

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 25, 2021

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Scribner called the 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, Fleet Services Manager Matt Edwards, Senior Planner Jon Maland, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Scribner read and presented the proclamation declaring September 18, 2021, as "Adam West Day" in Walla Walla.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bill Szuch, Walla Walla, felt the burden of the ambulance utility fee was mainly on single-family residences and requested the ordinance be amended to share the cost more equitably for the service.

Thomas Mair, Walla Walla, expressed concerns with the draft urban forest management plan and commented on recent legislation to help communities improve their urban forest.

Gayle Budorff, Walla Walla, felt the urban forest management plan adopted in 2000 was still a good plan compared to the new draft.

Heather Johnson, Walla Walla, commented on the COVID-19 vaccine mandate enacted by Governor Inslee and asked the City Council to take a stance to object to this mandate.

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There were comments by Council in response to the opinions expressed by the public speakers.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Staff introduced the Consent Agenda Items A through D as follows:

- A. Accepts resignation of Dr. Pete Van Dyke from the Civil Service Commission.
- B. Resolution No. 2021-115 adopting the 2021 Well Master Plan.
- C. Resolution No. 2021-116 ratifying declaration of emergency for water shop asbestos removal.
- D. Approval of minutes of the regular meeting held August 11, 2021.

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

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

6. ACTIVE AGENDA

- A. Resolution No. 2021-117 accepting a 2021 National Highway System (NHS) Asset Management grant for pavement preservation on Rose Street in the amount of \$924,000.

Staff reported this action would accept a \$924,000 grant for the pavement preservation on Rose Street from Myra Road to Isaacs Avenue. The City would not be eligible for this grant without having a pavement management program. As part of this pavement preservation grant, Rose Street would be reconfigured from 4-lanes to 3-lanes. This reconfiguration will allow for a center turn lane and bicycle lanes making the roadway safer for vehicles, cyclists, and pedestrians.

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

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Council commended staff for their success in obtaining grant funds. There was discussion on the reconfiguration of the roadway. The previously proposed traffic signal at 13th Avenue and Rose Street became prohibitively expensive due to the railroad tracks.

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2021-117. Councilmember Nakonieczny seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- B. Resolution No. 2021-118 accepts a 2021 National Highway System (NHS) Asset Management Grant for Second Avenue in the amount of \$638,000.

Staff reported this grant will resurface 2nd Avenue from Birch to Howard with a micro-surfacing treatment which is a new application for the City for pavement preservation.

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

There was brief discussion on how this micro-surfacing treatment is applied. Council commended staff for obtaining this grant.

Councilmember Koehler moved to adopt Resolution No. 2021-118. Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- C. Public hearing pertaining to the petition to vacate the undeveloped alley right-of-way between North 9th Avenue and North 10th Avenue and lying north of West Moore Street and south of West Rees Avenue.

Staff reviewed the boundary of the right-of-way proposed for vacation subject to reserving utility easements.

Mayor Scribner declared the public hearing open. There being no public testimony, the hearing was closed.

Councilmember Moss moved to approve the petition to vacate the undeveloped alley right-of-way between North 9th Avenue and North 10th Avenue and lying north of West Moore Street and south of West Rees

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Avenue subject to the applicant obtaining an appraisal and paying required fees. Councilmember Huie seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- D. Resolution No. 2021-119 awarding the bid for the Citywide Pedestrian Safety Treatments project to ESF Development, LLC in the amount of \$429,997.

Staff reported the bid was approximately \$17,000 over the amount previously authorized by the City Council. The Washington State Department of Transportation has authorized additional funding to cover the additional project costs.

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

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2021-119. Councilmember Huie seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- E. Resolution No. 2021-120 authorizing the replacement and purchase of eighteen new fleet vehicles and equipment using purchasing agreements with Washington State, Sourcewell, and HGACBuy cooperative purchasing organizations, along with local vendors and suppliers if they can match the contract pricing, not to exceed a total purchasing cost of \$2,500,000.

