

**WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**July 28, 2021**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Scribner called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Councilmembers Riley Clubb, Myron Huie, Ted Koehler, Steve Moss, Susan Nakonieczny, and Mayor Tom Scribner.

Absent: Councilmember Yazmin Bahena.

City staff in attendance: Deputy City Manager Elizabeth Chamberlain, City Attorney Tim Donaldson, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Development Services Director Preston Frederickson, Finance Director Jean Teasdale, Communications Manager Brenden Koch, Utilities Engineer Frank Nicholson, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**3. PRESENTATIONS**

Mayor Scribner recognized Drake Scott, recipient of the Anderson-Perry & Associates/City of Walla Walla scholastic achievement scholarship.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Sharon Schiller expressed concerns with the effect of the pandemic on the democratic processes.

**5. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- A. Acceptance of resignation of Kent Huxel from the Planning Commission.
- B. Resolution No. 2021-103 awarding the bid for the Oak Street pedestrian improvement project to Nelson Construction in the amount of \$58,864.67.

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- C. Resolution No. 2021-104 sets a public hearing date of August 25, 2021, to consider the vacation of undeveloped alley right-of-way between North 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue and North 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue and lying north of West Moore Street and south of West Rees Avenue.
  
- D. Resolution No. 2021-105 awarding the bid for the 2021 Lowden and 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue paving project to ESF Solutions in the amount of \$87,698.
  
- E. Resolution No. 2021-106 awarding the bid for the Wilbur Bridge Scour Repair project to Harry Johnson Plumbing and Excavation, Inc. in the amount of \$267,790.75.
  
- F. Ordinance No. 2021-21 amending the 2021-2022 biennial budget to move the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds from the general fund to the construction fund for the capital improvement projects previously approved by Council; and  
  
Ordinance No. 2021-22 establishing new capital projects and amending the capital improvement project budget.
  
- G. Approval of minutes of the regular meeting held June 23, 2021.
  
- H. Approval of minutes of the special meeting held June 29, 2021.
  
- I. Approval of minutes of the Work Session held July 12, 2021.
  
- J. Approval of minutes of the regular meeting held July 14, 2021.

Mayor Scribner invited public input. No one in the audience chose to address the City Council on any of these items.

Staff provided reports on Items B, D, and E. There was discussion on the current bidding climate and bids exceeding the engineer's estimates.

**Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Consent Agenda Items A through J. Councilmember Clubb seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

6. ACTIVE AGENDA

A. Resolution No. 2021-107 adopting a redesign of the City flag.

Staff described the public process used to curate a redesign of the City flag, the artists depictions of the designs, and the five basic principles of good flag design.

Mayor Scribner invited public input.

Douglas Carlsen, Arts Commission member, commented on the Commission's involvement in the design process and consideration of the uniqueness of the designs. The Arts Commission is recommending the "softer" image for the City's flag.

Sharon Schiller, Walla Walla, expressed her preference for the design receiving the highest number of public votes.

Councilmembers expressed their individual opinions on the designs versus keeping the original City flag.

**Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2021-107 with the design recommended by the Arts Commission. Councilmember Koehler seconded the motion. The motion carried with 5 yes votes and 1 no vote by Councilmember Huie.**

**Councilmember Nakonieczny moved to preserve and display the first City flag. Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

B. Resolution No. 2021-108 authorizing the adjustment of the boundary of the City of Walla Walla limits to include property at Nelson Irrigation as part of a proposed property boundary line adjustment.

Staff explained the process for a boundary line adjustment and the request by Nelson Irrigation to move a boundary line to construct a new warehouse. This request will also move the boundary line of the City limits.

Mayor Scribner invited public input. No one in the audience chose to address the City Council.

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There was discussion on the process, why the adjustment is necessary, and reasons a portion of the Nelson Irrigation property has been excluded from the City limits. After the City approves this adjustment, the County must also agree.

**Councilmember Nakonieczny moved to adopt Resolution No. 2021-108. Councilmember Huie seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

- C. Resolution No. 2021-109 authorizing the City Manager to award the bid for the Citywide Pedestrian Safety project if the amount does not exceed \$413,270.

Staff reported that bids for this project will be opened on July 29. This resolution will allow the City Manager to award the bid if the bids do not exceed \$413,270. If the bids exceed this amount, the project will be brought back to Council for either rejection or approval. The project is funded by a pedestrian safety grant and requires approval by the Washington State Department of Transportation. This action will speed up the project timeline by approximately three weeks.

Mayor Scribner invited public input. No one in the audience chose to address the City Council on this issue.

There was discussion on sequencing the pedestrian improvements on Poplar to coincide with the Poplar Street corridor project; project impact if the bids are over the authorized amount; and benefits of improved pedestrian safety.

**Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2021-109. Councilmember Nakonieczny seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

- D. Resolution No. 2021-110 authorizing a professional services contract with JUB Engineers for the 2022 Wastewater System Improvements in an amount not to exceed \$966,100.

