

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 14, 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 (virtual), and Mayor Tom Scribner.

Absent: Brian Casey.

City staff in attendance: City Manager Nabel Shawa, City Attorney Tim Donaldson, Human Resources Director Pam Taylor, Public Safety Communications Manager Steve Ruley, CDBG Coordinator Lydia Caudill, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Development Services Sr. Planner Jon Maland, Fleet Services Supervisor Matt Edwards, City Clerk Lisa Neissl, and Retiring City Clerk Kammy Hill.

Councilmember Moss moved to excuse the absence of Councilmember Casey. Councilmember Nakonieczny seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PRESENTATIONS

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following spoke regarding enactment of an ordinance to provide manufactured home park residents the opportunity to purchase the park:

- Ruth Broman
- Dorothy Knudson
- Jo Records
- Jan Leonard
- Anne Sadler
- Victoria O'Brannon
- Ishbel Dickens.

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Sharon Kay Schiller asked the Council to consider changing the current form of City government from Council-Manager to Council-Strong Mayor.

Penny Craig expressed concerns with the plan for improvements to the Mill Creek Sportsplex.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Accepts resignation of Michael Scholar from the Library Board.
- B. Resolution 2022-105 Awards the bid for the N. Clinton Street Stormwater Improvement Project to Nelson Construction in the amount of \$81,595.18.
- C. Resolution 2022-106 Authorizes an amendment to the contract with PBS Engineering and Environmental for construction management services for the Walawála Plaza project for \$181,644.00.
- D. Resolution 2022-107 Authorizes a contract amendment with RACOM Critical Communications to complete the incorporation of the Hair Remote public safety communications site as a redundant link for microwave communications for \$59,895.00.

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 funding for the Walawála Plaza project, and Steve Ruley provided some details on the public safety communication site improvement.

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

6. ACTIVE AGENDA

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- A. Resolution No. 2022-108 Amending the Consolidated Plan and the 2019 Annual Action Plan to accept \$81,606 in additional CDBG-CV Funds available through the CARES Act.

Staff reported on the award of additional funding due to the efficient distribution of previously awarded funds. It was noted that out of thousands of CDBG entitlement communities in the United States the city is one of only 22 communities to receive this additional award.

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

There were many compliments to staff on their hard work managing this program. And discussion on the use of these additional funds, which staff explained would be the continuation of existing programs.

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2022-108. Councilmember Nakonieczny seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- B. Resolution No. 2022-109 Authorizing Amendment No. 2 with David Evans and Associates, Inc. for design engineering and grant preparation for replacement of the 6th Avenue Bridge over Mill Creek in the amount of \$42,716.

Staff reported on the process of reviewing the bridges on 4th, 5th, and 6th Avenues. Noted was that in January of 2021, before talk of the great federal investment in infrastructure, staff conducted outreach with the public regarding what to do with all three bridges. Options discussed were replacement of 4th and removal and replacement of 5th and 6th with a bicycle/pedestrian bridge. The public response was generally okay with removal of 5th, however, there was concern with removal of 6th. Staff noted that now, with the passage of the bi-partisan infrastructure law (aka: the investment in jobs act.) making additional funding for infrastructure, the staff recommends pursuit of grants for replacement of 6th.

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

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There was discussion on:

- The age and condition of the many bridges in the city
- The cost to replace a bridge.
- The relationship between the bridges and the channel.
- There was a request for additional lighting on 6th Avenue.
- The various partnerships being explored including sources related to fish passage for grant funding on multiple levels.

Councilmember Koehler moved to adopt Resolution No. 2022-109 Authorizing Amendment No. 2 with David Evans and Associates, Inc. for design engineering and grant preparation for replacement of the 6th Avenue Bridge over Mill Creek in the amount of \$42,716. Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- C. Public Hearing to consider the right of way vacation for the 12-foot alley south of Block Four of the Cass Addition located in the vicinity of North 13th Avenue and West Moore Street.

Staff reported on the right of way vacation request and the process that such requests go through for approvals. No comments or concerns were made by the Site Plan Review Committee on this request, and there was a public meeting regarding this request during a Planning Commission meeting and no public comment was received. The Planning Commission provided a recommendation of approval. Adjacent property owners were provided notice of this public hearing so they could provide testimony if desired.

Mayor Scribner clarified that the request of council at this time is to make a motion to either continue to pursue this vacation, or not.

Mayor Scribner invited public testimony:

- The son of Howard Lynn & Carol Tegland spoke as their representative and a shareholder of Double T Construction. He spoke in favor of the vacation of the property.

No other testimony was provided.

There was discussion on:

- The property history and uses.

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- The next steps for the requester which includes an independent appraisal and payment to the city for that amount.
- The process for actual transfer of the property.

Councilmember Moss made a motion to continue with the process. Councilmember Koehler seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- D. Resolution No. 2022-110 Authorizing a 7-year lease agreement totaling \$315,000 with Western States Caterpillar for 2 Mini Excavators and 1 Skid-Steer.

Staff reported on the proposed lease package which will be a renewal of an agreement entered into in 2016 with the addition of the skid-steer at no additional cost.

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

There was discussion on the lease verses purchase analysis, equipment maintenance, and the firm this lease would be through. Appreciation of the staff comments included in the packet was noted.

Councilmember Moss made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2022-110. Councilmember Nakonieczny seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- E. Approval of minutes of the August 22, 2022, joint Work Session with the City of College Place.

Councilmember Moss moved to approve the minutes of the joint work session with the City of College Place held August 22, 2022. Councilmember Koehler seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 5 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 1 abstention by Councilmember Nakonieczny.

- F. Approval of minutes of the regular meeting held August 24, 2022.

Councilmember Moss moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held August 24, 2022. Councilmember Koehler seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

G. Approval of the August 2022 accounts payable register containing check numbers 19595 through 19609, 19611 through 19935, 19937 through 19994, and 415 through 430 totaling \$4,319,531.91

Councilmember Moss moved to approve payment of the August 2022 accounts payable register containing check numbers 19595 through 19609, 19611 through 19935, 19937 through 19994, and 415 through 430 totaling \$4,319,531.91 except for the checks to the Blue Mountain Action Council. Councilmember Nakonieczny 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 Koehler seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 5 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 1 abstention by Councilmember Koehler.

7. COUNCIL MEMBER MEETING REPORTS

Councilmember Moss reported attendance at numerous Finance Committee meetings regarding the 2023-2024 biennium budget; the agenda setting meeting; the Valley Transit agenda setting meeting; the City's volunteer recognition night; and the Work Session.

Councilmember Reyna reported attendance at the Historic Preservation Commission meeting; the City Manager recruitment subcommittee meeting; the City's volunteer recognition night; a meeting with Mayor Scribner; and the Work Session.

Councilmember Nakonieczny reported attendance at the City's volunteer recognition night; the Work Session; and the Fort Walla Walla Board meeting.

Councilmember Eskil reported attendance at the Work Session and the Planning Commission meeting.

Councilmember Koehler reported attendance at numerous Finance Committee meetings regarding the 2023-2024 biennium budget; a meeting with Mayor Scribner; and the Work Session.

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Mayor Scribner reported attendance at numerous Finance Committee meetings regarding the 2023-2024 biennium budget; a meeting with Councilmember Koehler; the agenda setting meeting; the City Manager recruitment subcommittee meeting; the City's volunteer recognition night; a meeting with Councilmember Reyna; the Work Session; the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee meeting; and the Mill Creek Coalition meeting.

8. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

None

9. MEETING ENDS

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 8:29 p.m.

Approved:

Attest:

Mayor

City Clerk