

- A. Resolution No. 2020-90 awarding the bid for the Wastewater Treatment Plant solids building rehabilitation project to POW Contracting in the amount of \$476,437.50.

Staff reviewed the project and need to rehabilitate the solids building at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The building should remain useful for another twenty years after remodel. The construction should start within the next thirty days and be completed in six to eight weeks. This is a planned and budgeted project. The corrosion is caused by the pressing of sludge which releases corrosive gas.

There was no public input on this item.

Councilmember Clubb moved to adopt Resolution No. 2020-90. Councilmember Huie seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

B. 2020 Citizen survey discussion.

Staff asked Council for input on community-interest questions for the 2020 citizen satisfaction survey. Some examples may include:

- Police.
- Transportation Benefit District.
- Parklets and 1st Avenue Plaza.
- City's emergency response to the flood and pandemic.

There was discussion on strategies to reach minorities, low-income residents, and getting responses from residents living in apartments. Council also expressed an interest in having responses broken down and analyzed by ward boundaries. Staff asked for any additional feedback by September 15.

5. COUNCIL MEMBER MEETING REPORTS

Councilmember Moss reported attendance at the agenda setting meeting; the ad hoc recycling task force meeting; the Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting; and the Work Session.

Councilmember Huie reported attendance at the Work Session; and the Committee on Committees meeting.

Councilmember Bahena reported attendance at the Work Session; and the Committee on Committees meeting.

Councilmember Nakonieczny reported attendance at the Work Session; and the Committee on Committees meeting.

Councilmember Clubb reported attendance at the Blue Mountain Action Council Board meeting; the Community Land Trust task force meeting; and the Work Session.

Councilmember Koehler reported attendance at the Community Land Trust task force meeting; and the Work Session.

Mayor Scribner reported attendance at the Water Partnership Board meeting; the Arts Commission meeting; the agenda setting meeting; the

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Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee meeting; the Work Session; and the Public Library Board meeting.

6. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Nakonieczny moved to make the following appointments:

- **Linc Nesheim to the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee for a term expiring December 31, 2021.**
- **Dustin Stocking to the Parks, Recreation & Urban Forestry Advisory Board for a term expiring December 31, 2021.**
- **Joe Fondahn and Carter Naftzger to the Transportation Benefit District Improvement Committee for terms expiring June 30, 2023.**

Councilmember Huie seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

City Clerk Hill reported on one additional email received from Kevin Reniche regarding the Culp Protest Rally with additional questions. It was the consensus of Council to consider questions at a future Work Session.

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.