Staff reported this first phase of the Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrades are fifteen different projects bundled into one design contract. These projects, along with an updated sewer plan, will come back to City Council for approval.

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Mayor Scribner invited public input. No one chose to address the City Council on this issue.

There was discussion on the qualifications of JUB Engineers to perform this work; federal funding for these projects is unlikely but an application has been submitted for a public works trust fund loan; the duration of the projects; construction costs are estimated at almost \$6 million, with design and construction costs combined estimated at \$6.8 million. The design and construction management costs are within industry standards.

**Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2021-110. Councilmember Huie seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

- E. Resolution No. 2021-111 appointing members to the Transportation Benefit District local voter's pamphlet statement for and against committees.

Staff reported that the City Council had removed the provisions for appointing members to committees to write "for" and "against" statements from Resolution 2021-102 adopted July 14 to allow staff time to seek volunteers. Eight residents indicated their willingness to help write a statement in support, but no volunteers came forward to write a statement in opposition. Resolution No. 2021-111 appoints John Gahbauer, Joe Fondahn, and Joy Bader to the "for" committee and asks the County Auditor's office to make appointments to the "against" committee since the City could not locate a volunteer.

Mayor Scribner invited public input. No one chose to address the City Council on this issue.

Council expressed their appreciation for residents willing to step forward and help.

**Councilmember Clubb moved to adopt Resolution No. 2021-111. Councilmember Koehler seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

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- F. Approval of the June 2021 accounts payable register containing check numbers 14427 through 14627, 14629 through 14672, 14674 through 14820, and 204 through 224 totaling \$4,318,563.39.

Mayor Scribner invited public input. No one chose to address the City Council on this issue.

**Councilmember Moss moved to approve the June 2021 accounts payable register containing check numbers 14427 through 14627, 14629 through 14672, 14674 through 14820, and 204 through 224 totaling \$4,318,563.39 except for the checks to the Blue Mountain Action Council. Councilmember Koehler seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 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 5 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 1 abstention by Councilmember Koehler.**

**7. COUNCIL MEMBER MEETING REPORTS**

Councilmember Moss reported attendance at the Valley Transit Board meeting; a meeting with a community group regarding homelessness issues; a meeting with City staff regarding COVID-19 vaccines; the agenda setting meeting; a meeting with the community paramedic; the Work Session; the Port of Walla Walla Economic Development Advisory Committee meeting; and the Chief's Advisory Committee meeting.

Councilmember Huie reported attendance at a lunch with City Manager Shawa; an interview on KUJ radio; the neighborhood block party at Chase and 5<sup>th</sup> Street; the Work Session; and a Committee on Committees meeting.

Councilmember Nakonieczny reported attendance at the Valley Transit Board meeting; the Downtown Walla Walla Foundation Board meeting; the Work Session; the Port of Walla Walla Economic Development Advisory Committee meeting; and the Committee on Committees meeting.

Councilmember Clubb reported attendance at the Blue Mountain Action Council executive officer search committee meeting; the Fire Pension Board meeting; the Visit Walla Walla Board meeting; the entrance

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conference with representatives of the State Auditor's office; a meeting with a local technology company; the Work Session; and the Blue Mountain Action Council executive officer interview panel.

Councilmember Koehler reported attendance at the Valley Transit Board meeting; the Emergency Management Board meeting; the Water & Wastewater Advisory Committee meeting; the Work Session; a Community Council meeting on supportive housing; and the City's COVID-19 update video.

Mayor Scribner reported attendance at the Pioneer Park wedding fountain re-dedication; the Fire Pension Board meeting; threw an onion as the first pitch at the Walla Walla Sweets game; a meeting with labor counsel regarding the COVID-19 vaccine; the agenda setting meeting; a meeting with Scott Daggett of W3 Entertainment; the Work Session; and a telephone conference with the City Attorney.

**8. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS**

Council thanked all the citizen volunteers serving on boards, commissions, and committees.

**Councilmember Nakonieczny moved to make the following appointments:**

- **Frank Alvarez to the Housing Authority Board for a term expiring June 30, 2026; and**
- **William Plucker to the Historic Preservation Commission for a term expiring June 30, 2024.**

**Councilmember Clubb seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

Mayor Scribner reported that citizens currently serving on a City board, commission, or committee are considered an official of the City so may not also serve on the Salary Commission. With the approval of Council, the following will be appointed to the Salary Commission:

- Sherrie Kamara
- Lynn Knapp
- Beth Kreger
- Dick Swenson
- Rogers Miles

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A Work Session will be scheduled with the Salary Commission and the Clerk will be advised of the staggered terms of each member.

**Councilmember Moss moved to appoint the members of the Salary Commission as outlined. Councilmember Koehler seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

There was discussion on the increasing COVID-19 cases, measures that might be taken to combat this rise in cases, importance of protecting our neighbors, resuming production of the City's video series, and brainstorming ways to incentivize residents to get vaccinated.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

**There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.**