

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Work Session Minutes
June 21, 2021

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Scribner called the 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. (Councilmember Bahena arrived at 4:10 p.m.)

Absent: None

City staff in attendance: City Manager Nabel Shaw, Deputy City Manager Elizabeth Chamberlain, Fire Chief Bob Yancey, Finance Director Jean Teasdale, Human Resources Director Pam Taylor, Fleet Services Manager Matt Edwards, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

2. ACTIVE AGENDA

A. Purchasing strategy for a fire-engine apparatus.

Staff reported that replacement of the 2002 Pierce fire engine is in the vehicle replacement plan. This engine is experiencing a thirty percent increase in maintenance. Funding is proposed to be fifty percent from the America Rescue Plan Act and fifty percent from a loan from the vehicle replacement fund with a seven-year payback. Total interest cost for this loan is approximately \$13,500.

The engine is justified for replacement. Staff looked at a lease option but determined it was not financially feasible. The funds reimbursed to the City for wildland fire fighting will be used for the self-contained breathing apparatus.

There was discussion on the City's fire insurance rating and impact of the purchase of a new engine on keeping a low rating, lease versus purchase, and the value of the current backup engine.

B. Overview of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and authorization to implement funding.

Staff reviewed:

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- Funding authorized by the Federal government. The City of Walla Walla will receive two payments totaling \$9,974,964.
- Allowable uses for the ARPA funds.
- Ineligible uses of the funds.
- Audit/reporting requirements.
- Immediate needs for ARPA funding for 2021 – response to lost revenue - \$2,810,425.
- Response to public health emergency \$2,522,430:
 - Police positions 2021-2023 (3 officers, 1 parking enforcement officer) \$1,000,000
 - Fire engine \$322,430
 - Fire – other equipment \$150,000
 - Senior Center parking lot \$350,000
 - Mill Creek channel \$700,000
- Response to negative economic impact \$3,042,000:
 - Heritage Park rebuild \$1,600,000
 - 1st and Main \$500,000
 - Sportsplex enhancements \$942,000
- Unallocated balance - \$3,945,732
- Other potential projects for ARPA funding

There was discussion on:

- Funding for differential calls.
- 24-hour/7-day a week operation of the sleep center.
- Construction of additional pickleball courts at the sportsplex instead of Howard-Tietan Park.
- Use of money for sidewalk improvements to lower liability claims.
- Inclusion of ADA access and components in park playgrounds.
- Bicycle trails around Fort Walla Walla Park.
- Ensuring ongoing funds are available to support the police officer and parking enforcement positions.
- Support for tree maintenance at the golf course.
- Utility payment assistance. The Blue Mountain Action Council has sufficient funds to assist utility customers with their bills.

The Council will be asked to consider two resolutions on June 23 to move the purchase of the fire engine and the Mill Creek Sportsplex project forward, and to approve this list of expenditures and projects.

C. Discussion by Council on Civil Service Commission.

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There was discussion on:

- Increasing Commission members from three to five.
- Change term from six years to three years.
- Limit service to no more than two terms.
- Stagger terms of Commissioners.
- Testing and ensuring diversity of candidates.

It was the consensus of a majority of Council to have Steve DiJulio, legal counsel, perform a review of the City's Civil Service Commission ordinance, rules, and regulations; and to consider an ordinance to amend the membership and terms of office on July 14.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:24 p.m.