

**WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**February 23, 2022**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Scribner called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Councilmembers Brian Casey, Rick Eskil, Ted Koehler, Steve Moss, Susan Nakonieczny, Gustavo Reyna, and Mayor Tom Scribner.

Absent: None.

City staff in attendance: City Manager Nabel Shawa, City Attorney Tim Donaldson, Deputy City Manager Elizabeth Chamberlain, Fire Chief Bob Yancey, Parks & Recreation Director Andy Coleman, Senior Planner Jon Maland, Deputy Fire Chief Eric Wood, Fleet Services Manager Matt Edwards, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**3. PRESENTATIONS**

- A. Mayor Scribner read a proclamation declaring the month of July 2022 as "Walla Walla Sweet Onion Month." Michelle Liberty (virtually) commented on the importance of the Walla Walla Sweet Onion, the State's official vegetable.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Dorothy Knudson and Ruth Ann Broman, residents of Rancho Villa mobile home park, asked the City to implement a moratorium on a change of use of manufactured home properties and to implement zoning specific to manufactured home parks. Staff reported on the work of the ad hoc affordable housing task force. A report will be scheduled at a future Work Session.

**5. CONSENT AGENDA**

Staff introduced the Consent Agenda, Items A through G, as follows:

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- A. Accepts resignation of Linda Scott from the Arts Commission and Bill Allen from the Water & Wastewater Advisory Committee.
- B. Resolution No. 2022-21 accepting \$50,000 from Walla Walla County Department of Community Health to expand the Community Paramedic Program.
- C. Resolution No. 2022-22 authorizing the annual renewal of an Interlocal agreement with Walla Walla County for the distribution of the emergency medical services property tax.
- D. Resolution No. 2022-23 accepts a grant from the Association of Washington Cities in the amount of \$157,782 for summer youth recreation programs.
- E. Ordinance No. 2022-03 vacating the alley right-of-way between North 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue and North 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue and lying north of West Moore Street and south of West Rees Avenue adjacent to Lots 2-5 and Lots 10-15 in Block 5 of Langford's Addition.
- F. Resolution No. 2022-24 sets forth the intent of the cities of Walla Walla and College Place to collaboratively work towards establishing accessible high-speed broadband.
- G. Approves minutes of the January 31, 2022, special Work Session; the February 7, 2022, Work Session; and the February 9, 2022, regular City Council meeting.

Mayor Scribner invited public input. No one chose to address the City Council on any of these items.

Council commended staff for their success in obtaining grant funds.

Staff provided brief reports on Items D and E.

**Councilmember Koehler moved to adopt Consent Agenda Items A through G. Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

**6. ACTIVE AGENDA**

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- A. Resolution No. 2022-25 authorizing a construction contract with Allplay Systems for Eastgate Lions Park playground in the amount of \$244,783.60.

Staff reviewed the playground components and efforts to ensure the playground is accessible for people with disabilities. The cost is under the \$250,000 budget.

Mayor Scribner invited public input. No one chose to address the City Council on this issue.

There was discussion on:

- The project is anticipated to be completed mid-year.
- It is hard to predict potential use of the new playground.
- Size of the playground and color scheme.
- Extending accessibility from the street to the playground.
- Notifying the girl scouts that funded the original equipment.
- Benefits of having a different design from other park playgrounds.

**Councilmember Koehler moved to adopt Resolution No. 2022-25. Councilmember Nakonieczny seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

- B. Resolution No. 2022-26 approving a recommendation from the Planning Commission to approve a Shoreline Substantial Development Permit and Shoreline Building Height Variance for the 9<sup>th</sup> and Rose building located at 170 North 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Staff reviewed the request and recommendation of approval from the Planning Commission. In addition to the Shoreline permit, the recommendation also includes a building height variance.

Mayor Scribner polled the City Council for any conflicts of interest, ex-parte contacts, or appearance of fairness issues. None were reported.

There was discussion on:

- Requirements for a cultural resources plan.
- Height of the proposed building and distance from the shoreline.
- The first floor will be commercial with the upper floors being residential apartments.
- The developer hopes to be under construction this year.

