

**WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**August 24, 2022**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

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

Absent: Councilmember Brian Casey.

City staff in attendance: City Manager Nabel Shawa, City Attorney Tim Donaldson, Deputy City Manager Elizabeth Chamberlain, Fire Chief Bob Yancey, Deputy Fire Chief Eric Wood, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Accounting Supervisor Liz Moeller, City Engineer Neal Chavre, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The following expressed concerns with the Mill Creek Sportsplex improvements that have traffic exiting and entering on Garrison Street:

- Brad Riordan.
- Penny Craig.
- Flynn Espe.

The following complained about the management of the Rancho Villa Mobile Home Park:

- Ruth Ann Broman.
- Joyce Claussen
- Dorothy Knudson

RL McFarland commented on affordable housing, impact of rising rents on Rancho Villa residents and suggested a consumer affairs department could address some of these issues.

There were comments by Council.

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**4. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- A. Accept resignation of Anne Harrison from the Parks, Recreation & Urban Forestry Advisory Board.
- B. Accept resignation of Robert Hansen from the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee.
- C. Resolution No. 2022-98 adopting a Vision Zero Goal for serious injuries and deaths within the City's transportation system.
- D. Resolution No. 2022-99 adopting an amended Interlocal Agreement with Walla Walla County for emergency management services.
- E. Ordinance No. 2022-19 amending the 2021-2022 maintenance and operations budget; and Ordinance No. 2022-20 amending the capital improvement project budget.
- F. Approval of minutes of the July 25 and August 8 Work Sessions and the July 27 and August 10 regular meetings.

Mayor Scribner invited public input.

RL McFarland suggested adding the Northwest Grain Growers and County Commissioners to the stakeholders for the Vision Zero goal; commented on the closure of Middle Waitsburg and Lower Waitsburg Roads impacting harvest; and the need for an overpass at Highway 12/Clinton Street for safety. Staff reported they have no control over Highway 12 and explained the planning process and Vision Zero goal.

There was brief discussion on the minor amendments to the Interlocal Agreement for emergency management services and Vision Zero goal.

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

6. **ACTIVE AGENDA**

- A. Resolution 2022-100 accepts grant funding up to \$150,000 to support the Community Paramedic Program from Greater Columbia Accountable Community of Health and Emergency Medical Services.

Staff reported on the success of receiving this funding to expand the Community Paramedic Program.

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

Council commended staff for obtaining funding for the Community Paramedic Program.

**Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2022-100. Councilmember Koehler seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

- B. Public hearing and Resolution No. 2022-101 adopting an amended 2023-2028 Comprehensive Transportation Plan.

Staff reported this amendment is necessary to add a bridge preventative maintenance project to be able to accept federal funds for the project.

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

**Councilmember Reyna moved to adopt Resolution No. 2022-101. Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

- C. Resolution No. 2022-102 accepting a \$1,541,400 federal grant for bridge preventative maintenance for ten bridges.

Staff reported this grant will fund preventative maintenance on ten bridges throughout the City.

Mayor Scribner invited public input.

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Dorothy Knudson asked whether this money would go very far towards preserving bridges. Staff reported that preventative maintenance is less costly than having to replace a bridge.

Council commended staff on obtaining grant funds.

**Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2022-102. Councilmember Koehler seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

- D. Resolution No. 2022-103 authorizing the application and acceptance of a loan of up to \$1,000,000 from the Public Works Trust Fund for repairs to Well #5.

Staff reported that emergency repairs were needed for Well #5 and were an unplanned expense to the water fund. If the City is successful in receiving this emergency loan the interest rate would be 1.39 percent.

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

There was discussion on the emergency repairs to the Well and amount of the loan needed.

**Councilmember Reyna moved to adopt Resolution No. 2022-103. Councilmember Nakonieczny seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

- E. Resolution No. 2022-104 authorizing the application and acceptance of a Public Works Trust Fund loan for the hydroelectric controls project.

Staff reported the financial plan for the water fund anticipates an \$8,000,000 bond for water projects in 2023. If the City is successful in this loan application, a bond and all its associated costs will be avoided. This is a competitive application.

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

**Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2022-104. Councilmember Koehler seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

**6. COUNCIL MEMBER MEETING REPORTS**

Councilmember Moss reported attendance at the agenda setting meeting; a meeting with Mr. McDaniel regarding the City Manager recruitment; the Valley Transit Board meeting; a meeting with Mayor Scribner; and the joint Work Session with the College Place City Council.

Councilmember Reyna reported attendance at the Downtown Walla Walla Foundation Board meeting; the Blue Mountain Action Council Board meeting; a meeting with organizers of a festival celebrating Latin American art; and the joint Work Session with the College Place City Council.

Councilmember Nakonieczny reported attendance at a meeting with members of the Good Roads Transportation Association regarding transportation priorities; the Good Roads Transportation Association meeting; the Valley Transit Board meeting; and a meeting with Mr. McDaniel regarding the City Manager recruitment.

Councilmember Eskil reported attendance at a meeting with Mayor Scribner, the joint Work Session with the College Place City Council; a meeting with Mr. McDaniel regarding the City Manager recruitment; the Valley Transit Board meeting; and the Visit Walla Walla Board meeting.

Councilmember Koehler reported attendance at a meeting with Mr. McDaniel regarding the City Manager recruitment and the joint Work Session with the College Place City Council.

Mayor Scribner reported attendance at the Public Library Board meeting; a meeting with Mr. McDaniel regarding the City Manager recruitment; the Bonnie Raitt concert; a meeting with Councilmember Moss; the joint Work Session with the College Place City Council; and a meeting with Councilmember Eskil.

**7. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS**

Staff introduced a letter of support for a Walla Walla River Basin WaterSmart Basin Study Grant for ongoing study to address water resource issues and expected climate change impacts in the Walla Walla River Basin and asked for authorization for the Mayor to sign.

Mayor Scribner invited public input.

Dorothy Knudson asked if there had been any study to bring back beavers to help with the water supply. Staff and Council had no knowledge of any such effort.

Councilmembers all indicated their support.

**Councilmember Moss moved to authorize the Mayor to sign a letter to the Regional Director of the United States Department of Interior Bureau of Reclamation in support of a Walla Walla River Basin WaterSmart Basin Study Grant. Councilmember Koehler seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

**Councilmember Nakonieczny moved to appoint Emily McDonald to the Water & Wastewater Advisory Committee for a term ending June 30, 2025. Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

Staff reported on the following:

- Importance of having the water supply the City has and the need to retain and protect these supplies.
- Concerts being held at the Wine Country Amphitheater are going well with adjustments being made to traffic patterns. Anecdotal information is that people are extending their stays to attend the concerts.
- It is being recommended that the Legislative Committee members travel to Washington D.C. in October or November to lobby for Federal funding.

Council asked about the status of the grant for body cameras and commented on a tour by the legislative coalition for transportation.

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**8. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Scribner announced the 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 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 occur in open session. The meeting was recessed at 8:23 p.m.

**9. MEETING ENDS**

**There being no further business, the meeting ended at 8:55 p.m.**