Staff reviewed the primary objectives of determining the optimal replacement window based on vehicle maintenance and cost. Vehicle and equipment replacements were deferred in 2020 and now with supply shortages, obtaining replacements will be challenging. Staff is seeking authorization for these budgeted and planned replacements in a total amount not to exceed \$2,500,000.

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

There was extensive discussion on:

- Trade in values for existing vehicles and equipment.
- Continuing to delay vehicle replacements and impact on employees' ability to perform their duties.

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- Process and review of vehicle replacement program.
- Delaying replacement of vehicles scheduled to be replaced during 2020 and 2021 may increase the City's costs.

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2021-120. Councilmember Clubb seconded the motion. The motion carried with 6 yes votes and 1 no vote by Mayor Scribner.

- F. Approval of minutes of the August 9, 2021, Work Session and August 9, 2021, special meeting.

Councilmember Moss moved to approve the minutes of the August 9, 2021, Work Session and August 9, 2021, special meeting. Councilmember Bahena seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 1 abstention by Councilmember Clubb.

- G. Approval of the July 2021 accounts payable register containing check numbers 14821 through 14870, 14872 through 14951, 14953 through 15026, 15028 through 15166, and 225 through 237 totaling \$3,903,324.22.

Councilmember Moss moved to approve the July 2021 accounts payable register containing check numbers 14821 through 14870, 14872 through 14951, 14953 through 15026, 15028 through 15166, and 225 through 237 totaling \$3,903,324.22 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 Bahena seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 1 abstention by Councilmember Koehler.

7. COUNCIL MEMBER MEETING REPORTS

Councilmember Moss reported attendance at a meeting with representatives of the American Civil Liberties Union regarding police body cameras; a meeting regarding the electric revolution event; a meeting of the Chief's Advisory Committee; the agenda setting meeting; the Valley Transit Board meeting; the Finance Committee meeting; the

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Work Session; and a meeting of the Leadership Team regarding strategic planning.

Councilmember Huie reported attendance at the Work Session and the Committee on Committees meeting.

Councilmember Bahena reported attendance at a meeting with Public Works Director Bealey; a walkabout with City Manager Shawa; the Downtown Walla Walla Foundation Board meeting; a meeting with Mayor Scribner; the Work Session; and the Committee on Committees meeting.

Councilmember Nakonieczny reported attendance at the Downtown Walla Walla Foundation Board meeting; the Good Roads Committee meeting; the Valley Transit Board meeting; the Work Session; and the Committee on Committees meeting.

Councilmember Clubb reported attendance at the Blue Mountain Action Council Chief Executive Officer search committee meeting; the Blue Mountain Action Council Board meeting; the retirement celebration for Blue Mountain Action Council Executive Officer Kathy Covey; the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Ecosystem meeting; the exit conference with representatives of the State Auditor's Office; the Finance Committee meeting; and the Work Session.

Councilmember Koehler reported attendance at the Water & Wastewater Advisory Committee meeting; the Valley Transit Audit meeting; the Valley Transit Board meeting; the Valley Transit Board Executive Session; the exit conference with representatives of the State Auditor's Office; and the Work Session.

Mayor Scribner reported attendance at the Jim Bock Radio Show interview; several luncheon meetings with constituents; a meeting regarding the electric revolution event; a meeting with Councilmember Bahena; a meeting with Arborist Kyle Clemens; the Finance Committee meeting; the Work Session; and a meeting of the Leadership Team regarding strategic planning.

8. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Nakonieczny moved to appoint the following to the Civil Service Commission:

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- **Scott Rasley for a term expiring June 30, 2022;**
- **Brad Morris for a term expiring June 30, 2023; and**
- **Sandy Garcia for a term expiring June 30, 2024.**

Councilmember Huie seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

There were comments by Council on the resignation of Andrea Weckmueller-Behringer as Executive Director of the Metropolitan Planning Organization; and the inclusion of more tree planting in the urban forestry management plan. Staff concurred with the need to improve the urban canopy, especially in some areas of the City without many trees.

Staff reported the 40th Annual Civil Service Conference will be held September 28 through September 30; and there will be two bands playing downtown on Saturday.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.