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Council stressed the importance of planting actual trees and not shrubs.

**Councilmember Koehler moved to adopt Resolution No. 2022-26.  
Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The motion unanimously  
carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

- C. Resolution No. 2022-27 approving the recommendation from the Planning Commission to approve a Shoreline Substantial Development permit for the WalaWala Plaza project.

Staff reviewed the need for a Shoreline Substantial Development permit for the improvements to the downtown pedestrian plaza.

Mayor Scribner polled the City Council for any conflicts of interest, ex-parte contacts, or appearance of fairness issues. None were reported.

There was brief discussion on the stormwater improvements for the project, and the recirculation of water from the water features.

**Councilmember Reyna moved to adopt Resolution No. 2022-27.  
Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The motion unanimously  
carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

- D. Ordinance No. 2022-04 amending the Municipal Code to exclude the successors to the positions of Police Chief and Fire Chief from Civil Service.

Staff outlined why the police chief and fire chief positions should be excluded from Civil Service. This change will only apply to the successors of the current chiefs. Walla Walla is the only City of fifty-one Washington cities of similar size that still includes the chief positions under Civil Service. Staff felt this was an optimum time to make this change with the pending retirements of both the police chief and fire chief.

Mayor Scribner invited public input.

Ron Peck, Walla Walla, spoke in opposition to removing the chief positions from Civil Service.

Council expressed their individual opinions on whether the police and fire chiefs should be removed from Civil Service. It was suggested that if the

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positions are removed from Civil Service, that employment contracts be required for the Chiefs and all department directors.

**Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2022-04. Councilmember Reyna seconded the motion. The motion carried with 4 yes votes by Councilmembers Koehler, Moss, Reyna, and Mayor Scribner voting yes and 3 no votes by Councilmembers Casey, Eskil and Nakonieczny.**

**7. COUNCIL MEMBER MEETING REPORTS**

Councilmember Moss reported attendance at a meeting with Councilmember Koehler and Deputy City Manager Chamberlain; the agenda setting meeting; the Civil Service Commission meeting; the Valley Transit Board meeting; the Chief's Advisory Committee meeting; the Work Session; and the ad hoc affordable housing task force meeting.

Councilmember Casey reported attendance at a tour of the water treatment plant; the Water & Wastewater Advisory Committee meeting; the Good Roads Committee meeting; and the Work Session.

Councilmember Reyna reported attendance at the Downtown Walla Walla Foundation Board meeting; the Blue Mountain Action Council Board meeting; and the ad hoc affordable housing task force meeting.

Councilmember Nakonieczny reported attendance at the Good Roads Committee meeting; the Valley Transit Board meeting; and the Work Session.

Councilmember Eskil reported attendance at the Visit Walla Walla/Walla Walla Valley Wine Alliance Board meeting, and the Valley Transit Board meeting.

Councilmember Koehler reported attendance at a meeting with Councilmember Moss and Deputy City Manager Chamberlain; the Infrastructure Improvement Committee meeting; the Work Session; and the ad hoc affordable housing task force meeting.

Mayor Scribner reported attendance at the agenda setting meeting; a meeting with the Library Director and potential donors; the Work Session; and a meeting with Councilmember Eskil.

**8. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS**

Resolution No. 2022-28 ratifying an emergency procurement for the rebuild of the landfill scraper-tractor.

Staff reported that the landfill scraper-tractor had broken down and was disassembled. While taking the equipment apart, it became apparent that a rebuild was necessary rather than just repairs. Rebuilding the equipment now will save approximately \$30,000 compared to delaying the rebuild until 2023. This is a critical piece of equipment for the landfill.

**Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2022-28. Councilmember Koehler seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

Staff provided an update on the First Avenue Plaza project including tree species, parking accessibility, construction timing, and the structural engineer's recommendation against the sunshade sails. There were comments regarding the sunshade sails and concerns with delivery trucks versus vehicles in the alleyway.

Dorothy Knudson commented on the number of empty buildings along Second Avenue.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

**There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.**