

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 14, 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, Development Services Director Preston Frederickson, City Engineer Neal Chavre, Senior Planner Jon Maland, Civil Engineer Johnny LeMaster, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Resolution No. 2021-47 authorizing an upgrade to the Cartegraph Asset/Inventory Management software for Public Works and Fleet Services.
- B. Resolution No. 2021-48 awarding bid for the Lowden Street sidewalk improvement CDBG project to Nelson Construction Corporation in the amount of \$105,841.08.
- C. Resolution No. 2021-49 awarding bid for emergency supply of large aggregate materials to Humbert Asphalt in the amount of \$175,329.00.
- D. Resolution No. 2021-50 awarding bid for gravel and spoils hauling/disposal to Humbert Asphalt in the amount of \$106,558.65.

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- E. Resolution No. 2021-51 awarding bid to HD Fowler for the purchase of various brass water fittings and parts for the water division in an amount not to exceed \$107,714.21.
- F. Resolution No. 2021-52 authorizing a professional services contract with GeoProfessional Innovation (GPI) for material testing services in the amount of \$65,791.00.
- G. Resolution No. 2021-53 accepts a \$109,520 Federal transportation alternatives program grant for the Rose Street bridge replacement project.
- H. Resolution No. 2021-54 awards the bid for the 4th, Sumach, and Service Center stormwater improvements project to Sharpe & Preszler Construction Company in the amount of \$169,028.45.
- I. Resolution No. 2021-55 authorizing a cooperative agreement with the United States Forest Service for protection of the Mill Creek watershed for \$99,859.20.
- J. Resolution No. 2021-56 authorizing the removal of angled parking on Park Street.
- K. Approval of minutes of the Work Session held March 22, 2021.
- L. Approval of minutes of the regular meeting held March 24, 2021.

Mayor Scribner invited public input.

Kevin Yarwood, property owner of 342 Newell Street, expressed concerns with the loss of the angled parking for the Campfire building which will negatively impact street parking around his property.

It was the consensus of Council to move Item J to the Active Agenda.

Staff provided brief reports on Items A, C, D and E.

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

4. ACTIVE AGENDA

- J. Resolution No. 2021-56 authorizing the removal of angled parking on Park Street.

There was discussion on the changes to the angled parking areas on Park Street adjacent to Campfire and the YMCA to parallel parking to allow for a bicycle lane; and the trees that will be removed and replaced as part of the Park Street IRRP project.

Councilmember Clubb moved to adopt Resolution No. 2021-56. Councilmember Bahena seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- A. Resolution No. 2021-57 authorizing the City Manager to award the bid for construction of the Rose Street Bridge project in an amount not to exceed \$4,535,080.

Staff described the complex verification process for federally funded projects. Bids were opened on April 12 with six bids submitted. The apparent low bidder is almost \$500,000 less than the engineer's estimate. There was discussion on the amount of the bid award and negotiations with adjoining property owners. The project is anticipated to start in May and be completed in October.

There was no public input.

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2021-57. Councilmember Huie seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- B. Resolution No. 2021-58 determining the City will accept and geographically modify the proposed annexation of property located on Berney Drive and Pleasant Street.
- C. Resolution No. 2021-59 determining the City will accept and geographically modify the proposed annexation of property located at 312 Artesia Avenue.

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- D. Resolution No. 2021-60 determining the City will accept the proposed annexation for property located at 505 Hatch Street and 128 Electric Avenue.

Staff reviewed the annexation process and proposed boundaries for each of the annexations. Each of these annexations are at the ten percent annexation petition step in the process.

Mayor Scribner invited public input.

Rob Becker asked how the proposed annexation of the property on Hatch Street and Electric Avenue will impact their property. Senior Planner Maland will contact Mr. Becker to address his specific questions.

There was discussion on the rationale for the boundary modifications and notification to property owners.

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2021-58. Councilmember Bahena seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

Councilmember Clubb moved to adopt Resolution No. 2021-59. Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2021-60. Councilmember Huie seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- E. Public hearing and Resolution No. 2021-61 approving a development agreement for the Bouchon Park binding site plan located at the intersection of Lower Waitsburg Road and Middle Waitsburg Road.

Staff reviewed the purpose for this development agreement to delay the required site improvements until the Washington State Department of Transportation determines whether to improve the intersection with a roundabout or a full interchange. Either option will require the reconfiguration of the intersection which would negate currently required improvements.

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Mayor Scribner polled the City Council for any conflicts of interest, appearance of fairness, or ex-parte contacts. None were reported.

Mayor Scribner declared the public hearing open at 8:01 p.m.

R.L. McFarland, 3731 Middle Waitsburg Road, expressed concerns with traffic safety at the existing intersection, the clearview triangle, and increased traffic at the Melrose and Wellington intersection.

Staff reported email had been received and forwarded to Council from Andrew Pryor and Robert Carson.

The public hearing was closed at 8:07 p.m.

