

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 24, 2021

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Scribner called the virtual meeting to order at 6:30 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, City Attorney Tim Donaldson, Deputy City Manager Elizabeth Chamberlain, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Parks & Recreation Director Andy Coleman, Capital Projects Engineer Mike Laughery, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

2. PRESENTATIONS & PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor Scribner read a proclamation declaring April as "Walla Walla Wine Month." Robert Hansen, Director of the Walla Walla Wine Alliance, thanked the Council for the proclamation.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Staff reported one email had been received from John DeLong with two issues: Requesting an audit of City finances and services from a third-party auditor; and the use of the revenue raised by the proposed admissions tax.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Staff introduced the Consent Agenda, Items A through I, as follows:

- A. Acceptance of resignation of Martha Anderson from the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee.
- B. Resolution No. 2021-36 approving a contract with Town & Country Tree Service in the amount of \$29,150 for tree work.

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- C. Resolution No. 2021-37 authorizing a contract with K&N Electric Motors for the scheduled maintenance of the hydroelectric generator in the amount of \$42,329.
- D. Resolution No. 2021-38 authorizing a contract supplement with David Evans and Associates for construction engineering assistance on the Rose Street Bridge project in the amount of \$217,449.
- E. Resolution No. 2021-39 approving the underground inspection van system component replacement, retrofit, and update from Cues, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$85,000.
- F. Resolution No. 2021-40 authorizing a professional services contract with PBS Engineering and Environmental for the Howard & Chestnut Street intersection alternatives analysis in the amount of \$30,360.
- G. Ordinance No. 2021-03 amending the 2021-2022 maintenance and operations budget; and
Ordinance No. 2021-04 amending the capital improvement project budget.
- H. Approval of minutes of the Work Session held March 8, 2021.
- I. Approval of minutes of the regular meeting held March 10, 2021.

There was no public input on any item on the Consent Agenda.

There were brief reports on Items B, C, and D.

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Consent Agenda Items A through I. Councilmember Huie seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

5. ACTIVE AGENDA

- A. Resolution No. 2021-41 authorizing a contract for the Park Street infrastructure repair and replacement/transportation benefit district project to Premier Excavation in the amount of \$4,000,598.50.

Staff described the project, boundaries, and funding.

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There was no public input.

Council commented that there are going to be many large street reconstruction projects with detours throughout the City and asked for patience from the public.

**Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2021-41.
Councilmember Clubb seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

- B. Resolution No. 2021-42 authorizing a contract amendment with PBS Engineering and Environmental for construction engineering services on the Park Street infrastructure repair and replacement/transportation benefit district project in the amount of \$191,596.

Staff explained the need for this contract for construction management services.

There was no public input.

**Councilmember Clubb moved to adopt Resolution No. 2021-42.
Councilmember Nakonieczny seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

- C. Resolution No. 2021-43 authorizing a contract with Sharpe & Preszler Construction for the Sumach and Sturm Avenues water system improvement projects in the amount of \$350,765.16.

Staff described the two separate components of this water system improvement project to improve fire flow and water pressure.

There was no public input.

**Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2021-43.
Councilmember Nakonieczny seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

- D. Ordinance No. 2021-05 levying an admission tax on the sale of concert tickets; and

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Resolution No. 2021-44 authorizing a lease agreement with W3 Entertainment.

Staff reported the proposed ordinance is structured to only apply to the sale of concert tickets. The resolution only applies to the lease of the area at the golf course where the driving range is located and only during times when concerts are held. It does not apply to the entire golf course and will not impact golfers. Pertaining to the question raised by Mr. DeLong, there is no revenue or expenses from the concert admission tax included in the current budget.

R.L. McFarland, Walla Walla, asked that the revenue from the sale of concert tickets be set aside to cover the additional costs that will be incurred by the City from any events. Mr. McFarland expressed concerns with traffic, parking, and the orientation of the audio system.

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2021-05.
Councilmember Clubb seconded the motion.

There was clarification that the admissions tax would not apply to events at the fairgrounds since it is not within the City limits and would not apply to the guitar festival because it does not have over 1,000 attendees. The City Council is not able to earmark funds prior to meeting the requirements of the lease agreement with W3 Entertainment.

Scott Daggett, W3 Entertainment, indicated they are aware of and will work to address the parking concerns.

The motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2021-05 unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

Staff provided a summary of the provisions of the lease agreement.

Councilmember Koehler moved to adopt Resolution No. 2021-44.
Councilmember Huie seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- E. Resolution No. 2021-45 authorizing a contract with Blue Mountain Action Council for services by Commitment to Community in an amount not to exceed \$52,000.

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Staff described the work performed by Commitment to Community and the scope of services for the contract. The contract covers the 2021 calendar year.

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2021-45. Councilmember Clubb seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 1 abstention by Councilmember Koehler.

- F. Resolution No. 2021-46 supporting the United Nations Treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons.

Retired Whitman College Professor Patrick Henry presented information and several reasons why the City of Walla Walla should join other cities in supporting the United Nations Treaty in prohibiting nuclear weapons.

Mayor Scribner invited public input.

Sharon Schiller, Walla Walla, thanked Professor Henry for his presentation and spoke in support of the resolution.

R.L. McFarland, Walla Walla, spoke in support of the resolution.

Richard Middleton-Kaplan spoke in support of the resolution.

Council expressed their individual opinions on whether this action is appropriate for Council consideration.

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2021-46. Councilmember Clubb seconded the motion. The motion carried with 5 yes votes by Councilmembers Bahena, Clubb, Koehler, Moss and Mayor Scribner and 2 no votes by Councilmembers Huie and Nakonieczny.

6. COUNCIL MEMBER MEETING REPORTS

Councilmember Moss reported attendance at several meetings of the differential call volume task force; the agenda setting meeting; the Elks Lodge groundbreaking ceremony; the Valley Transit Board meeting; and the Work Session.

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Councilmember Huie reported attendance at a meeting with State legislators regarding legislative priorities and transportation budget, and the Work Session.

Councilmember Bahena reported attendance at the Downtown Walla Walla Foundation Board meeting, and the Work Session.

Councilmember Nakonieczny reported meeting with City Manager Shawa and Deputy City Manager Chamberlain; and reported attendance at the Downtown Walla Walla Foundation Board meeting; the Valley Transit Board meeting; the Work Session; and a tour of the golf course.

Councilmember Clubb reported attendance at the Visit Walla Walla Board meeting; the Blue Mountain Action Council Board meeting; and the Work Session.

Councilmember Koehler reported attendance at the Water & Wastewater Advisory Committee meeting; the Sustainability Committee meeting; the Valley Transit Board meeting; and the Work Session.

Mayor Scribner reported attendance at a differential call volume task force meeting; the agenda setting meeting; the Work Session; and a meeting with Nancy Kress regarding pickleball courts.

7. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

Council thanked all the volunteers, County Department of Community Health, and Providence St. Mary Medical Center for their successful COVID-19 vaccine clinics.

There was discussion on the error made by the County Auditor's office in assessing the City's 2021 property tax levy and any potential actions that can be taken by the City to avoid any future errors.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.