

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Town Hall Part 3 Minutes
August 13, 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.

Staff present: City Manager Nabel Shawa, City Attorney Tim Donaldson, Police Chief Scott Bieber, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

2. ACTIVE AGENDA

- A. Council review of staff presentations and public input on police department policies, procedures, practices, and funding.

Mayor Scribner provided introductory comments about this series of Town Hall meetings and outlined the process for tonight's meeting.

City Manager Shawa provided examples of innovative solutions used by the City to address infrastructure and homelessness; and reviewed the recent citizen satisfaction survey regarding their level of trust in local government.

Police Chief Bieber reviewed:

- Building trust and relationships.
- Responsible, responsive, and respectful change.
- The honorable act by Officer Nat Small, to bring healing and unity to our community, by altering his tattoo eliminating the double "S" portion.
- Short-term changes:
 - Ban the use of the carotid control hold.
 - Implementation of the Chief's Advisory Committee and making this committee more transparent.

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- The police department will not acquire any further surplus military equipment.
- Continuing discussions and research on body and dash cameras through the budget process (approximately \$250,000 per year on-going cost).
- Continue work with Comprehensive mental health to pair a social worker with an officer to respond to mental health calls and implement a diversion program for incidents involving individuals with mental health issues.
- Community communications.
- Mid-term goals:
 - Continued research on the handling of differential call responses.
 - Strengthening relationships with community groups that can help build relationships with the wide variety of people in our community.
 - Additional training for 2021 and 2022.
- Long-term and ongoing:
 - With additional resources, implement differential call response and track results.
 - Continue community outreach through: community police academy, attending neighborhood block parties, landlord tenant training, national night out, drug take back and shred days, chief for a day, crime prevention, domestic violence advocate, crime victim advocate, cafeteria with a cop, and any other community events.
 - Continue to build and enhance organizational culture focused on creating responsive, responsible, and respectful behavior and accountability through the leadership circle and accountability triangle.

Council commended the community members and staff for their thoughtful comments and informative presentations and offered their individual opinions on proposed actions and goals. Some future things for consideration are:

- The City's "Safe Lives" rating and whether it provides meaningful data.

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- Establishing a permanent police advisory committee appointed by the City Council.
- Amending the Mission, Vision and Values to include equity, diversity, and inclusivity.
- Expand community policing to encourage officers to get out of their patrol vehicles and into neighborhoods.
- Utilize the Arts Commission to review the issue of statues that may be deemed offensive to some community members.
- Development of a tattoo policy for all city employees.
- Engaging the community in the budget development process.
- Continuing dialog with the community to address equity and safety.

3. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.