

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 3, 2021

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

Present: Councilmembers Yazmin Bahena, Riley Clubb, Ted Koehler, Steve Moss, Susan Nakonieczny, and Mayor Tom Scribner. (Councilmember Clubb arrived at 6:35 p.m.)

Absent: Councilmember Myron Huie. Mayor Scribner reported Mr. Huie's absence is excused due to a death in his family.

City staff in attendance: City Attorney Tim Donaldson, Deputy City Manager Elizabeth Chamberlain, Finance Director Jean Teasdale, Parks & Recreation Director Andy Coleman, Engineer Doug Eaton, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PRESENTATIONS

Salary Commission Chair Rogers Miles presented the Salary Commission's report to raise the compensation paid to the City Council to \$1,000 per month and the Mayor's compensation to \$1,500 per month and filed the report with the City Clerk. Council thanked the Salary Commission for their work. There were comments on the implementation of this increase and the referendum process.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No one chose to address the City Council at this time.

5. ACTIVE AGENDA

A. Public hearing on property tax levies for 2022:

1. Resolution No. 2021-141 authorizes property tax increases in 2022 for debt service on voter-approved bonds (Fire Station, Police Station, and Memorial Pool).

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2. Resolution No. 2021-142 authorizing a regular property tax increase of one percent and banks the increase.
3. Ordinance No. 2021-31 levying the amount necessary for voter-approved fire station bonds.
4. Ordinance No. 2021-32 levying the amount necessary for voter-approved police station bonds.
5. Ordinance No. 2021-33 levying the amount necessary for voter-approved Memorial Pool bonds.
6. Ordinance No. 2021-34 levying the regular 2022 ad valorem property taxes and banks amount allowed by law.

Staff reviewed the process of setting the levy amount for property taxes, including the general property tax levy and the voter-approved bond taxes. Staff also reviewed the other revenue sources of the City. This property tax levy amount is spread over all the properties within the City.

Mayor Scribner declared the public hearing open at 6:55 p.m. There being no public testimony, the hearing was closed.

There were comments and discussion on the levy amount including correcting the one percent that was levied by the County Assessor in 2021 in error.

**Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2021-141.
Councilmember Clubb seconded the motion. The motion carried with 5 yes votes and 1 no vote by Councilmember Nakonieczny.**

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Councilmember Clubb seconded the motion. The motion carried with 5 yes votes and 1 no vote by Councilmember Nakonieczny.**

**Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2021-31.
Councilmember Clubb seconded the motion. The motion carried with 5 yes votes and 1 no vote by Councilmember Nakonieczny.**

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**Councilmember Koehler moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2021-32.
Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The motion carried with 5 yes votes and 1 no vote by Councilmember Nakonieczny.**

**Councilmember Koehler moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2021-33.
Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The motion carried with 5 yes votes and 1 no vote by Councilmember Nakonieczny.**

**Councilmember Koehler moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2021-34.
Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The motion carried with 5 yes votes and 1 no vote by Councilmember Nakonieczny.**

- B. Resolution No. 2021-143 adopts the Title VI Implementation Plan for years 2022-2027.

Staff reviewed the changes from the existing three-year implementation plan. The major change is making it a six-year plan and changing some of the demographic information. The other minor change is using staff titles rather than names.

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

At the request of Council, staff provided a brief overview of the of the Community Development Block Grant program.

**Councilmember Nakonieczny moved to adopt Resolution No. 2021-143.
Councilmember Clubb seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

- C. Resolution No. 2021-144 authorizing right-of-way offers to exceed \$20,000 for acquisitions on the City's Alder/Poplar project (Merriam to Colville).

Staff reported there are currently four property owners the City's agents are negotiating with for right-of-way acquisition for the Alder/Poplar project. This authorization is being sought to move the process forward to get the project out to bid.

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There was discussion on the negotiation process and safeguards in place including that acquisitions must still come within the Council-approved budget for the project.

Councilmember Koehler moved to adopt Resolution No. 2021-144. Councilmember Clubb seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

6. COUNCIL MEMBER MEETING REPORTS

Councilmember Moss reported attendance at the Work Session.

Councilmember Bahena reported attendance at the Work Session.

Councilmember Nakonieczny reported attendance at the Work Session and the Planning Commission meeting.

Councilmember Clubb reported attendance at the Jim Bock radio show; the Work Session; the Walla Walla Wine Alliance meeting; the Visit Walla Walla Board meeting; a meeting of the First Avenue plaza stakeholders; and the Metropolitan Planning Organization Board meeting.

Councilmember Koehler reported attendance at the Water & Wastewater Advisory Committee meeting and the Work Session.

Mayor Scribner reported attendance at the Work Session; a meeting with Parks & Recreation Director Coleman; and the Arts Commission meeting.

7. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

Parks & Recreation Director Coleman reported on the formation of a transition team for the transfer of the Veterans Memorial Golf Course to the new operators. It is recommended this be an ad hoc committee with a limited six-month duration and the following five members: Councilmember Susan Nakonieczny; Parks, Recreation & Urban Forestry Advisory Board member David Reinholz; and golfers Dick Cook, Bill Fleenor, and Skip Molitor. Committee reports will be provided at three months and at six months. There will be a reception for Mr. Early and Mr. Repass on November 29 to recognize their work and management of the golf course.

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Councilmember Nakonieczny moved to approve the ad hoc Golf Course transition committee as outlined. Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

Council asked about the status of the Americans with Disabilities Act pedestrian improvements at 2nd Avenue and Morton Street. Staff reported the rapid flashing pedestrian crossing is on backorder and will be installed as soon it is received.

Councilmember Clubb reported he will be out of town on business and will miss the November 17 and December 1 Council meetings. It is technologically feasible, legally allowed, and asked for permission to attend remotely. It was the consensus of the Council to allow Councilmember Clubb to participate remotely.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.