

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Scribner called the 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, Finance Director Jean Teasdale, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Human Resources Director Pam Taylor, Senior Planner Jon Maland, Police Chief Scott Bieber, Police Captain Chris Buttice, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

Also present: Roy Koegen, Bond Counsel

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Resolution No. 2020-113 setting January 13, 2021 as the date to consider a ten percent annexation petition for property located west of Cottonwood Road and south of Ransom Road.
- B. Resolution No. 2020-114 setting January 13, 2021 as the date to consider a ten percent annexation petition for property located south of Reser Road and east of Fern Avenue.
- C. Resolution No. 2020-115 setting January 13, 2021 as the date to consider a ten percent annexation petition for properties on Williams Road, south of Prospect Avenue.

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- D. Resolution No. 2020-116 setting December 16, 2020 as the public hearing date for the Cox Annexation.
- E. Resolution No. 2020-117 authorizing an agreement with Walla Walla County for jail services.
- F. Resolution No. 2020-118 authorizing a contract with Northwest Municipal Advisors (NWMA) to provide financial advice during debt issuance.
- G. Ordinance No. 2020-44 authorizing an amendment to the labor agreement with AFSCME 1191-W to extend the agreement for one year.
- H. Approval of minutes of the regular meeting held October 28, 2020.
- I. Approval of minutes of the regular meeting held November 4, 2020.
- J. Approval of minutes of the budget Work Session held November 9, 2020.

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

There was discussion on the extension of the labor agreement with AFSCME 1191-W and the two percent cost of living adjustment.

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

4. ACTIVE AGENDA

- A. Public hearing on 2021-2022 biennium budget.

Staff reviewed responses to the budget questions submitted by John DeLong; an update to the separation of funding for community-oriented policing and outreach from the Police Department budget; and some of the accomplishments completed during the current biennium.

Mayor Scribner declared the public hearing open.

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Noah Leavitt asked if any outside funding had been identified for body cameras and dash cameras for the Police Department. There was discussion on communication between the Chief's Advisory Committee and the City Council; alternate funding options; and inclusion of seeking funding for a camera program in the City's legislative priorities. It was the consensus of a majority of Council to amend the legislative priorities.

There were comments on performing an in-depth review of the vehicles scheduled for replacement in the vehicle replacement fund.

B. Public hearing on the six-year capital facilities plan.

Staff reported this is an annual activity and the plan was reviewed with Council at their November 16 Work Session.

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

Staff suggested a further review of the needs of the City buildings and facilities should be done. Council asked that the City recognize the numerous volunteers on its advisory boards, commissions, and committees.

C. Resolution No. 2020-119 approving the recommendation from the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee (LTAC) for the allocation of 2021 lodging tax revenues.

Staff reviewed the membership of the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee, the application process, and the committee's recommendation.

Councilmember Koehler, serving as Chair of the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee, recognized the effort and work of the applicants. It was a very difficult meeting, in part due to limited funding because of the COVID-19 pandemic and commented on the need for improvement in the application process.

There were no public comments on this item.

There was discussion on the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee's recommendation, the significant reduction in the reserve fund, the separate funds from the Tourism Promotion Area (TPA), and ongoing

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cooperation among the entities. Another meeting of the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee will be held if revenues come in higher than budgeted to determine any additional allocations or an increase in the reserves.

Councilmember Clubb moved to adopt Resolution No. 2020-119. Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The motion carried with 4 yes votes by Councilmembers Bahena, Clubb, Koehler, and Moss and 3 no votes by Councilmembers Huie, Nakonieczny, and Mayor Scribner.

- D. Resolution No. 2020-120 renewing a multi-year Tourism Promotion Area (TPA) contract with Visit Walla Walla.

Staff reported the Hotel-Motel Commission determines how the additional funds raised through the tourism promotion area are spent. This commission recommends that one hundred percent of the funds be allocated to Visit Walla Walla.

Mayor Scribner invited public input.

Dan Leeper, Chair of the Hotel-Motel Commission, reported on the imposition of this additional fee for guests staying in hotels and motels and the Commission recommends all of these funds be allocated to Visit Walla Walla for marketing and tourism promotion.

Councilmember Clubb moved to adopt Resolution No. 2020-120. Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- E. Ordinance No. 2020-43 authorizing the sale, issuance and delivery of not to exceed \$4,400,000 of the City's limited tax general obligation refunding bonds, series 2020, to Baker Boyer Bank to repay four interfund loans of the City, and to pay, redeem and retire all or a portion of the City's outstanding limited tax general obligation and refunding bonds, series 2010.

