

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
December 1, 2021

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

Present: Councilmembers Riley Clubb, Myron Huie, Ted Koehler, Steve Moss, Susan Nakonieczny, and Mayor Tom Scribner.

Absent: Councilmember Yazmin Bahena.

City staff in attendance: City Manager Nabel Shawa, City Attorney Tim Donaldson, Deputy City Manager Elizabeth Chamberlain, Fire Chief Bob Yancey, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Finance Director Jean Teasdale, Human Resources Director Pam Taylor, Library Director Erin Wells, Deputy Fire Chief Johnny Knowles, Police Captain Kevin Braman, Fleet Services Manager Matt Edwards, Accounting Supervisor Liz Moeller, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

Also attending virtually: Chris Gonzales, FCS Group

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

R.L. McFarland suggested sending in the streets crew to do a thorough cleaning of the neighborhood streets around Crescent and Grove Streets due to the negative impacts of the construction yard located there.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Accept resignation of Fred Miller from the Sustainability Committee.
- B. Resolution No. 2021-149 authorizing an agreement with SHKS Architects for architectural design services for the library expansion and renovation project in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.

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- C. Resolution No. 2021-150 authorizing a three-year contract for the purchase of chlorine from OXARC Inc., for \$40,867.50 each year.
- D. Resolution No. 2021-151 declaring items surplus and authorizing their disposal or sale.
- E. Resolution No. 2021-152 authorizing the purchase of a Zoll X-series advanced manual monitor/defibrillator for the community paramedic in the amount of \$37,841.36.
- F. Resolution No. 2021-153 adopts the 2022 State legislative priorities; and
Resolution No. 2021-154 adopts the 2022 Federal legislative priorities.
- G. Ordinance No. 2021-37 modifying the 2021-2022 biennium budget.
- H. Resolution No. 2021-155 authorizing the rental purchasing option of a used 2017 compact crawler boom lift from PAPE Material Handling not to exceed a total purchasing cost of \$107,000.
- I. Approval of minutes of the Work Session held November 15, 2021; and the regular meeting held November 17, 2021.

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

Brief reports were provided on Items B, D, F, G, and H.

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Consent Agenda Items A through I. Councilmember Clubb seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

5. ACTIVE AGENDA

- A. Ordinance No. 2021-38 adopting the six-year capital facilities plan.

Staff reported the adoption of a six-year capital facilities plan is an annual activity tied to the Growth Management Act and reviewed the notable 2022 projects.

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

There were comments on ensuring connectivity on Wellington Avenue for the Cookerly Drive project.

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2021-38. Councilmember Koehler seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- B. Ordinance No. 2021-39 approving revisions to Municipal Code Chapters 13.03, 13.04, and 13.30 pertaining to water and wastewater utilities.

Staff reported these changes are necessary to correspond with the proposed utility rate changes in Ordinance No. 2021-40. The main change is the addition of a high strength user in the wastewater utility to ensure they are paying their fair share. These high strength users are typically beverage companies, and their high strength discharge is requiring upgrades to the wastewater treatment plant.

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

There was discussion on high strength users, the outreach performed by staff to these businesses, and the option of these businesses to pretreat their waste before it goes into the wastewater system.

Councilmember Clubb moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2021-39. Councilmember Huie seconded the motion. The motion carried with 5 yes votes and 1 no vote by Councilmember Koehler.

- C. Ordinance No. 2021-40 setting water, wastewater, and stormwater rates and fees for 2022 through 2027.

Staff reported this ordinance will raise rates to meet regulatory requirements and keep up with inflation. The cumulative increase for an average residential user is approximately \$4.00 per month in 2022.

Mayor Scribner invited public input.

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Haydn Mouat, Canoe Ridge Winery, expressed concerns with the fee increase for wineries and asked Council to postpone implementation for two months so wineries can look at other incentives and options. Pretreatment may not be a feasible option for wineries within City limits due to the odors that are emitted.

There was discussion on:

- The increase to high strength wastewater users is necessary to meet system capacity and fund needed improvements at the wastewater treatment plant.
- The impact of the rate increases on commercial and residential users, especially in 2023 when the ambulance utility fee goes into effect.
- Repealing the ambulance utility to send a message to the citizens that the ambulance utility fees will be revisited by Council.
- Capital expenses of \$13 million are needed to address the impact of the high strength users on the wastewater treatment plant.

Councilmember Koehler moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2021-40 with the provision that Ordinance 2021-24, implementing an ambulance utility, is repealed. Councilmember Moss seconded the motion.