There was discussion on the development agreement and providing flexibility to avoid unnecessary site improvements. This is not a moratorium on future development north of the City.

Councilmember Clubb moved to adopt Resolution No. 2021-61. Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- F. Resolution No. 2021-62 establishing a streateries (parklets) pilot project and guidelines.

Staff reviewed the recommended guidelines and reported that permission by the property owner must be granted rather than the business owner. This is because the City has an easement for streets but if a street is used for another use, the property owner must grant permission.

There was no additional public input beyond what has already been provided to Council.

There was discussion on how successful the streateries have been in assisting businesses during the pandemic and a permitting process with flexibility to accommodate additional streateries without losing any additional parking spaces.

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2021-62. Councilmember Koehler seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

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The meeting was recessed for a break at 8:33 p.m. and reconvened at 8:38 p.m.

G. Resolution No. 2021-63 authorizing the construction of pickleball courts at Howard-Tietan Park to be funded by the Walla Walla Pickleball Association.

Staff reviewed the proposal by the Walla Walla Pickleball Association to install eight courts at Howard-Tietan Park and the benefits and disadvantages of other sites around the City.

Mayor Scribner invited public input.

Staff reported an email had been received and forwarded from Sue O'Neil expressing opposition to pickleball courts at Howard-Tietan Park.

Nancy Kress, Walla Walla Pickleball Association, spoke in support of allowing the construction of eight pickleball courts at Howard-Tietan Park and requested the City assist in financing \$172,000 of the project using Federal stimulus funding. The Pickleball Association needs the City to be a financial partner in the project.

John Czarnecki, Pickleball ambassador, spoke in support of the proposed construction of pickleball courts at Howard-Tietan Park.

Council expressed their individual opinions on the proposed construction of eight pickleball courts at Howard-Tietan Park and lack of funding in the City's current budget.

Councilmember Clubb moved to adopt Resolution No. 2021-63 with the City providing funding assistance. Councilmember Nakonieczny seconded the motion.

Councilmember Moss moved to table the motion to the June 23, 2021 City Council meeting. Councilmember Bahena seconded the motion. The motion carried with 5 yes votes and 2 no votes by Councilmember Clubb and Councilmember Nakonieczny.

H. Approval of the March 2021 accounts payable register containing check numbers 13494 through 13613; 13615 through 13621; 13623

through 13627; 13629 through 13722; 13724 through 13821; and 152 through 166 in the amount of \$3,921,015.99.

Councilmember Moss moved to approve payment of the March 2021 accounts payable register containing check numbers 13494 through 13613; 13615 through 13621; 13623 through 13627; 13629 through 13722; 13724 through 13821; and 152 through 166 in the amount of \$3,921,015.99 except for the checks to the Blue Mountain Action Council. Councilmember Koehler seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

Councilmember Moss moved to approve payment of the checks to the Blue Mountain Action Council. Councilmember Clubb seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 1 abstention by Councilmember Koehler.

5. COUNCIL MEMBER MEETING REPORTS

Councilmember Moss reported attendance at a meeting with Nancy Kress; the Police Chief's Advisory Committee meeting; the Valley Transit Work Session; a meeting with Downtown merchants; the agenda setting meeting; the Finance Committee meeting; and the Work Session.

Councilmember Huie reported attendance at a Jim Bock radio interview; the Vietnam Veterans remembrance; and the Work Session.

Councilmember Bahena reported attendance at the Work Session.

Councilmember Nakonieczny reported attendance at the Valley Transit Work Session and the Council Work Session.

Councilmember Clubb reported he has been appointed as a Common Roots Housing Trust Board Member; and attended the Finance Committee meeting; the Metropolitan Planning Organization meeting; and the Work Session.

Councilmember Koehler reported attendance at a meeting with Julia Leavitt of the Sherwood Trust; the Valley Transit Work Session; the Pacific Power community representative replacing Bill Clemens; the First Story pilot home program; a meeting with Nancy Kress; and the Work Session.

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Mayor Scribner reported attendance at a meeting with Parks & Recreation Director Coleman; a meeting with the director of the Blue Mountain Community Foundation; a meeting with Downtown merchants; the Water Management Partnership Board meeting; the Arts Commission meeting; the Finance Committee meeting; the agenda setting meeting; the birthday recognition of 101-year-old Edward Brown; the First Story pilot home program; the Work Session; the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee meeting; and the Library Board meeting.

6. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

Council asked for the public's patience as street construction projects begin to get under way.

Councilmember Bahena reported she will not be running for re-election this year.

Staff was asked to look at the proposed population threshold by the Federal government and impacts on programs.

Council suggested it may be time to look at compensation paid for serving on the City Council.

Type 2 short term rentals and whether this is a vested right after the property sells.

Staff is working on compiling a preliminary list of projects for the America Recovery Act funding from the Federal government to consider after the guidelines have been provided.

Staff has been in contact with our Federal representatives regarding the proposed population threshold rule change by the Federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) that may negatively impact the Metropolitan Planning Organization.

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:59 p.m.