

**WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**July 13, 2022**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

Present: Councilmembers Brian Casey, Rick Eskil (virtually), 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, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Parks & Recreation Director Andy Coleman, Deputy Fire Chief John Knowles, Police Captain Kevin Braman, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The following expressed concerns with development of the recently annexed property located at 700 McBeth Road:

- Scott O'Connell
- Theresa Owens
- Alison Stensrude

The following urged Council to rezone manufactured home parks so their use cannot be changed:

- Jan Leonard
- Jo Records

Cheryl Summerfield asked that the entrance to the sleep center be relocated from Rees Avenue due to safety concerns for people utilizing the sleep center and the vehicles using Rees Avenue.

The following urged Council to either enforce existing firework regulations or enact a ban:

- Paula Nichols
- Susie Hamburg Davis

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- Candace Rose
- Jean Dolling

Council thanked the citizens for attending and raising these issues and expressed their individual opinions. A majority of Council asked staff to research how other cities are addressing firework-related issues and bring back an ordinance to enact a ban on fireworks.

**4. CONSENT AGENDA**

Staff introduced the Consent Agenda, Item A, as follows:

- A. Resolution No. 2022-88 authorizing a five-year contract with Swift Comply for utility database software in the amount of \$78,844.93.

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

**Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Consent Agenda Item A. Councilmember Nakonieczny seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

**5. ACTIVE AGENDA**

- A. Resolution No. 2022-89 authorizing grant applications to the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office for the Pioneer Park playground and Mill Creek Sportsplex improvement projects.

Staff reported this would authorize the submittal of three grant applications for two separate projects: two grants are for the Pioneer Park all-inclusive playground estimated at \$2.5 million with a \$700,000 match from the City if the grants are successful; and the third grant is for additional improvements to the Mill Creek sportsplex estimated at \$700,000 with \$350,000 from the City. If these grants are successful, it is anticipated construction would occur in 2024.

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

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Council commended staff for going after grant funding and keeping accessibility in mind when designing projects. Grant awards are typically made for the requested amount or disapproved.

**Councilmember Reyna moved to adopt Resolution No. 2022-89. Councilmember Nakonieczny seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

- B. Resolution No. 2022-90 accepting the recommendation of the Arts Commission to relocate the Marcus Whitman statue and directing the Arts Commission to establish a sub-committee to work with Fort Walla Walla Museum on the relocation and educational elements to be installed.

Staff reviewed the establishment of a deaccession process and the history of the placement of the Marcus Whitman statue. The statue is owned by the City but located on property owned by Whitman College. The Arts Commission had an extensive public process with robust discussions. The proposed resolution has four options for Council to choose from:

1. Recommendation put forward by the Arts Commission.
2. Denies the request to remove the Marcus Whitman statue located near the intersection of Boyer Avenue and E. Main Street from the City's public art collection.
3. Grants the request to remove the Marcus Whitman statue from the City's public art collection. The statue is declared surplus to the needs of the City of Walla Walla, and the City Manager is authorized and directed to dispose of the statue in such manner that the City Manager deems to be in the best interests of the City.
4. Continues the matter for further study and consideration by the City Council. Additional public input is invited and will be considered. Final action on the matter shall be taken at a future City Council meeting.

Staff recommends option 2 with the addition of educational plaques to add context and broader history of the region inclusive of the Walla Walla, Cayuse, and Umatilla tribes.

Matt Reynolds and Hannah Bartman explained the reasoning behind the recommendation of the Arts Commission to not approve the deaccession of the statue from the City's arts collection but to relocate it from its

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current location to a museum and provide additional educational context.

Mayor Scribner invited public input.

The following spoke in opposition of removing the Marcus Whitman statue:

- Charles Soranto
- Marcia Wendler
- Dixie Ferguson
- Eric Johnson
- Jean Dolling
- (Name indecipherable)
- R.L. McFarland

The following spoke in support of removing the statue:

- Emily Tillotson
- Trevor Dorland
- Clint Rehn

Nancy Milton, co-chair of the Rotary Peace Building committee, commented on the importance of having symbols of peace in the community.

