

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
June 22, 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, and Mayor Tom Scribner.

Absent: Councilmember Gustavo Reyna.

City staff in attendance: Deputy City Manager Elizabeth Chamberlain, City Attorney Tim Donaldson, Parks & Recreation Director Andy Coleman, Human Resources Director Pam Taylor, Senior Planner Jon Maland, City Engineer Neal Chavre, Water Distribution Supervisor Adrian Sutor, Engineer Doug Eaton, Accounting Supervisor Liz Moeller, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PRESENTATIONS & PROCLAMATIONS - None

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dorothy Knudson asked Council to rezone manufactured home parks to ensure their use cannot be changed.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Resolution No. 2022-84 awarding the bid for the Senior Center parking lot construction project to Premier Excavation, Inc. in the amount of \$565,255.22.
- B. Ordinance No. 2022-15 amending the 2021-2022 maintenance and operations budget; and
Ordinance No. 2022-16 establishing new capital projects and amending the capital improvement project budget.
- C. Approval of minutes of the minutes of the Work Session held June 6 and the regular meeting held June 8, 2022.

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

There was brief discussion on the funding for the Senior Center parking lot project and inclusion of a sidewalk along Jefferson Park to 9th Avenue as part of this project.

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Consent Agenda Items A through C. Councilmember Nakonieczny seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

6. ACTIVE AGENDA

- A. Public hearing and Resolution No. 2022-85 adopting the 2023-2028 Comprehensive Transportation Plan.

Staff reviewed the plan including the thirteen projects added and the four being removed. Inclusion on the Comprehensive Transportation Plan is required for the project to be eligible for Federal or State funding. This plan is consistent with the City's Comprehensive Plan.

Mayor Scribner declared the public hearing open. There being no public comments, the hearing was closed.

There was discussion on the impact of grant funding for projects on the list. Staff was commended for their work in obtaining grants and the public for their patience while street construction is underway.

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2022-85. Councilmember Nakonieczny seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- B. Public hearing and Ordinance No. 2022-17 approving the sixty percent petition for the 700 McBeth Road annexation.

Staff reviewed the boundaries of the proposed annexation, the annexation process, Countywide planning policies, and urban growth area boundaries. Approving an annexation is not approval for future development. Developments must go through a separate process dictated by the Municipal Code.

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Mayor Scribner declared the public hearing open.

Lyn Steckler asked about legal access points to the property proposed for annexation.

Travis Watts, on behalf of the petitioner, commented on the lack of housing inventory, the urban growth area and lack of expansion, annexation is crucial for additional housing stock, the property would allow for the development of up to thirty-two homes, and would allow for a secondary access point onto Kendall Road. The only traffic issues are the areas in direct proximity to Prospect Point Elementary School and Walla Walla High School during school hours. Requirement of a development agreement prior to assuring annexation is cost prohibitive. Council should support this annexation and any future annexations that can be served by City utilities.

Dorothy Knudson expressed concerns with the lack of affordable housing.

Les Coyle asked whether Whistling Duck Road would be the only access or if there will be a secondary access to or from the property.

Lyn Steckler expressed concerns with increased traffic.

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

Staff reviewed the two access points to the property from Whistling Duck Road and McBeth Road.

There was discussion on proposed development in the area; an analysis of existing traffic conditions and potential mitigation measures; access points to the property; impacts on development with a high-water table in the area; considering development plans concurrently with an annexation; the need for additional housing units; addressing irregular City boundaries; and road standards and vehicle trips per day.

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2022-17.
Councilmember Koehler seconded the motion.

There were comments on working with the school district on school hours to address the traffic situation during peak times.

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The motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2022-17 passed with 4 yes votes and 2 no votes by Councilmember Eskil and Mayor Scribner.

C. Public hearing and Resolution No. 2022-86 adopting water use efficiency goals for 2023-2028.

Staff reviewed the proposed goals and the achievements made in reducing the City's unaccounted water loss.

Mayor Scribner declared the public hearing open. There being no public testimony, the hearing was closed.

Councilmember Koehler moved to adopt Resolution No. 2022-86. Councilmember Nakonieczny seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

D. Resolution No. 2022-87 approving a shoreline substantial development permit for the Walla Walla Fire Department training center classroom and associated site developments.

Staff reviewed the need for a shoreline substantial development permit because of the placement of a portable classroom at the fire drill training site. The Planning Commission held a public hearing with no comments and recommends approval.

Mayor Scribner polled the City Council for any conflicts of interest or appearance of fairness issues. There were no conflicts of interest or appearance of fairness issues reported.

There was brief discussion on the deadline to move the portable classroom from Walla Walla High School and planting trees to beautify the site.

Councilmember Casey moved to adopt Resolution No. 2022-87. Councilmember Nakonieczny seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

E. Approval of the May 2022 accounts payable register containing check numbers 18438 through 18547, 18549 through 18627, 18629 through 18791, and 375 through 385 totaling \$5,244,618.42.

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

Councilmember Moss moved to approve the May 2022 accounts payable register containing check numbers 18438 through 18547, 18549 through 18627, 18629 through 18791, and 375 through 385 totaling \$5,244,618.42 except for the checks to the Blue Mountain Action Council. Councilmember Koehler seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

Councilmember Moss moved to approve payment of the checks to the Blue Mountain Action Council. Councilmember Nakonieczny seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 5 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 1 abstention by Councilmember Koehler.

F. Selection process for City Manager.

City Manager Shawa has reported he will be retiring the end of February 2023. This is an opportunity for the City Council to provide direction to staff on the recruitment process. Staff has provided a draft timeline for the recruitment process.

Councilmember Moss moved to use the services of a recruiting firm. Councilmember Eskil seconded the motion.

The estimated cost of contracting for recruitment services is \$20,000 to \$40,000.

The motion to use the services of a recruiting firm carried with 5 yes votes and 1 no vote by Councilmember Koehler.

There was discussion on the formation of an ad hoc Council committee. The Open Public Meetings Act is triggered if any ad hoc committee makes final decisions on behalf of the City Council. If the ad hoc committee only makes recommendations to the Council as a whole, then the ad hoc committee meetings would not need to be open to the public.

It was the consensus of Council to form an ad hoc committee consisting of Mayor Scribner and Councilmembers Moss and Reyna to interview

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recruiting firms and bring back a recommendation to the City Council at their meeting on July 27.

7. COUNCIL MEMBER MEETING REPORTS

Councilmember Moss reported attendance at the ad hoc housing committee meeting; the agenda setting meeting; the Valley Transit Board meeting; and the Juneteenth celebration.

Councilmember Casey reported attendance at the Water & Wastewater Advisory Committee meeting and the Good Roads Committee meeting.

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

Councilmember Eskil reported attendance at the Visit Walla Walla Board meeting; the Valley Transit Board meeting; and the Blue Mountain Humane Society Board meeting.

Councilmember Koehler reported attendance at the entrance audit conference with the State Auditor's office; the ad hoc housing committee meeting; and a meeting with Finance.

Mayor Scribner reported attendance at the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee meeting; the agenda setting meeting; a meeting with Police Chief Buttice; the Juneteenth celebration; and a meeting with Senior Planner Maland.

8. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

Staff reviewed:

- Neighborhood block parties.
- Library open house on expansion.
- Memorial Pool attendance.
- Educational sessions on the growth management act will be presented during the Fall.

Dorothy Knudson asked where someone can obtain flood plain maps.

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9. MEETING ENDS

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 8:53 p.m.