

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Work Session Minutes
April 26, 2021

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro Tem Moss called the virtual meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Present: Councilmembers Yazmin Bahena, Riley Clubb, Myron Huie, Ted Koehler, Susan Nakonieczny, and Mayor Pro Tem Steve Moss.

Absent: Mayor Tom Scribner.

City staff in attendance: City Manager Nabel Shawa, Deputy City Manager Elizabeth Chamberlain, Parks & Recreation Director Andy Coleman, Library Director Erin Wells, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

Also, in attendance from the Common Roots Housing Trust: Rachel Elfenbein, Sundown Hazen, and Nancy Riggle.

2. ACTIVE AGENDA

A. Common Roots Housing Trust.

Councilmember Clubb introduced Common Roots Housing Trust Board Members Nancy Riggle, Sundown Hazen, and Rachel Elfenbein.

An overview of the process through the Community Council, Affordable Housing Study Committee, and the Walla Walla County Council on Housing to form the Common Roots Housing Trust was provided. The structure of this new non-profit housing/land trust was reviewed, and support was requested from the City in providing surplus public lands to the Common Roots Housing Trust.

There was discussion on the need for living wage jobs, affordable housing, median income for subsidized housing, rental assistance versus home ownership assistance, and how owners would build equity.

Staff reported the City needs to discuss the concepts with the City Attorney to determine how it can assist, such as contributing surplus property.

B. Certify grant match funding for Heritage Square rebuild.

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Staff reviewed the conceptual redesign of Heritage Square as previously approved by Council. This \$2,500,000 project may be awarded a \$500,000 grant from the Washington State Recreation and Conservation office but one of the requirements is the City must certify funding for the project. Additional funding sources are: \$200,000 from Port of Walla Walla; \$208,000 from the sale of property at Par 72; \$1,565,000 from the City.

There was discussion on:

- Construction will take approximately two years.
- Planning and design costs are included in the project estimate.
- Loss of parking from the project.
- Competition between the plaza on First Avenue and Heritage Square.

C. Library fines.

Staff reported that the staff time to process and collect library fines for overdue items far outweighs the revenue. There is no difference in the return rates and patrons will be responsible for paying for any lost items. The proposal is that all late return fees be eliminated and the existing \$18,000 in late fees be discharged. There was brief discussion on the proposal.

It was the consensus of Council to have staff prepare an ordinance for future consideration.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.