

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 14, 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: Deputy City Manager Elizabeth Chamberlain, City Attorney Tim Donaldson, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Finance Director Jean Teasdale, Development Services Director Preston Frederickson, City Engineer Neal Chavre, Senior Planner Jon Maland, Engineer Johnny LeMaster, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

2. PRESENTATIONS

- A. Mayor Scribner read a proclamation declaring the month of October 2020 as "Resilience Awareness Month in Walla Walla."
- B. Mayor Scribner read a proclamation declaring November 11, 2020, as "Major General James A. Ulio Day." Alan Mesches, biographer, outlined the historical significance of General Ulio and family members to Walla Walla and thanked the City Council for the recognition.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments had been submitted.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Staff introduced the Consent Agenda, Items A through H, as follows:

- A. Resolution No. 2020-96 accepts the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant in the amount of \$11,354 to improve law enforcement technology.

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- B. Resolution No. 2020-97 sets a public hearing date for November 4, 2020 to consider the vacation of alley right-of-way adjacent to 422 and 422 ½ S. First Avenue.
- C. Resolution No. 2020-98 authorizing a contract with PBS Engineering and Environmental in an amount not to exceed \$49,055 for surveying, design assistance, appraisal, and right-of-way acquisition services for four properties on Avery Street.
- D. Resolution No. 2020-100 adopting revisions to the Walla Walla County multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan to add measures to mitigate seismic vulnerability to critical water system infrastructure.
- E. Ordinance No. 2020-35 amending the 2019-2020 biennium maintenance and operations budget; and Ordinance No. 2020-36 amending the capital improvement project budget.
- F. Approval of minutes of the Work Session held September 21, 2020.
- G. Approval of minutes of the regular meeting held September 23, 2020.
- H. Approval of minutes of the special Work Session held October 5, 2020.

No public input was submitted for any item on the Consent Agenda.

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

5. ACTIVE AGENDA

- A. Accept recommendation from the ad-hoc recycling committee.

Staff reviewed the following recommendations from the ad-hoc recycling committee:

- Eliminate plastics as an accepted recycling material. Apply a phased approach to plastics to simplify what is allowed/goes into

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the commingled container. Phase I will limit items to paper, cardboard, tin, and aluminum cans to reduce contamination. Assuming this approach is acceptable to Council, an amendment to the solid waste management plan will be presented to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee for approval. If approved, the plan will be sent to the Department of Ecology for consideration.

- Implement the change through public outreach/education.
- Implement a public information campaign followed by monitoring, measuring, and the establishment of a feedback loop to citizens/customers.
- Periodically monitor and report to Council. If contamination has been successfully reduced, move to Phase II adding to the accepted recyclables list plastics of highest value.
- Re-evaluate the current collection system in 2023, when the contract with Basin Disposal expires, if contamination continues to be a problem.
- Allow the Committee additional time to investigate legislative considerations and report back to Council in November for possible inclusion with the City's 2021 legislative priorities.

There was discussion on:

- Continued destabilization of the recycled plastic market.
- Auditing the waste stream for contamination with feedback on the efforts to reduce contamination.
- Responsibility for the education campaign and monitoring contamination.
- Responsibility of a ward officer identified in the strategic plan.
- Elimination of plastics from the recycling waste stream and when this change will become effective. Changes will have to be approved by the Solid Waste Advisory Committee and then the Department of Ecology, so it will likely be some time in 2021 before the change will become effective.
- A great deal of the plastic contamination is due to "wishful" recycling.
- Waste reduction needs to start with the consumer choosing products with less packaging, reusing packaging, and then recycling.

Councilmember Moss moved to accept the recommendations from the ad-hoc recycling committee. Councilmember Koehler seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

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- B. Resolution No. 2020-101 approving a shoreline substantial development permit for the Rose Street bridge project located at North 3rd Avenue and West Rose Street. (SHR-20-002)

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

Staff reviewed the application, process, and recommends approval.

There were comments on the City Council judging its own project.

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2020-101. Councilmember Huie seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- C. Resolution No. 2020-102 authorizing a contract with MurraySmith to prepare a Well System master plan and America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) risk assessment for the City's drinking water system in an amount not to exceed \$245,000.

Staff described the scope of the project and policy issues involved to determine the appropriate level of service for operating wells in an emergency. The City may receive a grant to convert Well #5 to an aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) well. There will be an extensive team of specialists involved in this project. The cost to activate one well for one month is approximately \$10,000 so it is very important for the City to be strategic.

No public input had been received on this item.

There was discussion on:

- Process for negotiating a contract for this project.
- Grant for improvements to Well #5 to convert it to an aquifer storage and recovery well.
- Well #7 may be non-functioning. It has not been activated for several years due to unpleasant odor and taste of the water.
- Work is anticipated to start as soon as possible so well projects can be included in the financial planning process.

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Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2020-102. Councilmember Koehler seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- D. Resolution No. 2020-103 authorizing an additional \$50,000 for change orders on the Washington-Francis-Delmas sewer main replacement project.

Staff reported that the sewer is currently being reconstructed on Francis, Washington, and Delmas. Staff initially thought that the sewer laterals on Francis could be salvaged but due to their age and condition, they will need to be replaced. This change order authority is being sought so there are no delays in getting the sewer laterals replaced and street reconstructed.

No public input had been submitted.

There was discussion on this \$50,000 is in addition to the current City Manager's change order authority. Residents on Francis have been notified and are being very patient, although the new roadway will likely not be constructed until Spring 2021. There are approximately 40 lateral service lines that will need to be replaced. Residents have been asked to voluntarily consider replacing the lines on their property.

Councilmember Koehler moved to adopt Resolution No. 2020-103. Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

6. COUNCIL MEMBER MEETING REPORTS

Councilmember Moss reported attendance at several Finance Committee meetings; the Chief's Advisory Committee meeting; the Work Sessions; and the agenda setting meeting.

Councilmember Huie reported attendance at the Work Sessions; the Legislative Committee meeting; and the Fort Walla Walla Board meeting.

Councilmember Bahena reported attendance at the Historic Preservation Commission meeting; and the two Work Sessions.

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Councilmember Nakonieczny reported attendance at the Work Sessions; and the Planning Commission meeting.

Councilmember Clubb reported attendance at several Finance Committee meetings; a Community land trust task force meeting; the Work Sessions; the Metropolitan Planning Organization meeting; and the Legislative Committee meeting.

Councilmember Koehler reported attendance at the two Work Sessions.

Mayor Scribner reported attendance at several Finance Committee meetings; the two Work Sessions; the Watershed Partnership Management Board; the Arts Commission; the agenda setting meeting; the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee meeting; the Public Library Board meeting; and the Mill Creek Coalition meeting.

7. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

Council asked about the feasibility of allowing oral public comments at Council meetings. This issue will be discussed at a future Work Session.

Staff reported that 214 applications had been received for the CARES Act funding for small businesses totaling \$1,800,000. These will be reviewed by the Council Finance Committee and two representatives from the Chamber of Commerce. Award letters will go out the week of October 26.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.