

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 4, 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. (Councilmember Nakonieczny joined the meeting at 6:32 p.m.)

Absent: None.

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

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

Staff introduced the Consent Agenda, Items A and B, as follows:

- A. Resolution No. 2020-109 authorizing a contract with AEI Engineering, Inc. for design and construction services for safety, reliability, and operational control improvements to the hydroelectric generator facility at the Water Treatment Plant in an amount not to exceed \$80,808.18.

- B. Approval of minutes of the Work Session held October 26, 2020.

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

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

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4. ACTIVE AGENDA

A. Public hearing on 2021-2022 Biennium Budget.

Staff provided an overview of the 2021-2022 budget.

Mayor Scribner declared the public hearing open.

Staff reported on an email received November 4 from John DeLong with several questions regarding the proposed budget. Answers were provided to the questions in the email.

There being no further public comments, Mayor Scribner declared the public hearing closed.

There were brief comments by individual Councilmembers.

B. Public hearing and adoption of 2021 property tax levies.

Staff reviewed the proposed property tax levy for 2021. The proposal is to not impose an increase in 2021 and bank the one percent levy amount.

Mayor Scribner declared the public hearing open. There being no public testimony, the public hearing was closed.

Council suggested sending out the graphic depicting how property taxes are allocated two to three times per year.

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2020-110 finding substantial need for use of a regular property tax limit factor of 101 percent. Councilmember Huie seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2020-111 authorizing property tax increases for debt service on voter approved bonds. Councilmember Koehler seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2020-112 authorizing a regular property tax increase and banking said increase.

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

Councilmember Koehler moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2020-38 authorizing and levying the excess ad valorem property tax necessary to raise the amounts needed to meet the debt service obligation associated with improvements to police station facilities. Councilmember Huie seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

Councilmember Koehler moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2020-39 authorizing and levying the excess ad valorem property tax necessary to raise the amounts needed to meet the debt service obligation associated with improvements to fire station facilities. Councilmember Clubb seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

Councilmember Koehler moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2020-40 authorizing and levying the excess ad valorem property tax necessary to raise the amounts needed to meet the debt service obligation associated with improvements to Veterans Memorial Pool. Councilmember Clubb seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

Councilmember Koehler moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2020-41 fixing the amount of tax levy necessary to raise the amounts needed for funding property tax refunds. Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

Councilmember Koehler moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2020-42 fixing the amount of the regular ad valorem tax levy necessary to raise the additional amounts needed between estimated revenues from sources other than ad valorem taxes for certain funds and the estimated expenditures from said funds for the year 2021. Councilmember Bahena seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

C. Downtown speakers and sound system discussion.

Kathryn Witherington, Executive Director of the Downtown Walla Walla Foundation, reviewed their proposal to install speakers and a sound

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system to have music in the downtown area. The Port of Walla Walla has allocated the funding with the procedures and policies to be developed. The first phase will be in the First Avenue plaza area.

There was discussion on the proposal and assistance needed from the City for the installation on both private and public properties.

Mayor Scribner invited public input.

Diana Broze expressed concerns with additional noise pollution in the downtown area.

5. COUNCIL MEMBER MEETING REPORTS

Councilmember Moss reported attendance at the agenda setting meeting; a meeting of the differential call response subcommittee; and the Finance Committee meeting.

Councilmember Huie reported attendance on the Jim Bock radio show.

Councilmember Bahena had no meetings to report.

Councilmember Nakonieczny had no meetings to report.

Councilmember Clubb reported attendance at the Finance Committee meeting; and the Metropolitan Planning Organization meeting.

Councilmember Koehler reported attendance at the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee meeting.

Mayor Scribner reported attendance at the Finance Committee meeting; the agenda setting meeting; and the Arts Commission meeting.

6. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Huie was recognized for being furthest from Walla Walla while attending virtual Council meetings.

There were comments on the importance of wearing masks correctly and social distancing to combat the rising COVID-19 infections.

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7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.