Council expressed their individual opinions on the options presented in the resolution and their appreciation for the work of the Arts Commission.

Hannah Bartman offered clarifying comments on the recommendation of the Arts Commission which includes forming a subcommittee to identify and work with a museum for relocation of the statue.

**Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2022-90 with option 4 to continue the matter for further study and consideration by the City Council, additional public input is invited and will be considered, with final action on the matter taken at a future City Council meeting.**

**Councilmember Reyna seconded the motion. The motion carried with 5 yes votes and 2 no votes by Councilmembers Casey and Nakonieczny.**

C. Approval of minutes of the regular meeting held June 22, 2022.

**Councilmember Moss moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held June 22, 2022. Councilmember Nakonieczny seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 1 abstention by Councilmember Reyna.**

- D. Approval of the June 2022 accounts payable register containing check numbers 18792 through 18893, 18895 through 19021, 19023 through 19032, 19034 through 19213, and 386 through 403 totaling \$6,344,094.46.

**Councilmember Moss moved to approve payment of the June 2022 accounts payable register containing check numbers 18792 through 18893, 18895 through 19021, 19023 through 19032, 19034 through 19213, and 386 through 403 totaling \$6,344,094.46 except for the checks to the Blue Mountain Action Council and Christine Zagelow. Councilmember Koehler seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

**Councilmember Moss moved to approve payment of the checks to the Blue Mountain Action Council and Christine Zagelow. Councilmember Nakonieczny seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 1 abstention by Councilmember Koehler.**

## **6. COUNCIL MEMBER MEETING REPORTS**

Councilmember Moss reported attendance at the library renovation open house; the agenda setting meeting; the exit conference with representatives of the State Auditor's office; a concert at the Wine Valley Amphitheater; the Work Session; the ad hoc housing committee meeting; and the Committee on Committees meeting.

**Councilmember Moss moved to continue the meeting past 9:30 p.m. Councilmember Koehler seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

Councilmember Casey reported attendance at the Metropolitan Planning Organization meeting and the Work Session.

Councilmember Reyna reported attendance at the ad hoc housing task force meeting.

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Councilmember Nakonieczny reported attendance at the Fort Walla Walla Museum strategic planning session; the Work Session; and the Committee on Committees meeting.

Councilmember Eskil reported attendance at the library renovation open house; and meetings with Emily Tillotson, Scott Daggatt, Amanda Wernette, and Jessica Smith.

Councilmember Koehler reported attendance at a meeting with neighbors around the Mill Creek Sportsplex; the ad hoc housing task force meeting; a meeting with the Mayor and Parks & Recreation Director Coleman; and the Work Session.

Mayor Scribner reported attendance at a meeting with neighbors around the Mill Creek Sportsplex; meetings with citizens on a variety of issues; the library renovation open house; the Arts Commission meeting; a meeting with Councilmember Koehler and Parks & Recreation Director Coleman; the agenda setting meeting; the exit conference with representatives of the State Auditor's office; a meeting with Scott Daggatt; and the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee meeting.

**7. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS**

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

- **Doug Bayne to the Housing Authority Board meeting for a term ending June 30, 2027;**
- **Katherine Long to the Infrastructure Improvement Committee for a term expiring December 31, 2022;**
- **Jolie Welch to the Planning Commission for a term expiring December 31, 2022; and**
- **Scott Byerley to the Water & Wastewater Advisory Committee for a term expiring December 31, 2025.**

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

Council reported the City has several openings to fill on the Sustainability Committee and the Water & Wastewater Advisory Committee.

**8. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Scribner announced the City Council would be recessing to Executive Session to consider the selection of a site or the acquisition of real estate pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(b); and/or to consider the minimum price at which real estate will be offered for sale or lease pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(c); and to discuss with legal counsel litigation or potential litigation to which the City is a party or is likely to become a party pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i). The Executive Session will last no more than one hour, and no further business will come before the Council in open session. The meeting recessed at 9:44 p.m.

**9. MEETING ENDS**

**There being no further business, the meeting ended at 10:20 p.m.**