

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Work Session Minutes
December 14, 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: City Manager Nabel Shawa, Deputy City Manager Elizabeth Chamberlain, Fire Chief Bob Yancey, Police Chief Scott Bieber, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Engineer Doug Eaton, Planner Melissa Shumake, Senior Planner Jon Maland, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

Also present: Meghan DeBolt, Executive Director of Walla Walla Valley Blue Zones project.

2. ACTIVE AGENDA

A. Walla Walla Blue Zones project.

Meghan DeBolt, Executive Director of the Walla Walla Valley Blue Zones project described how Blue Zones are identified and the characteristics of the people living in these areas. Blue Zones Certified Communities have populations with greater well-being, improved health outcomes, reduced costs, and are places with increased civic pride and economic development. Ms. DeBolt reviewed the community transformation process, key milestones, timelines, leadership structure, blueprint development, the Blue Zones Walla Walla Valley team, and the Center of Excellence and Operations team.

There was discussion on:

- Assisting disadvantaged residents in accessing healthcare.
- Addressing mental health, depression, and needs of school age children.
- Financial contribution from the City was \$10,000 for the initial site visit.

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- The City has selected Deputy City Manager Chamberlain as a part of the steering committee and will be looked to for guidance and leadership. Currently the project is being funded by healthcare organizations.
- B. One-way/angled parking concept for Colville and Spokane Streets between Rose and Alder.

Staff reviewed the concept to make Colville Street a one-way street for northbound traffic and Spokane Street a one-way street for southbound traffic to allow for angled parking to replace some of the downtown parking lost due to the restaurant parklets that have been constructed. This concept could provide as many as twenty additional spaces.

Both the fire and police departments have concerns with this concept due to the reduction in size of the travel lane not leaving adequate space for their emergency vehicles. There are also concerns with driver confusion in having only two one-way streets in the area.

There was discussion on:

- Impact of the future Penrose Hotel development.
- No community outreach has been done. Staff is seeking Council input prior to reaching out to the community.
- No new traffic signals are proposed.
- The concept does not add enough spaces to negate the safety concerns.
- Benefits versus disadvantages.
- Length of time the parklets downtown will be operating.

It was the consensus of most of the Council to table this issue at the current time.

- C. Review proposed amendments to the Municipal Code Chapters 5.04, 12.14, 19.18, 19.24, 19.30, 19.35, 20.02, 20.06, 20.50, 20.100, 20.118, 20.126, 20.139, and 20.212.

Staff reviewed the proposed Municipal Code amendments on the agenda for approval on December 16. There was clarification on some of the amendments. The public has had adequate opportunity to comment and a formal public hearing was held before the Planning Commission. The Commission has recommended approval.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.