

**WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**March 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, Finance Director Jean Teasdale, Development Services Director Preston Frederickson, Fire Chief Bob Yancey, Deputy Fire Chief Eric Wood, Deputy Public Works Director Mike Laughery, CDBG Coordinator Lydia Caudill, Environmental Engineer Leah Fisk, Administrative Support Coordinator Rikki Gwinn, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ruth Ann Broman had comments regarding lack of affordable housing and the homeless crisis.

**4. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- A. Resolution No. 2022-39 authorizing a contract with HGI for leak testing the compost and leachate ponds at the Sudbury Road landfill in the amount of \$27,672.
- B. Resolution No. 2022-40 authorizing a contract amendment with PBS Engineering & Environmental, Inc., for additional construction phase services on the Park Street IRRP project in the amount of \$22,324.
- C. Resolution No. 2022-41 supporting an application by ArtWA for a Creative Arts District.

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- D. Resolution No. 2022-42 authorizing a ten-year lease of Zoll X-series advanced cardiac monitors at a cost of \$85,183.85 annually.
- E. Resolution No. 2022-44 authorizing the purchase of software for fire and medical incident reporting from ImageTrend for \$33,322 for the first year funded by Greater Columbia Accountable Community of Health grant.
- F. Resolution No. 2022-45 authorizing the City Manager to pre-purchase certain items for the WalaWala Plaza project.
- G. Resolution No. 2022-46 authorizing a contract with Aspect Consulting for landfill gas collection, flare, and leachate collection system operations and maintenance at the Sudbury Road landfill in the amount of \$129,084.
- H. Ordinance No. 2022-07 amending the 2021-2022 biennium budget; and  
Ordinance No. 2022-08 establishing new projects and amending the capital improvement project budget.
- I. Approval of minutes of the March 7, 2022, Work Session and the March 9, 2022, regular meeting.

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

Council asked that Items C, D & F be removed from the Consent Agenda for separate consideration.

Staff gave a brief report on the budget amendment.

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

**6. ACTIVE AGENDA**

- C. Resolution No. 2022-41 supporting an application to ArtWA for a Creative Arts District.

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Staff outlined the request for designation of a Creative Arts District. There was brief discussion on promotion of a creative community, use of the adjective "small" when referring to taxpayer funds, and proposed boundary of the district.

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

**Councilmember Reyna moved to adopt Resolution No. 2022-41. Councilmember Eskil seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

- D. Resolution No. 2022-42 authorizing a 10-year lease of Zoll X-series Advanced Cardiac Monitors at a cost of \$85,183.85 annually.

Staff provided a brief report.

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

**Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2022-42. Councilmember Reyna seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

- F. Resolution No. 2022-45 authorizing the City Manager to pre-purchase certain items for the WalaWala Plaza project.

Staff reported this will allow for the pre-purchase of some of the materials for the plaza project such as the pavers and traffic signal cabinet. The estimated cost is slightly under \$90,000. The contractors will be advised that these materials are not a part of the official bid. The project will start around October 1 and will be completed in April 2023 after the asphalt plants resume production.

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

**Councilmember Koehler moved to adopt Resolution No. 2022-45. Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

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- A. Resolution No. 2022-47 approving the recommendation and installation of artwork selected by the Arts Commission to be displayed in the Council Chambers through December 2022.

Staff and Joel Gaytan, Arts Commissioner, provided an overview of the process for selecting artwork for display in the Council Chambers.

Mayor Scribner invited public input.

Dorothy Knudson, Walla Walla, asked when the artwork would be installed. Installation is planned within the next few weeks.

There were comments by Council in support of the display of community art. If someone is interested in purchasing a piece of the art, they will be provided with the artist's contact information.

**Councilmember Reyna moved to adopt Resolution No. 2022-47. Councilmember Nakonieczny seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

- B. Public hearing on Community Development Block (CDBG) grant 2020 Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) and the 2019 consolidated plan amendments.

CDBG Coordinator Caudill asked if anyone in the audience needed Spanish translation service. No one asked for translation services. Staff reviewed the 2020 CAPER and the 2019 plan amendments.

Mayor Scribner declared the public hearing open.

Nancy Riggle, Valley Residential Services, commented on the importance of developing and preserving affordable housing.

Dorothy Knudson, Walla Walla, asked where census tracts 9205 and 9206 are located. Staff reviewed these areas within the City.

No name provided, had questions on the home loan repair process. Staff outlined the types of loans and directed the requestor to contact the Blue Mountain Action Council who administers the program for the City.

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Jason Wicklund, Christian Aid Center, commented on the need to maintain and improve services to the homeless and would like financial assistance and support for the Center through CDBG funding.

There being no further public comment, Mayor Scribner declared the public hearing closed.

There were comments by Council regarding CDBG funding to neighborhoods identified as census tracts 9205 and 9206; the change to a CDBG entitlement city in 2014 for direct funding; and preserving the most affordable housing which is our existing housing stock.

No action was taken by Council.

C. Resolution No. 2022-48 authorizing submission and acceptance of grant funding for the extension of Myra Road.

Staff reported this new grant funding opportunity, through the Federal government, provides a higher level of funding, focusses the grant on rural communities, and has no matching requirement. The extension of Myra Road to Taumarson Street will provide additional connectivity to properties in the south and reduce emergency response time.

