

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Work Session Minutes
March 8, 2021

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Scribner called the virtual meeting to order at 4:00 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, Deputy City Manager Elizabeth Chamberlain, Fire Chief Bob Yancey, Fire Captain Eric Wood, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

2. ACTIVE AGENDA

- A. Community Paramedic Partnership with Providence Saint Mary Medical Center.

Staff presented an overview of the formation of a community paramedic program with a \$110,000 grant from Providence Saint Mary Medical Center. The goals of this program include addressing behavioral issues, reducing unnecessary trips to the emergency department, and to assist people in obtaining the right services to address their needs. The grant will allow the City to hire a paramedic on a limited duration basis to allow an experienced paramedic to work as the community paramedic.

There was discussion on:

- Staffing and providing adequate coverage to meet the needs of the community. The program will be based on referrals and scheduling adjustments for staff will be made.
- Benefits to City by freeing up resources to address frontline ambulance needs.
- Protocols used by dispatchers, paramedics, and emergency room personnel to determine appropriate services.
- The City will continue to look for other sources of funding for the program.
- Bellingham has been using a community paramedic program since 2014.

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- Program will allow for a case management approach in better assisting members of the community.

B. Follow-up on the 2020 Citizen Satisfaction Survey Results.

There was discussion on the demographics of the survey respondents, how to increase the number of respondents that are renters, the Spanish language used in the translation of the survey, increasing the number of respondents that are not White/Caucasian, issues within the West ward, and using focus groups to facilitate a more diverse group of respondents.

C. Govapalooza.

Staff reported on the City's participation in the virtual Govapalooza conference hosted by the Alliance for Innovation and Performance Excellence Northwest and showed the video outlining the City's response in helping Downtown businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic and its response in developing a sleep center to provide the homeless with a safe place to sleep.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:51 p.m.