

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
December 16, 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, Police Chief Scott Bieber, City Engineer Neal Chavre, Senior Planner Jon Maland, Planner Melissa Shumake, Accountant Liz Moeller, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

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. 2020-132 authorizing a contract amendment with Walla Walla Alliance for the Homeless for services at the sleep center through December 31, 2021.
- B. Resolution No. 2020-133 authorizing a contract amendment with Pacific Security Services for sleep center security through December 31, 2021.
- C. Resolution No. 2020-137 extending the declaration of emergency due to the COVID-19 virus until June 30, 2021.
- D. Resolution No. 2020-134 authorizing acceptance of a Federal surface transportation block grant in the amount of \$800,125 for the State Route 125/Plaza Way intersection improvements and other related actions.

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- E. Ordinance No. 2020-48 amending the Municipal Code to adopt electronic meeting protocols.
- F. Ordinance No. 2020-49 amending the 2019-2020 biennium budget; and
Ordinance No. 2020-50 amending the capital improvement project budget.
- G. Ordinance No. 2020-51 amending chapters in the Municipal Code to update development regulations.
- H. Approval of minutes of the special Work Session held November 23, 2020.
- I. Approval of minutes of the Work Session held November 30, 2020.
- J. Approval of minutes of the regular meeting held December 2, 2020.

Mayor Scribner invited public input.

Sharon Schiller, Walla Walla, asked why the sleep center is not proposed to remain a 24-hour/7-day a week operation after March 2021. Staff reported it was a matter of funding. Currently the expanded operation is being covered through grant funds. The sleep center is normally funded by Walla Walla County and City of Walla Walla. There is nothing in the proposed contract that would preclude continuing the 24-hour/7-day operation if funding is available.

There were comments on:

- Having the Alliance for the Homeless provide a report on the 24-hour/7-day a week operation of the sleep center.
- Why the City is unable to hold public meetings currently.
- The Finance Committee reviewed the budget amendments in detail on December 14.

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.

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4. ACTIVE AGENDA

- A. Public hearing and Ordinance No. 2020-52 approving the Cox annexation of 27 acres located east of the Walla Walla Community College.

Staff reviewed the steps in the annexation process; overview of the boundaries; and the pre-zone of public reserve.

There was brief discussion on the type of development allowed in the public reserve zone and potential uses of the land.

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

Councilmember Clubb moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2020-52. Councilmember Huie seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- B. Resolution No. 2020-135 authorizing a utility reimbursement (latecomer) agreement for a sewer extension on Callanan Drive.

Staff described the latecomer agreement and process. There are three other parcels that are direct beneficiaries. These property owners were contacted to encourage them to connect to the City sewer at the time the extension was put in. They have chosen to remain on their septic systems but will be required to connect to the sewer at the time their septic systems fail.

There were no public comments.

There was discussion on the costs to connect in the future and the properties served by this sewer extension.

Councilmember Clubb moved to adopt Resolution No. 2020-135. Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- C. Resolution No. 2020-136 authorizing a new interlocal agreement with the Port of Walla Walla for emergency water supply.

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Staff reported a new emergency water system intertie agreement has been negotiated at the request of the Port of Walla Walla. This new agreement is modeled after the agreement the City has with the City of College Place. The Port will only be charged for water used in an emergency rather than the 1996 agreement that imposed a ready to serve charge. The City controls access to the water flow and can terminate delivery if the City needs the water for its use.

Pat Reay, Port of Walla Walla Executive Director, reported that the water intertie has not been operational for the last twenty years. The Port has made significant investments in its water system and this agreement will provide a backup fire flow at the air terminal.

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2020-136. Councilmember Koehler seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- D. Ordinance No. 2020-53 amending the utility excise tax to 16.25 percent for 2021 and 2022.

Staff reported this increase will not have any impact on the City's utility ratepayers. The increase will be funded through the utility reserves and will sunset on December 31, 2022. These funds will be used to support the ambulance system.

There was no public input on this item.

There was discussion on this temporary realignment of resources as outlined during the budget deliberations. The City will be using resources on hand from utility reserves. This is a short-term solution to address the shortfall in the ambulance fund. A more permanent solution will need to be addressed within the next two years.

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2020-53. Councilmember Clubb seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- F. Ordinance No. 2020-54 adopting provisions to allow for the enforcement of gubernatorial proclamations.

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Staff reported this action will allow the City Attorney's office to prosecute any citations issued by the Police Department. Without this action, citations would go to the County Prosecutors office. This ordinance incorporates the RCW section in our Municipal Code. It does not have any impact on enforcement, only prosecution.

There was discussion on:

- This is an extension of the current authority.
- This will not noticeably impact the workload in the City Attorney's office.
- The ordinance will allow the City Attorney to determine whether a citation should be prosecuted.
- Citizens are aware of the need to wear masks and socially distance. Police officers will be hesitant to issue citations unless the situation is an egregious violation.
- Citizens are encouraged to shop local.

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2020-54. Councilmember Koehler seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

G. Approval of the November 30, 2020 accounts payable register containing check numbers 86 through 97 and 11985 through 12537 totaling \$3,222,226.75.

Councilmember Moss moved to approve payment of the November 30, 2020 accounts payable register containing check numbers 86 through 97 and 11985 through 12537 totaling \$3,222,226.75 except for the checks for the Blue Mountain Action Council. Councilmember Koehler 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 Nakonieczny 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 Parks, Recreation & Urban Forestry Advisory Board; the differential police calls task force meeting; the Finance Committee meeting; and the Work Session.

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Councilmember Huie reported attendance at the Jim Bock radio show interview; the Work Session; the Fort Walla Walla Museum Board meeting; and the Committee on Committees meeting.

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

Councilmember Nakonieczny reported attendance at a meeting with Police Chief Bieber and Police Captain Buttice; the Work Session; the Downtown Walla Walla Foundation Board meeting; and the Committee on Committees meeting.

Councilmember Clubb reported attendance at the Finance Committee meeting; the Work Session; and the Community Land Trust planning meetings.

Councilmember Koehler reported attendance at Community Land Trust planning meetings; and the Work Session.

Mayor Scribner reported attendance at a meeting with City Attorney Donaldson and Development Services Director Frederickson regarding wireless towers in residential neighborhoods; the agenda setting meeting; the Public Library Board meeting; the Finance Committee meeting; the Work Session; and the Mill Creek Coalition meeting.

6. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Nakonieczny moved to make the following appointments:

- **Joel Gaytan to the Arts Commission for a term expiring December 31, 2023; and**
- **John Gahbauer to the Transportation Benefit District Improvement Committee for a term expiring June 30, 2023.**

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

Councilmember Clubb provided an update on the work being done by the Community Land Trust also known as the Housing Trust. There will be a Town Hall meeting through Zoom on January 11, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. Staff reported an effort will be made to keep the January 11 Work Session to an hour and a half.

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There were comments on the traditional baclava gift made by City Manager Shawa's wife.

The winner for the most festive holiday attire during this Zoom meeting is Deputy City Manager Chamberlain.

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.