

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Work Session Minutes
June 22, 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

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

Absent: None

City staff in attendance: City Manager Nabel Shawa, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Finance Director Jean Teasdale, Development Services Director Elizabeth Chamberlain, Environmental Engineer Leah Fisk, Public Works Operations Manager Mori Struve, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

2. ACTIVE AGENDA

- A. Updates to Wastewater Chapters 13.03 and 13.30 of the Municipal Code.

Staff reviewed the proposed changes to the Municipal Code Chapters pertaining to wastewater to bring them into compliance with new and revised environmental regulations. There was brief discussion on the effective date of the ordinance; impact on dental offices; and efforts by Cliffstar to come into compliance with their discharge permit.

- B. Presentation by U.S. Forest Service on the proposed Tiger Creek prescribed burn scheduled for this fall.

Staff and representatives from the U.S. Forest Service outlined the area proposed for a prescribed burn to further protect the City's watershed. There was brief discussion on the proposal.

- C. Walla Walla County Building Inspection Agreement.

Staff reviewed the request by Walla Walla County to be able to provide their own building permit and inspection on County-owned property located within the City limits. This will have very minimal impact on the City financially and the County would be responsible for any liability issues. There is no proposed end date for the agreement, but a future City

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Council could choose to withdraw from the agreement after providing notice to the County.

D. Virtual open house.

Mayor Scribner suggested three separate virtual town hall meetings to address issues that have been raised by the community. The first would be held with Chief Bieber, City Attorney Donaldson, and the City Manager regarding police policies; policies/legality of tattoos on employees; and police budget/funding. The second will be open for public comments/input. The third will be Council discussion and any possible action. After brief comments by Council, it was the consensus of a majority to move forward with this plan at the June 24 City Council meeting.

E. Amend the City's utility discount program to change the income threshold to at or below 150 percent of the federal poverty guidelines.

Staff reported that the Finance Committee had reviewed the utility discount program after the changes made last year. Unfortunately, only seven new accounts had been added to the program. To expand the program to assist more customers, it is being recommended that the income threshold be amended to at or below 150 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. An ordinance to make this amendment is on the June 24 Council agenda for consideration.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

COVID-19 protocols and wearing face coverings was discussed because the number of local cases is trending up. It was the consensus of a majority of Council to consider a resolution on June 24 to encourage citizens to wear face coverings in businesses with the City Council and leadership team to set an example. Council also suggested using CARES funding for additional hand washing stations downtown.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:36 p.m.