

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Work Session Minutes
August 23, 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.

Absent: None

City staff in attendance: City Manager Nabel Shawa, Deputy City Manager Elizabeth Chamberlain, City Attorney Tim Donaldson, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Parks & Recreation Director Andy Coleman (virtually), Capital Projects Engineer Mike Laughery, Parks Maintenance Supervisor Wes Walker, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

2. ACTIVE AGENDA

A. Leasing Fort Walla Walla amphitheater to New Beginnings.

Staff reviewed the proposal from New Beginnings Pastor Tim Bruner to lease the Fort Walla Walla Amphitheater. There are limitations on the lease of public property to religious organizations and a public process must be used. Staff recommends opening the lease of the amphitheater for submittal of proposals. If the Council wants to lease the property to a religious organization, it must also declare the property surplus and it must be physically separated from other public property.

Mr. Bruner commented on the desire to restore the amphitheater and the change from leasing it to New Beginnings, a religious organization, to a newly formed limited liability company, Fortress Events. This company is not affiliated with New Beginnings and will have a separate board of directors. They are looking to restore the amphitheater to an events center for family-oriented events. They already have commitments from contractors to perform some of the necessary work.

There was discussion on the change from leasing to a religious organization to a limited liability company. It was the consensus of Council to have staff issue a request for proposals to lease the Fort Walla Walla Amphitheater.

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B. Howard & Chestnut Street intersection alternatives analysis.

Staff reviewed the current level of service grade of "F" at the intersection. There are three alternatives to consider:

- Realign Chestnut Street and signalize the intersection.
- Install a compact roundabout.
- Leave the intersection as it is currently configured.

Staff and the engineering consultant recommend a compact roundabout. There was discussion on timing of the project and consolidating it with the 2026 Howard Infrastructure Replacement and Repair project. It was the consensus of Council to support the staff recommendation.

C. Electric Revolution Event proposal.

Paul d'Orleans, George Tortarolo, and Kim Young, participating virtually, explained their concept to showcase electric vehicles with a three-day event over Memorial Day weekend in 2022 to include electric vehicle rides, art, music, and other entertainment.

There was discussion on why Walla Walla was chosen for this proposed event, expectations from the City, and enthusiasm from partners in the valley.

It was the consensus of Council to have the Mayor sign a letter of intent to host an electric revolution event over Memorial Day weekend in 2022.

D. Adam West Day proclamation discussion.

It was the consensus of Council to issue a proclamation declaring September 18, 2021, as "Adam West Day" in Walla Walla.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.