Council expressed their concerns, not with the ambulance utility and services, but on the cumulative impact of increasing rates on residents.

The motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2021-40 with the provision that Ordinance 2021-24, implementing an ambulance utility, is repealed passed with 5 yes votes and 1 no vote by Councilmember Clubb.

- D. Resolution No. 2021-156 authorizing a five-year lease from Western State Caterpillar of a landfill compactor not to exceed an annual cost of \$115,000 and a total cost of \$575,000.

Staff reviewed the essential uses of the landfill compactor and provided a comparison of costs of rebuilt equipment versus purchasing a new unit versus leasing the equipment. This analysis is based on the City's actual data from 2014 through 2021.

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

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Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2021-156. Councilmember Nakonieczny seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- E. Resolution No. 2021-157 authorizing the purchase of seven police patrol utility vehicles from Bud Clary Fort Hyundai of Longview and Emergency Responder Services (State contract) not to exceed a total purchasing cost of \$500,000.

Staff reported this is to replace the seven front line police patrol vehicles that are utilized 24 hours per day, seven days per week. Costs are estimated at 60 percent for the vehicle and 40 percent for the necessary specialized equipment. Graphs were shown depicting the optimal replacement of the frontline vehicles at four years. There was brief discussion on the costs of leasing versus purchasing.

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

Councilmember Clubb moved to adopt Resolution No. 2021-157. Councilmember Nakonieczny seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- F. Ordinance No. 2021-41 approving the AFSCME Local 1191-W contract for 2022-2023.

Staff reported on the successful negotiation of a two-year contract with AFSCME Local 1191-W. The agreement includes provisions for a 3.5 percent cost of living adjustment in 2022 and 3 percent in 2023.

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

Councilmember Koehler moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2021-41. Councilmember Nakonieczny seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- G. Ordinance No. 2021-42 adopting the 2022 salary schedule for non-represented employees with a 3.5 percent cost of living adjustment (excluding the City Manager and City Attorney).

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Staff reported adoption of this salary schedule for non-represented employees is done annually and is comparable to the adjustments negotiated with AFSCME Local 1191-W. This increase maintains internal equity and keeps the City in an advantageous position for recruitment of new employees.

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

**Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2021-42.
Councilmember Koehler 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 Finance Committee meeting; the Valley Transit Board meeting; the Council Retreat; the special Work Session with the State legislators; the agenda setting meeting; the Work Session; the Police Chief Advisory Committee meeting; and the Community Development Block Grant committee meeting.

Councilmember Huie reported attendance at the Jim Bock radio show; the Council Retreat; and the Work Session.

Councilmember Nakonieczny reported attendance at the Valley Transit Board meeting; the Council Retreat; the special Work Session with the State legislators; the Work Session; and the ad hoc Veterans Memorial Golf transition committee meeting.

Councilmember Clubb reported attendance at the Finance Committee meeting; the 1st Avenue plaza stakeholders meeting; the Work Session; and the ad hoc Affordable Housing committee meeting.

Councilmember Koehler reported attendance at a walkabout with Mayor Scribner; the Sustainability Committee meeting; the Valley Transit Board meeting; the Valley Transit Board Executive Session; the Council Retreat; the special Work Session with the State legislators; a meeting with Parks & Recreation Director Andy Coleman; the Work Session; and the ad hoc Affordable Housing committee meeting.

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Mayor Scribner reported attendance at a walkabout with Councilmember Koehler; the Finance Committee meeting; the Council Retreat; a meeting with City Manager Shawa and City Attorney Donaldson; the agenda setting meeting; a meeting with Library Director Wells and a citizen; and the Work Session.

7. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance No. 2021-43 repealing Ordinance No. 2021-24 which established an ambulance utility, set rates and charges, and took other action related thereto.

There were comments on this proposed Ordinance, the process to repeal the action, and the importance of looking at the cumulative rate impacts on households.

Councilmember Koehler moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2021-43. Councilmember Nakonieczny seconded the motion. The motion carried with 5 yes votes and 1 no vote by Councilmember Clubb.

Moira Conklin, owner of the Beehive Salon, apologized for missing the public comment period and expressed concerns with the two-hour parking limit downtown. Many of their clients cannot complete their business within a two-hour period and asked for some consideration such as being able to issue temporary parking permits to their clients or the installation of parking meters. Ms. Conklin was asked to provide her contact information to the City Manager.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Scribner announced the City Council would be recessing to Executive Session to review the performance of public employees pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g). The Executive Session will last no longer than one hour, and no further business will come before Council in open session. The meeting was recessed at 9:02 p.m.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.