

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Work Session Minutes
October 12, 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

Present: Councilmembers Yazmin Bahena, Riley Clubb, Myron Huie, Ted Koehler, Steve Moss, Susan Nakonieczny, and Mayor Tom Scribner. (Councilmembers Bahena and Huie joined the meeting at 4:04 p.m.)

Absent: None

City staff in attendance: City Manager Nabel Shawa, Deputy City Manager Elizabeth Chamberlain, City Attorney Tim Donaldson, Police Chief Scott Bieber, Parks & Recreation Director Andy Coleman, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

2. ACTIVE AGENDA

- A. First Avenue Plaza – discussion on its success and continuing to utilize First Avenue as a plaza.

Staff reported on the support by downtown businesses to retain the First Avenue Plaza. The plan is to leave the umbrellas downtown until after the Fall release weekend, when they will be collected and stored until next year. Outdoor heaters will be purchased, and a second tent may be installed in the plaza area. One downtown property owner expressed concerns with the loss of parking. Staff is exploring the possibility of turning Spokane and Colville into one-way streets and adding diagonal parking. This would make up for the loss of spaces on First Avenue.

Council expressed their individual opinions in support of retaining the First Avenue Plaza and continued operation of parklet dining areas.

- B. Review of special event permit process and policies.

Staff reported that protests and rallies are a sign of a healthy democracy. Walla Walla has had quite a few this year but none have been permitted special events. Instead the City's focus is on treating all groups in a consistent manner and maintaining a safe and peaceful environment.

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Events occurring on private property do not need special event permits. Permits only apply to events that affect the ordinary use of public property and rights-of-way. Events must still obey all laws. Enforcement occurs if a non-permitted event becomes unruly or participants block vehicular traffic. Police may be on hand to monitor the event to provide a sense of security and safety.

There was discussion on when permits are needed, and due to the COVID-19 pandemic no special event permits are being issued. Police Chief Bieber suggested citizens organizing any event call the police department to give them a heads-up even if a special event permit is not necessary.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

New stop signs have been installed at Palouse and Birch Streets, and Palouse and Newell Streets in response to the concerns expressed by the Palouse Street neighborhood.

Public Works staff were commended for their response to the Palouse Street neighbors and the numerous road construction projects.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.