Mayor Scribner invited public input.

Dorothy Knudson, Walla Walla, commented that Phase 8 of the four-laning of Highway 12 is the area's highest priority but funding is estimated at \$210 million. This grant will not provide the funding necessary for this high priority project.

RL McFarland, Walla Walla, suggested that the City focus this grant on an interchange at Highway 12 and North Clinton Street due to the numerous safety concerns. The extension of Myra Road is to facilitate development which will lead to higher traffic flows.

Staff reported the grant is inadequate to fund Phase 8 of Highway 12 or an interchange, and none of the agencies have the money to make up the difference. An interchange does not have the support of the Department of Transportation which means a grant has a very low probability of being awarded. The County Commissioners have provided the City with a letter of support for the Myra Road extension.

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There were comments on the feedback from prior grant submissions making this application much stronger. Traffic flow and safety are a primary concern, and the Myra Road extension will reduce fire department response times in serving the community. The area residents have not been surveyed but this extension was platted by the County many years ago.

**Councilmember Nakonieczny moved to adopt Resolution No. 2022-48. Councilmember Reyna seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

D. Public hearing and Ordinance No. 2022-09 enacting a moratorium on any change of use for manufactured/mobile home parks.

Staff reported this ordinance would impose a one-year moratorium on any change of use for manufactured/mobile home parks. The ordinance establishes a work plan for City staff to initiate a comprehensive plan and zone code amendments. This ordinance would not prohibit the sale of a manufactured/mobile home park but would not allow for a change of use.

Mayor Scribner declared the public hearing open.

The following spoke in support of the proposed moratorium:

- Nancy Riggle.
- Richard Aurili.
- Dorothy Knudson.
- Roger Trick.
- Deb Backus.
- Ishbel Dickens.
- Linda Ray.

The following spoke in opposition to the proposed moratorium:

- Beau Harer, Manufactured Housing Communities of Washington.

Council commended the meeting attendees and had comments on the complexity of issues surrounding affordable housing. If the ordinance is passed by a majority plus one of the Council, it goes into effect immediately. The moratorium can be extended for an additional six months after a public hearing and justification for an extension.

**Councilmember Reyna moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2022-09. Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

## **7. COUNCIL MEMBER MEETING REPORTS**

Councilmember Moss reported attendance at the Finance Committee meeting; the agenda setting meeting; the Civil Service Commission meeting; the meet and greet for the police chief candidates; the Valley Transit Board meeting and retreat; the Council retreat; the Work Session; and the Committee on Committees meeting.

Councilmember Casey reported attendance at the Council retreat; a meeting with Transportation Engineer Puymon; and the Work Session.

Councilmember Reyna reported attendance at the Downtown Walla Walla Foundation Board meeting; the meet and greet for the police chief candidates; a meeting of the Health Center Board; the Blue Mountain Action Council Board meeting; the St. Mary Medical Center Regional Board meeting; the Council retreat; and the Committee on Committees meeting.

Councilmember Nakonieczny reported attendance at the Fort Walla Walla Board meeting; the meet and greet for the police chief candidates; a meeting with residents of the Rancho Villa manufactured home park; the Valley Transit Board meeting and retreat; the Council retreat; the Work Session; and the Committee on Committees meeting.

Councilmember Eskil reported attendance at the Visit Walla Walla/Walla Walla Valley Wine Alliance Board meeting; the Valley Transit Board meeting and retreat; the meet and greet for the police chief candidates; and the Council retreat.

Councilmember Koehler reported attendance at the Finance Committee meeting; the Council retreat; and the Work Session.

Mayor Scribner reported attendance at a meeting with the Library architects and potential donors; a meeting with City Attorney Donaldson; a review of the trees within the Poplar Street corridor project; the Finance Committee meeting; the agenda setting meeting; the meet and greet for

the police chief candidates; the Council retreat; the Work Session; and a meeting with a resident of Rancho Villa.

**8. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS**

**Councilmember Nakonieczny moved to make the following appointments:**

- **Laurie Stroud to the Library Board for a term expiring December 31, 2026;**
- **Jeff Bloom, Heidi Dobson, and Amanda Nelson to the Parks, Recreation and Urban Forestry Advisory Board for terms expiring December 31, 2024;**
- **Laura Hope to the Arts Commission for a term expiring December 31, 2022;**
- **Julian Saturno to the Historic Preservation Commission for a term expiring June 30, 2023; and**
- **Tim Connelly to the Transportation Benefit District Improvement Committee for a term expiring December 31, 2024.**

**Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

**Councilmember Nakonieczny moved to appoint Yazmin Bahena to the Civil Service Commission for a term expiring June 30, 2023.**

**Councilmember Eskil seconded the motion.**

Councilmember Nakonieczny commented she would be voting no on this appointment because the application submitted by Ms. Bahena was after the deadline and it was unfair to the applicants that had applied by the deadline. There was discussion on application deadlines and submittals.

**The motion to appoint Yazmin Bahena to the Civil Service Commission for a term expiring June 30, 2023, carried with 5 yes votes and 2 no votes by Councilmembers Casey and Nakonieczny.**

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

**There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.**