

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 10, 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 Attorney Tim Donaldson, Deputy City Manager Elizabeth Chamberlain, Development Services Director Preston Frederickson, Human Resources Director Pam Taylor, Senior Planner Jon Maland, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following spoke regarding the raising rents and installation of water meters at Rancho Villa Mobile Home park and asked for a zone change for manufactured housing parks:

- Ruth Ann Broman
- Dorothy Knudson

Julian Saturno expressed frustration with the person that keeps writing hate speech on the sidewalk surrounding the former Macy's building. After discussion on first amendment rights, City Attorney Donaldson asked Mr. Saturno to call his office.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Staff introduced the Consent Agenda, Items A and B, as follows:

- A. Acceptance of resignation of Julia Ireland from the Public Library Board.
- B. Resolution No. 2022-95 setting a public hearing date of September 14, 2022, to consider the right-of-way vacation for the alley located

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southwest of North 13th Avenue and West Moore Street (south of Block 4 of Cass Addition.)

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 Items A and B. Councilmember Casey seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

5. ACTIVE AGENDA

- A. Second reading and adoption of Ordinance 2022-18 approving a non-exclusive franchise agreement with Ziplly Fiber Pacific, LLC.

Staff reported this is the third review of the proposed franchise with second reading and adoption scheduled for tonight. It will allow for a non-exclusive franchise for Ziplly Fiber to install fiber optic cable within the City's right-of-way.

Jessica Epley, representing Ziplly Fiber, reported they are actively looking at franchise agreements with the City of College Place and other areas within Walla Walla County.

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

There was brief discussion on the addition of fiber optic Internet service in Walla Walla, the potential expansion into College Place, and any potential liability for work done within the City's right-of-way.

Councilmember Reyna moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2022-18. Councilmember Nakonieczny seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- B. Resolution No. 2022-96 approving a shoreline substantial development permit for the 54 East Main Street (A.M. Jensen Building) project and associated site development. (CLOSED RECORD QUASI-JUDICIAL)

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Staff reported this shoreline substantial development permit is needed for the work on the former Macy's building to redevelop it to an open courtyard hotel with retail due to its proximity to Mill Creek.

Mayor Scribner polled the Council for any conflicts of interest or appearance of fairness issues. None were reported.

Clarification was provided that this is only for the shoreline permit, not a permit for the project. There was discussion on impact on adjacent City property, the City two-hour parking lot south of the property, maintenance of the seawall between the property and Mill Creek channel and leaving this portion of the Mill Creek channel covered.

Councilmember Casey moved to adopt Resolution No. 2022-96. Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- C. Final review of contract with Strategic Government Resources, authorized by Resolution No. 2022-94, and motion to establish the salary range for the City Manager position for recruitment purposes.

The ad hoc City Manager recruitment committee reviewed the data used to recommend a salary range of \$180,000 to \$200,000 for the recruiting firm to use in their efforts to find eligible candidates for the City Manager position after the retirement of City Manager Shawa. There was discussion on this data and the recommended compensation range.

Councilmember Reyna moved to approve a salary range of \$180,000 to \$200,000 for the recruitment of a new City Manager. Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The motion carried with 5 yes votes and 2 no votes by Councilmembers Eskil and Nakonieczny.

The next steps in the recruitment process were reviewed.

Councilmember Koehler moved to allow the ad hoc committee to finalize the brochure to be used in the recruitment process. Councilmember Eskil seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

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Each Councilmember was asked to submit two names of citizens to serve on the citizen interview panels to the subcommittee members and the Human Resources Director by September 16.

There was discussion on weighting candidates from the Pacific Northwest, the process for final selection and contract negotiation, how applicants are vetted, and visiting their communities for additional feedback.

- D. Approval of the July 2022 accounts payable register containing check numbers 19214 through 19342; 19344 through 19493; 19495 through 19592; 19594; and 404 through 414 totaling \$5,044,446.44.

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

Councilmember Moss moved to approve the July 2022 accounts payable register containing check numbers 19214 through 19342; 19344 through 19493; 19495 through 19592; 19594; and 404 through 414 totaling \$5,044,446.44 except for the checks to the Blue Mountain Action Council and Brian Casey. Councilmember Nakonieczny 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. Councilmember Nakonieczny seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 1 abstention by Councilmember Koehler.

Councilmember Moss moved to approve payment of the check to Brian Casey. Councilmember Nakonieczny seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 1 abstention by Councilmember Casey.

6. COUNCIL MEMBER MEETING REPORTS

Councilmember Moss reported attendance at the Parks, Recreation & Urban Forestry Advisory Board meeting; the agenda setting meeting; the ad hoc City Manager recruitment subcommittee meeting; the Work Session; the ad hoc Housing Committee meeting; the Valley Transit exit interview with representatives of the State Auditor's office; and the Committee on Committees meeting.

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Councilmember Casey reported attendance at the National Night Out in Pioneer Park; the Metropolitan Planning Organization meeting; and the Work Session.

Councilmember Reyna reported attendance at the ad hoc City Manager recruitment subcommittee meeting; the Work Session; the ad hoc Housing Committee meeting; the Committee on Committees meeting; and the celebration of the salmon with representatives of the Confederated Tribes of the Yakama Nation and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indians.

Councilmember Nakonieczny reported attendance at the ad hoc golf course committee meeting; the Work Session; the Committee on Committees meeting; and the Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting.

Councilmember Eskil had no meetings to report except for the Work Session.

Councilmember Koehler reported attendance at the Work Session, and the ad hoc Housing Committee meeting.

Mayor Scribner reported attendance at a meeting with Councilmember Eskil; a meeting with Port of Walla Walla Commissioner Mike Frederickson; a Blue Mountain Television interview; the Arts Commission meeting; the agenda setting meeting; the ad hoc City Manager recruitment subcommittee meeting; a tree walk at Whitman College; and the Work Session.

7. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Nakonieczny moved to make the following appointments:

- **Erin Dorso to the Public Library Board for a term expiring December 31, 2025;**
- **Tana Mielke, Deanna Engelmann, and David Womack to the Sustainability Committee for terms expiring June 30, 2025;**
- **Renee Hadley for a term expiring June 30, 2025, and Jon Paull for a term expiring June 30, 2024, to the Water & Wastewater Advisory Committee.**

Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The motion carried with 6 yes votes and 1 no vote by Mayor Scribner.

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Resolution No. 2022-97 awarding the contract for site work and utility installation at the City's designated camping area, authorizing the City Manager to execute additional contracts to complete the camping area expansion project, and other action needed therewith.

Staff reported when Council adopted Resolution No. 2022-80 authorizing the expansion of the sleep center, the site improvements were inadvertently omitted from the authorizations. This resolution fixes that omission and awards the contract for the site improvements to Harry Johnson Excavating & Plumbing in the amount of \$68,750 which is within the budget estimate for the project.

There was brief discussion on whether the County would be providing any funding since the sleep center serves more than just City of Walla Walla homeless people. Staff reported the County Commissioners did not commit to any funding for the project.

**Councilmember Reyna moved to adopt Resolution No. 2022-97.
Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

Councilmember Reyna suggested that relationships with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indians need to be strengthened and outlined his efforts in drafting a resolution to celebrate indigenous people.

8. MEETING ENDS

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 8:11 p.m.