

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Work Session Minutes
November 30, 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. (Councilmember Bahena joined the meeting at 4:38 pm.)

Absent: None

City staff in attendance: City Manager Nabel Shawa, City Attorney Tim Donaldson, Deputy City Manager Elizabeth Chamberlain, Police Chief Scott Bieber, Technology Services Director Chris Owen, Police Captain Chris Buttice, Police Captain Kevin Braman, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

Participants: Sam Jackle, Walla Walla County Department of Community Health; Jason Wicklund, Christian Aid Center; Tim Meliah and Amanda Fowler, Catholic Charities/The Loft; Anne Marie Zell Schwerin, YWCA; Becky Betts, Providence Medical Group Population Health; Chuck Hindman and Craig Volwiler, Alliance for the Homeless; Kathy Covey, Blue Mountain Action Council.

2. ACTIVE AGENDA

A. West Ward issues.

Councilmember Nakonieczny reviewed:

- Goal of this presentation is improving safety within the West Ward.
- Objectives include:
 - Understand the dynamics of the West Ward based on facts from the 2010 census.
 - Understand that the West Ward is so unique that, unless one lives or works in this area, one has no idea what goes on in the area.
 - Understand the safety issues the West Ward residents and businesses deal with daily.
 - Participate in a discussion of possible solutions to the current issues.

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- The demographics, zoning, and employers in the West Ward compared to the other three wards.
- The problems being experienced in the West Ward by illegal camping, drug use, littering, vandalism, and theft.
- Suggestions include making the GIS crime map more useful for evaluating crimes in the area; tracking anti-social behavior; and giving the Police and staff the tools and support they need to enforce laws for the safety of our community members.

There was discussion on:

- Need for public trash receptacles.
- Methods to get a handle on “bad actors” causing trouble.
- If there are any additional rules, regulations, or laws that can be enacted
- Improving how crime data is displayed through the GIS system.

B. Presentation and discussion on homeless response.

Staff introduced the participants and reported there have been no positive COVID-19 cases in any of the homeless shelters. Each participant provided an overview of the local services they provide to address homelessness.

Council commended the agencies for working together to provide the local services available for homeless individuals and describing the complexity of the challenges in providing homeless services.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:51 p.m.