

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 13, 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, Fire Chief Bob Yancey, Deputy Fire Chief John Knowles, Police Chief Scott Bieber, Human Resources Director Pam Taylor, Arborist Kyle Clemens, Utilities Engineer Frank Nicholson, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Scribner reported that no comments would be allowed related to the Cottonwood Road development agreement or annexation. All correspondence should only be sent to the Development Services Department to preserve the quasi-judicial process.

R.L. McFarland asked for clarification on the process for the Cottonwood Road development agreement and annexation. Staff reported that the development agreement, which is a quasi-judicial issue, will be considered prior to the proposed annexation. They may be considered at the same meeting but that has not yet been determined.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Accepts resignation of Tom Holt from the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee effective December 31, 2021.
- B. Resolution No. 2021-130 authorizing a contract with Pacific Power to install new streetlights on Howard Street and Reser Road adjacent to Prospect Point Elementary School in the amount of \$24,290.

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- C. Resolution No. 2021-131 allowing for angled parking on Palouse Street adjacent to 303 E. Birch Street.
- D. Resolution No. 2021-132 authorizing a professional services contract with MacKay Sposito for design of the Senior Center Parking lot in the amount of \$46,885.02.
- E. Approves the minutes of the Work Session held September 20, 2021, and the special meeting held September 28, 2021.

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

There were brief reports on Items B and D.

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. 2021-133 adopting the updated Urban Forestry Management plan.

Staff reviewed the tree inventory, budgets for maintenance and tree planting, and components of the new plan.

Mayor Scribner invited public input.

The following expressed concerns with the new plan:

- Gayle Budorff
- Albert Sutlick
- Thomas Mair
- Doug Morton
- R.L. McFarland

Bill Erickson commented on the positive aspects of the plan.

There was discussion on:

- Undergrounding of utilities in new subdivisions.
- Size of trees recommended for planting strips.
- Planting strip widths.
- Funding for the plan will be proposed in the 2023-2024 budget.

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- Recognition of citizen comments for development of a tree planting budget.
- The plan has been available as a part of the agenda packet for this Council meeting.

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2021-133. Councilmember Huie seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- B. Ordinance 2021-29 amending Municipal Code Chapter 12.49 relating to urban forestry practices.

Staff outlined the proposed amendments.

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

There was discussion on eliminating the “private lane” designation since there are no planting strips, requiring a diversity of different types of trees in developments, and staff support of trees within the public right-of-way.

Councilmember Clubb moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2021-29. Councilmember Koehler seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- C. Resolution No. 2021-134 awarding the bid for the Fire Drill Tower project to ESF Solutions in the amount of \$894,734.38.

Staff described the funding partnership with Walla Walla County Fire District #4 and City of College Place. The cost will be split three ways, with the initial construction costs paid by Walla Walla County Fire District #4 and the cities of Walla Walla and College Place paying back this investment over a five-year period.

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

There was brief discussion on the scope of the project including refurbishing the existing drill tower for other training activities. Council thanked the other partners in the project.

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**Councilmember Koehler moved to adopt Resolution No. 2021-134.
Councilmember Huie seconded the motion. The motion unanimously
carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

- D. Resolution No. 2021-135 authorizing the acceptance of a grant for the Well 5 rehabilitation and aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) feasibility study in the amount of \$584,564.00.

Staff explained this grant is unique in that it supports aquifer storage and increased water flows in Mill Creek. The plan is to use the well to pump water with the Washington Water Trust paying the electricity costs in exchange for the City leaving water in Mill Creek during low flow times.

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

There was discussion on the benefits of recharging the aquifer and leaving water in Mill Creek for fish passage.

**Councilmember Clubb moved to adopt Resolution No. 2021-135.
Councilmember Huie seconded the motion. The motion unanimously
carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

- E. Resolution No. 2021-136 approving amendment #2 with Northwest Groundwater Services in the amount of \$333,422 for the Well 5 Rehabilitation and ASR Feasibility Study.

Staff reviewed the purpose and scope of the contract.

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

**Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2021-136.
Councilmember Nakonieczny seconded the motion. The motion
unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

- F. Resolution No. 2021-137 adopting the General Sewer Plan, Addendum No. 1.

Staff reviewed the proposed amendments to address the improvements needed at the wastewater treatment plant to remain in compliance with its wastewater permits. These amendments were approved by the Department of Ecology in July 2021.

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

There was discussion on the improvements needed to keep the wastewater treatment plant in compliance and the cost of these improvements. These costs will be included in the financial cost of service study.

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2021-137. Councilmember Koehler seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

G. Resolution No. 2021-138 authorizing the purchase of a police crisis negotiation throw phone from 836 Technologies for \$25,599.

Staff outlined the reasons why a new throw phone is necessary due to the existing equipment that is no longer functional and the recent legislation requiring police to use de-escalation tactics and techniques.

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

Funding for this purchase will either be from funds allocated by the State legislature for the unfunded mandates related to police reform or from the City's general fund.

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2021-138. Councilmember Huie seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

6. COUNCIL MEMBER MEETING REPORTS

Councilmember Moss reported attendance at the agenda setting meeting; the Finance Committee meeting; the Work Session; the Community Development Block Grant Advisory Committee meeting; and the ad hoc affordable housing committee meeting.

Councilmember Huie reported attendance at the Good Roads Committee meeting; the tree dedications for past Councilmembers Jerry Cummins and Barbara Clark; the Work Session; the Fort Walla Walla Museum Board meeting; and a meeting with the City's lobbyist.

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Councilmember Bahena reported attendance at the Work Session.

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

Councilmember Clubb reported attendance at two Finance Committee meetings; the Jim Bock radio show; the First Street Plaza meeting with stakeholders; the Metropolitan Planning Organization Board meeting; a lunch meeting with the interim director of the Metropolitan Planning Organization; the Work Session; and the LEOFF 1 Disability Board meeting.

Councilmember Koehler reported attendance at the dedication of the First Story home; the Water & Wastewater Advisory Committee; the Work Session; and the ad hoc affordable housing committee meeting.

Mayor Scribner reported attendance at a meeting with Public Works Director Bealey; the virtual candidate's forum; a meeting with Governor Inslee at the sleep center; the agenda setting meeting; the Finance Committee meeting; the tree dedication for past Councilmember Jerry Cummins; the Work Session; the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee meeting; the LEOFF 1 Disability Board meeting; a lunch meeting with City Attorney Donaldson; and the Mill Creek Coalition meeting.

7. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

Council suggested considering additional tree dedications for historical people of significance to Walla Walla.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Scribner announced the City Council will be recessing to Executive Session to discuss the strategy or position to be taken by the City Council in the course of collective bargaining, professional negotiations, or grievance or mediation proceedings and to review proposals made in negotiations pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(b); to discuss litigation and potential litigation, in which the City is a party or is likely to become a party, with legal counsel representing the City pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i); and to consider the minimum price at which real estate will be offered for sale or lease pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(c).

The Executive Session will last no more than two hours and no further business will come before the City Council in open session. The meeting was recessed at 9:02 p.m.

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9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:23 p.m.