

**WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL**  
**Work Session Minutes**  
**July 12, 2021**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Scribner called the meeting to order at 4:00 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, Deputy City Manager Elizabeth Chamberlain, Finance Manager Jean Teasdale, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Fire Chief Bob Yancey, Deputy Fire Chief Eric Wood, Deputy Fire Chief John Knowles, Fleet Services Manager Matt Edwards, Accounting Supervisor Liz Moeller, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

**2. ACTIVE AGENDA**

A. Update on plan for purchasing vehicles in 2021.

Staff outlined problems experienced with suppliers due to the COVID-19 pandemic and delay in replacing vehicles while the financial impacts of the pandemic was measured. All vehicles on the list have been reviewed by division staff, managers, and the leadership team to ensure replacement vehicles are "right-sized" for the jobs they are needed for. Staff will be proposing that all vehicles on the replacement lists are approved at one time by Council rather than as separate purchases.

There was discussion on:

- All replacement vehicles have been included in the 2021-2022 biennial budget.
- Transition from gasoline to electric or hybrid vehicles if they meet the needs for the job.
- Lease to own versus outright purchasing police vehicles.
- Potential savings for bulk purchases.
- Preparation, review, and approval of specifications for all vehicles including a comparison of fuel efficiencies.

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### **B. COVID-19 Utility Customer Support program.**

Staff outlined the provisions of the Governor's moratorium on disconnection of utilities. This moratorium is scheduled to expire on September 30, 2021. The proposed administrative policy includes provisions for:

- Customer protections.
- Shut off notification process.
- Payment options and funding availability for low-income residents.

This policy does not require Council action, but staff is seeking input.

There was discussion on:

- Payment plans and funding for landlords.
- Promoting the low-income utility discounts.
- Incentivizing payment of delinquent utility accounts.
- The Blue Mountain Action Council has funding available to assist residents with the payment of delinquent utility bills.
- Communication to utility customers will be in both English and Spanish.

### **C. Mill Creek fountain concept.**

Staff introduced Jon Campbell who outlined a conceptual plan for a "bolt on" fountain as part of the Mill Creek channel improvements in downtown at the First and Main intersection. There was discussion on ways to move a project of this nature forward, such as securing permission from the property owner, estimating project costs, and applying for grant funding.

It was the consensus of Council to schedule this issue for a future Work Session after preliminary costs are developed and property owner permission is obtained.

## **3. OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was discussed.

## **4. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.