

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Work Session Minutes
October 19, 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.

Absent: None

City staff in attendance: Deputy City Manager Elizabeth Chamberlain, Finance Director Jean Teasdale, Fire Chief Bob Yancey, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

2. ACTIVE AGENDA

A. 2021-2022 Biennial Budget discussion.

Finance Committee Chair Clubb commented on the meetings held with the Finance Committee and Department Directors.

Staff reviewed the reduced lodging tax revenue projections due to the COVID-19 pandemic and revised grant awards for 2020. There was discussion on awarding grants after the revenue has been received rather than on projections; reducing length of contracts to one year for the major grant recipients; and the City Council's role in awarding lodging tax revenues.

Staff reviewed the fire department budget and reasons for adding a new Deputy Fire Chief position for operations. The current Deputy Fire Chief in charge of emergency medical services will be retiring in March 2021. The Fire Chief is planning to retire in 2022. The Finance Committee believes it is important to add this position in the budget to facilitate succession planning.

Staff reviewed the ambulance budget and the additional revenue needed to maintain the current level of service. An ambulance utility fee is being proposed for 2023 to cover the estimated \$1,200,000 shortfall. There was discussion on impacts to City ratepayers to provide ambulance services and the proposed establishment of a regional fire authority.

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Staff provided an overview of the proposed budgets for public works administration, streets, sanitation, landfill, stormwater, wastewater, water, infrastructure repair and replacement program, transportation benefit district, and other infrastructure.

3. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.