

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Work Session Minutes
February 24, 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Scribner called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Present: Councilmembers Yazmin Bahena, Ted Koehler, Steve Moss, Susan Smiley-Nakonieczny, and Mayor Tom Scribner.

Absent: Councilmembers Riley Clubb and Myron Huie.

City staff in attendance: City Manager Nabel Shawa, City Attorney Tim Donaldson, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Development Services Director Elizabeth Chamberlain, Fire Chief Bob Yancey, Finance Director Jean Teasdale, Human Resources Director Pam Taylor, Planner Melissa Shumake, Water Distribution Supervisor Adrian Sutor, Fire Captain John Knowles, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

2. ACTIVE AGENDA

A. Artesia Water District – City of Walla Walla water intertie discussion.

Staff briefed Council on a meeting and subsequent request from the Artesia Water District that includes the following policy issues with staff's recommendations:

- Per Walla Walla Municipal Code (WWMC) 13.04.360, customers outside of City Limits are required to pay 1.5 times the monthly base and consumption rate as those within the City limits. Artesia has asked that they not be required to pay the multiplier. It does not appear Artesia has historically been charged this multiplier. Since many of the customers are City residents, staff recommends not charging the surcharge.

- Artesia uses the intertie as a backup water supply for both consumption and fire flow. WWMC 13.04.290 (B) requires customers pay a meter charge. The 2020 monthly meter charge for a 4-inch meter is \$802.80; for a 6-inch meter it is \$1,614.30. Artesia has requested they only pay meter charges when they use water. Charging a meter/ready to serve charge would be consistent with the City's intertie agreement with the Port of Walla Walla and, with the exception of the emergency intertie agreement with the City of College Place, how all other city water customers are treated. Staff recommends the monthly meter fee be charged.

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- WWMC 13.04.035(A) requires payment of water capital facilities charges (CFCs). Artesia's existing meter is a 4-inch meter. There is no record of CFCs being paid by Artesia. CFCs for a 4-inch water meter are \$71,050.00; CFCs for a 6-inch water meter are \$142,130.00 (2020 rates). Staff recommends that no capital facilities charges be assessed.
- What water consumption classification should Artesia be charged? Staff recommends Artesia be charged at the residential classification since most of their customers are residential.
- WWMC 13.04.290(B) requires customers pay the actual cost to install a meter. The current meter is owned by Artesia. This approach is inconsistent with all other water customers. A new, city owned meter is proposed to be installed. This cost is estimated to be in the range of \$10,000 for labor, equipment and materials. Artesia will be required to install and maintain their own backflow device like all water customers required to have the devices.

After discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to have staff proceed to negotiate an intertie agreement with the Artesia Water District as recommended by staff.

B. Proposed 2020 Municipal Code amendments and timeline.

Staff outlined and there was discussion on the various code amendments to be reviewed and the timeline for review. Council asked that consideration be given to staff costs when amending development fees; review of provisions regarding demolition of historical structures; and incentivizing development in certain areas of the City.

C. Discussion on updating Mission, Vision, and Values.

Staff reported on the need to review the City's Mission, Vision and Values as part of updating the strategic plan and began an exercise with the City Council to identify the values for the City organization.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

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4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.