Staff and Bond Counsel Koegen reported that a request for proposals had been issued with Baker Boyer Bank offering to purchase the bonds at a 0.85 percent interest rate for fifteen years. This is a net present value savings of approximately \$240,000 after issuance costs are paid. This is the lowest interest rate ever offered for a fifteen-year loan.

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Mayor Scribner invited public input. No one chose to address the City Council on this item.

Council expressed their appreciation to Baker Boyer Bank for the great rate. Northwest Municipal Advisors will be paid \$12,500 for their assistance on this bond issuance.

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2020-43. Councilmember Huie seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 1 abstention by Councilmember Clubb.

- F. Resolution No. 2020-121 adopting the 2021 State legislative priorities; and
Resolution No. 2020-122 adopting the 2021 Federal legislative priorities.

Staff reported these draft legislative priorities have been reviewed by both the Legislative Committee and the City Council. It is recommended that one additional priority be added to both resolutions to be similar to "The City supports additional funding for public safety for police officer body cameras, dash cameras, and supporting costs."

Mayor Scribner invited public input. No one chose to address the City Council on these items.

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2020-121 as amended. Councilmember Huie seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2020-122 as amended. Councilmember Nakonieczny seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

5. COUNCIL MEMBER MEETING REPORTS

Councilmember Moss reported attendance at the Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting; the Finance Committee meeting; the two Work Sessions; the Valley Transit Finance Committee meeting; the agenda setting meeting; the Blue Mountain Humane Society Board meeting; the

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Chief's Advisory Committee meeting; and the differential call response subcommittee meeting.

Councilmember Huie reported attendance at the two Work Sessions; a three-part Association of Washington Cities webinar on homelessness; the Fort Walla Walla Board meeting; the Legislative Committee meeting; the Sasayama Sister City committee meeting; and the Committee on Committees meeting.

Councilmember Bahena reported attendance at the two Work Sessions, the Downtown Walla Walla Foundation Board meeting; the Civil Service Commission meeting; and a Committee on Committees meeting.

Councilmember Nakonieczny reported attendance at the two Work Sessions; a three-part Association of Washington Cities webinar on homelessness; the Downtown Walla Walla Foundation Board meeting; and a Committee on Committees meeting.

Councilmember Clubb reported attendance at the Finance Committee meeting; the two Work Sessions; a Community Land Trust task force meeting; a regional Housing Action Plan stakeholders meeting; and the Visit Walla Walla Board meeting.

Councilmember Koehler reported attendance at the two Work Sessions; the Water & Wastewater Advisory Committee meeting; and the Transportation Benefit District Advisory Committee meeting.

Mayor Scribner reported attendance at the Finance Committee meeting; the two Work Sessions; the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee meeting; the agenda setting meeting; the Library Board meeting; production of a video regarding the COVID-19 pandemic; and the Mill Creek Coalition meeting.

6. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

Council asked if there was some way for the City to be more supportive in enforcing gubernatorial mandates related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Councilmember Nakonieczny moved to make the following reappointments:

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- Douglas Carlsen and Tia Kramer to the Arts Commission for terms expiring December 31, 2023;
- Pam Ray, Nancy Macduff, and Thomas Holt to the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee for terms expiring December 31, 2023;
- Barbara Knudson and Robert Hansen to the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee for terms expiring December 31, 2023;
- Anne Harrison, Henry "Tom" Reuwer, and Bryan Lubbers to the Parks, Recreation & Urban Forestry Advisory Board for terms expiring December 31, 2023;
- Barlow Corkrum to the Planning Commission for a term expiring December 31, 2023; and
- Julia Ireland to the Public Library Board for a term expiring December 31, 2025.

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

Council asked staff to find an appropriate means of recognizing the many volunteers serving on advisory boards, commissions, and committees.

Staff introduced Resolution No. 2020-123 authorizing acceptance of a grant from the Washington State Department of Commerce's local and community projects grant program and taking other necessary action with respect to such grant program. This will accept an \$8,820 grant for the Pioneer Park wedding fountain restoration project.

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2020-123. Councilmember Clubb seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

Staff introduced Resolution No. 2020-124 authorizing acceptance of grants from Walmart for the crime watch and cops and kids programs and taking other necessary action with respect to such grant program. This resolution will allow the acceptance of a \$2,000 grant for the cops and kids program and \$500 for the crime watch program.

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2020-124. Councilmember Huie seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

Council asked that a letter of thanks be sent to Walmart for these grants.

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Staff reported on the establishment of the Walla Walla Blue Zones and recommended the appointment of Deputy City Manager Chamberlain as the City's designee.

Councilmember Huie moved to appoint Deputy City Manager Elizabeth Chamberlain as the City's designee to the Walla Walla Blue Zones. Councilmember Bahena seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

It was the consensus of Council to have a special Work Session on November 23 from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.