

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 29, 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. (Councilmember Moss joined the meeting at 6:35 p.m.)

Absent: None.

City staff in attendance: City Manager Nabel Shawa, Assistant City Attorney June Riley, Deputy City Manager Elizabeth Chamberlain, Fire Chief Bob Yancey, Deputy Fire Chief Eric Wood, Human Resources Director Pam Taylor, Finance Director Jean Teasdale, Parks & Recreation Director Andy Coleman, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

2. PRESENTATIONS

- A. Mayor Scribner read a proclamation declaring October 2021 as "Resilience Month". Ursula Volwiler commented on the Community Resilience Initiatives.
- B. Mayor Scribner read a proclamation declaring September 15 to October 15, 2021, as "National Hispanic Heritage Month" and outlined the contributions of community member Maria Remington.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Carol Duvall, spoke in opposition to COVID-19 vaccines.

Brian Duvall, commented on a Supreme Court decision allowing for mandatory smallpox vaccinations and how the recent COVID-19 pandemic is different since not at the same risk level.

Noah Leavitt thanked the City Council for recognizing the contributions of people of Hispanic heritage and cultural diversity.

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Heather Johnson felt it was impossible to accommodate those who claim religious or medical exemption to a vaccine mandate and that weekly testing will be a burden to employers.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Resolution No. 2021-128 adopting the City of Walla Walla's statement of its Vision, Mission, and Values.
- B. Resolution No. 2021-125 authorizing the purchase of two new Zoll AutoPulse automated CPR machines for the two front line advanced life support ambulances in the amount of \$39,541.13.
- C. Resolution No. 2021-126 authorizing the purchase of water meters and appurtenances from Ferguson Enterprises in the amount of \$37,674.23.
- D. Ordinance 2021-27 amending the 2021-2022 biennium maintenance and operations budget; and Ordinance 2021-28 establishing new projects and amending the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) budget.
- E. Approval of minutes of the regular meeting held September 8, 2021.

Staff provided a brief report on Item D.

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

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

5. ACTIVE AGENDA

- A. Resolution No. 2021-127 approving a consultant contract with PBS Engineering & Environmental, Inc. in the amount of \$166,450 for design of 1st Avenue Plaza.

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Staff reviewed the proposed contract in response to the community's desire to have a permanent plaza on 1st Avenue. Staff will do the permitting work which will save money on the project. This project will be funded with Federal ARPA monies. The City will also work with the Blue Zones project to determine what the community wants as part of this plaza.

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

There was discussion on the scope of the contract, time frame for the work, and an email from Brian Jones regarding lack of contact by the City to business owners. Staff responded that one property owner is not happy with the proposal, but the remaining owners and businesses are supportive.

**Councilmember Clubb moved to adopt Resolution No. 2021-127.
Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

- B. Resolution No. 2021-129 authorizing a contract with Allplay Systems for the Vista Terrace playground improvement project in the amount of \$108,375.36.

Staff reviewed the project at Vista Terrace park. The Sunrise Rotary club has raised over \$100,000 for the project but with rising costs is a little short. Staff is proposing to take over the project and use \$26,500 of real estate excise tax funds.

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

There were comments on the partnership with Rotary and the improved surface of the playground material over wood chips.

**Councilmember Koehler moved to adopt Resolution No. 2021-129.
Councilmember Huie seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

- C. COVID-19 discussion:
 - 1. Update by Deputy City Manager Chamberlain

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Deputy City Manager Chamberlain provided an overview of the current vaccination rates and the Governor's proclamation regarding mandatory vaccinations that affects fire employees and contracts the City has for services at State facilities. The City is waiting on OSHA to promulgate regulations for the Federal executive order requiring employers of more than 100 employees to mandate COVID-19 vaccinations. This is uncharted territory, and the City is navigating the changes appropriately and thoughtfully.

Mayor Scribner invited public input.

The following spoke in opposition to mandatory COVID-19 vaccinations:

- Heather Johnson.
- Jeremy Maiuri
- Corey Roska.
- Carol Duvall.
- Jason Utt.
- Angela Phillips.
- Keltan Fulmer.
- Ben Sauve.

Brian Dohe felt that some of the public comments were irrational and not factual.

Darcy Dauble expressed amazement at the amount of misinformation presented by residents to the City Council.

2. Council meeting protocols.

Mayor Scribner asked the Council whether they wanted to meet in person or by Zoom considering the recent meeting disruption by people refusing to wear a mask as required by the Governor and City.

After discussion, a majority of Council determined to continue to meet virtually via Zoom for the month of October.

D. Approval of minutes of the Work Session held September 7, 2021.

Councilmember Moss moved to approve the minutes of the Work Session held September 7, 2021. Councilmember Bahena seconded the motion.

The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 1 abstention by Councilmember Huie.

6. COUNCIL MEMBER MEETING REPORTS

Councilmember Moss reported attendance at the Finance Committee meeting; the Parks, Recreation & Urban Forestry Advisory Committee meeting; the ad hoc housing committee meeting; the agenda setting meeting; the Block party at Washington Park; the Valley Transit Board meeting; a meeting with the new director of the Blue Mountain Community Foundation; the Work Session; the Chief's Advisory Committee meeting; the Civil Service Commission conference; the special meeting; and a meeting with staff and the Mayor.

Councilmember Huie reported attendance at the September 11 remembrance at the Eagles; the Fort Walla Walla Museum Board meeting; the Work Session; and the special meeting.

Councilmember Bahena reported attendance at the Historic Preservation Commission meeting; the Downtown Walla Walla Foundation Board meeting; the Work Session; and the special meeting.

Councilmember Nakonieczny reported attendance at the Planning Commission meeting; the Block Party at Washington Park; the Valley Transit Board meeting; the Work Session; the Downtown Walla Walla Foundation Board meeting; the Civil Service Commission conference; and the special meeting.

Councilmember Clubb reported attendance at the Blue Mountain Action Council Executive Session; the ad hoc affordable housing committee meeting; the Visit Walla Walla Board meeting; the Blue Mountain Action Council Board meeting; the Metropolitan Planning Organization Special Board meeting; the Work Session; and the special meeting.

Councilmember Koehler reported attendance at the ad hoc affordable housing committee meeting; the Water & Wastewater Advisory Committee meeting; a Sherwood Trust training; the Sustainability Committee meeting; the Valley Transit Board meeting; the Valley Transit Executive Session; the Work Session; and the special meeting.

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Mayor Scribner reported attendance at a meeting with Councilmember Moss, Deputy City Manager Chamberlain, and Public Works Director Bealey; the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee meeting; the agenda setting meeting; a lunch meeting with a constituent; a lunch meeting with Deputy City Manager Chamberlain; the Work Session; the Executive Session; and a meeting with Councilmember Moss regarding trespassing and City Council meetings.

7. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

Council thanked staff for the recent City newsletter regarding the roundabout and expressed concerns with speeding on State Route 125.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.