

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2021

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

Present: Councilmembers Yazmin Bahena, Riley Clubb (participating virtually), 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, Human Resources Director Pam Taylor, Police Captain Chris Buttice, Capital Projects Engineer Mike Laughery, CDBG Coordinator Lydia Caudill, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Evan Heisman asked for information on the hiring of a new police chief to replace Chief Bieber when he retires. Staff reported the City has contracted for services from Bob Murray & Associates for a nationwide recruitment.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Resolution No. 2021-145 setting January 26, 2022, as the date to consider a ten percent annexation petition for Narum properties (3080 Cottonwood Road).
- B. Approval of minutes of the Work Session held October 25; the regular meeting held October 27; and the Work Session held November 1.
- C. Resolution No. 2021-146 authorizing the application and acceptance of the Washington State Department of Commerce

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Justice Assistance Grant to fund the creation of a regional drug and gang task force.

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

Staff provided a report and there was discussion on Item C.

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

5. ACTIVE AGENDA

- A. Ordinance No. 2021-35 approving a labor agreement with the International Association of Fire Fighters Local #404 for 2022-2024.

Staff reviewed the main changes in the new three-year agreement and commended the fire members for accomplishing the negotiation of this contract within three sessions and without the involvement of attorneys.

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

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2021-35. Councilmember Nakonieczny seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- B. Public hearing on the Community Development Block Grant 2022 Annual Action Plan draft as required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Staff, in both English and Spanish, reviewed the public process, projects, and proposed 2022 CDBG budget.

Mayor Scribner declared the public hearing open.

Cecelia Mendoza thanked the City for the solar lighting in her alley and asked for the removal of a tree in the parking strip in front of her home causing the sidewalk to buckle, and repair of the sidewalk due to tripping hazards.

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Miguel Colin asked for streetlights in his neighborhood by the freeway and along Wallula Avenue.

Carolina Alvarado thanked the City for their support and solar lighting in her neighborhood and the improved safety this lighting provides.

Oswaldo Contreras, West Maple Street, asked for streetlights in his neighborhood and in his alley.

Delia Gutierrez, Commitment to Community, thanked the City for the work of the Community Development Block Grant program and importance of neighborhood outreach.

Jason Wicklund, Christian Aid Center, commented on the work they do to provide safe shelter for homeless people and asked that the preservation and improvement of shelters be added to the 2022 action plan goals.

The public hearing was closed at 7:25 p.m. No action was taken by Council.

- C. Resolution No. 2021-147 approving the recommendation from the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee for the allocation of the 2022 lodging tax revenue.

Staff reviewed the members and role of the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee; the application process; lodging tax revenues; and the recommendation of the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee.

Councilmember Koehler, Chair of the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee, reported on the use of scoring criteria this year and how this assisted the committee's deliberations.

Mayor Scribner invited public input.

Robert Hansen, Executive Director for Visit Walla Walla and the Walla Walla Wine Alliance, commented that a three-year contract is critical for organizations to operate efficiently and with funding assurances. Mr. Hansen reviewed recent tourism accomplishments and the sharing of resources.

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There was discussion on the need for predictability in funding and whether the Council should commit to multi-year funding without a long-term plan or strategy for the lodging tax revenues.

Mayor Scribner moved to amend Resolution No. 2021-147 to allocate funding for one-year contracts with the City advertising for grant proposals in 2022 after the City Council determines its strategies for use of the revenues. Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The amendment carried with 4 yes votes by Councilmembers Koehler, Moss, Nakonieczny and Mayor Scribner and 3 no votes by Councilmembers Bahena, Clubb and Huie.

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2021-147 as amended. Councilmember Koehler seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- D. Resolution No. 2021-148 authorizing a professional services contract amendment with PBS Engineer & Environmental for design of the Howard and Chestnut Street intersection improvement project in the amount of \$106,540.

Staff explained the scope of this contract for design of a compact roundabout at the Howard and Chestnut Street intersection.

Mayor Scribner invited public input.

RL McFarland expressed concerns with the operation of compact roundabouts during high traffic volume times.

There was discussion on roundabouts and the scope of the design contract.

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2021-148. Councilmember Huie seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- E. Ordinance No. 2021-36 adding Section 1.05.050 to the Municipal Code declaring City holidays.

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Staff reported that City observed holidays have never been included in the Municipal Code. This ordinance will codify the holidays, including Juneteenth (June 19) which was recently designated as a State holiday.

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

There was discussion on the inclusion of Native American Heritage Day (the day after Thanksgiving) and observance of Veterans Day.

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2021-26. Councilmember Bahena seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

F. Approval of minutes of the November 3, 2021, regular meeting.

Councilmember Moss moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held November 3, 2021. Councilmember Bahena seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 1 abstention by Councilmember Huie.

G. Approval of payment of the October 2021 accounts payable register containing check numbers 16056-16155, 16157-16309, 16312-16376, 16378-16413, and 269-282 totaling \$4,767,778.29.

Councilmember Moss moved to approve payment of the October 2021 accounts payable register containing check numbers 16056-16155, 16157-16309, 16312-16376, 16378-16413, and 269-282 totaling \$4,767,778.29 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.

6. COUNCIL MEMBER MEETING REPORTS

Councilmember Moss reported attendance at the Valley Transit Finance Committee meeting; the Valley Transit agenda setting meeting; the City Council agenda setting meeting; and the Work Session.

Councilmember Huie reported attendance at the Work Session.

Councilmember Bahena reported attendance at the Work Session and the Downtown Walla Walla Foundation Board meeting.

Councilmember Nakonieczny reported attendance at the Work Session.

Councilmember Clubb reported attendance at the Finance Committee meeting; the Common Roots Board meeting; and the Work Session.

Councilmember Koehler reported attendance at the Work Session.

Mayor Scribner reported attendance at a meeting with the YMCA Executive Director and President of their board; the Finance Committee meeting; the Jim Bock radio show; the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee meeting; the agenda setting meeting; the Mill Creek Coalition meeting; the Work Session; and a meeting with one of the newly elected Councilmembers.

7. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

There was no unfinished or new business.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Scribner announced the City Council would 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); and 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). The Executive Session will last no more than two hours and no further business will come before Council in open session. The meeting was recessed at 8:30 p.m.

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9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.