

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 28, 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 Manager Nabel Shawa, City Attorney Tim Donaldson, Community Development Director Preston Fredrickson, Sr. Planner Jon Maland, Finance Director Jean Teasdale, Accountant Liz Moeller, Fire Chief Bob Yancey, Deputy Chief John Knowles, Deputy Chief of EMS Eric Wood, WESCOM Manager Steve Ruley, Vicki Ruley, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Mason Knowles, Bill Leasure, HR Director Pam Taylor, and City Clerk Lisa Neissl.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PRESENTATIONS

- A. Mayor Scribner read a proclamation declaring October 2022 as the tenth annual Resilience Awareness Month.
- B. Public Works Director Ki Bealey, City Staff and Council joined in recognition of our flower watering staff who kept the downtown flower displays beautiful throughout a very hot dry season.
 - Keith Weathermon
 - Bill Leasure
 - Kyle Martin
 - Mason Knowles

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

- Ruth Broman

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- Dorothy Knudson

Dorothy Knudson also spoke about the importance of an interim person in the City Manager position and likened it to the structure of the Presbyterian church.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Resolution 2022- 111: Sets a public hearing date of October 26, 2022 to consider the right of way vacation request generally located at North 11th Avenue and West Main Street. (Adjacent to Lots 9, 10, 11 and 12 in Block 21 of Ritz's Addition)
- B. Ordinance 2022-21: Approving an amendment to the 2021-2022 biennium maintenance and operations budget; and Ordinance 2022-22: Amending the capital improvement project budget.
- C. Ordinance 2022-23: Updates the Municipal Code relating to utility billing.
- D. Approves minutes from the 09-12-2022 work session.

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

Staff provided a brief explanation of the positive changes in the budget amendment and provided information regarding the ordinance for the stormwater utility billing changes.

Councilmember Reyna moved to adopt Consent Agenda Items A through D. Councilmember Koehler seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

6. ACTIVE AGENDA

- A. Resolution 2022-112: Awards the bid for the Green Waste Grinding Services to Ironsides Custom Grinding, Inc., in the amount of \$66,646.80.

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Staff spoke about the compost process and how this process provides a way to recycle green waste in the community.

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

There was discussion on:

- The prior year contract amount.
- Where and how the grinding happens.
- Demand and supply of the compost.
- Incentives for people to utilize the system.

Councilmember Moss moved to approve Resolution 2022-112 as presented and discussed. Councilmember Casey seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- B. Resolution 2022-112: Approving an agreement for NG9-1-1 Equipment and Installation Services between Valence, Inc, /dba/ Valence Mission Critical Technologies, and Walla Walla Emergency Services Communications (WESCOM) in the amount \$240,490.

City Manager Shawa praised the WESCOM staff and Mr. Ruley on their diligent work on obtaining grant funding to work on improvements for the emergency communications system.

Staff reported on the equipment and provided information on the reasons this system was selected. It was noted that the new system is expandable and scalable as necessary. Due to funding awarded, the cost to the city will be around twenty percent with the remainder being grant funded.

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

There was discussion on:

- The importance of communications during emergency times.
- Maintenance costs / fees.
- Repair tech located in Spokane rather than Seattle.
- Transition process – seamless?
- High quality and long tenure of WESCOM staff.

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Councilmember Reyna moved to approve Resolution 2022-112 Approving an agreement for NG9-1-1 Equipment and Installation Services between Valence, Inc, /dba/ Valence Mission Critical Technologies, and Walla Walla Emergency Services Communications (WESCOM) in the amount \$240,490. Councilmember Casey seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

C. Ordinance establishing ambulance services to be operated as a public utility.

Staff gave a presentation on the proposed ambulance utility.

Mayor Scribner opened the public hearing at 7:48 P.M.

Sharon Kay Schiller requested that the city vote no on the ordinance due to the increase of the cost of living.

Mayor Scribner invited additional public comments and reminded everyone that once the hearing was closed, there would be no further testimony accepted. With no further comments the hearing was closed at 7:52 P.M.

There was discussion on:

- The prior adopted and then rescinded ordinance on the ambulance utility.
- Billing service for use of ambulance services.
- Department funds to replace aging equipment.
- Who is subject to the utility fee.
- Sustainability, or lack thereof, of continuing the current process.
- Impact to the budget if not passed.
- Low-income residents' ability to pay the additional fee.
- Rate calculation methodology and other option exploration.
- Utility fee for service *availability* as opposed to *demand* charge for use of the service.
- Lack of input from the public regarding the fee after abundance of notification.
- Low-income discounts and programs available.

Councilmember Koehler moved to approve Ordinance 2022-24 establishing and ambulance service to be operated as a public utility.

Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The motion carried with 6 yes votes and 1 no (Nakonieczny) votes.

D. Approves minutes of the regular meeting held September 14, 2022
(Councilmember Casey to abstain)

Councilmember Moss moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held September 14, 2022. Councilmember Koehler seconded the motion. The motion carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes and one abstention by Councilmember Casey.

7. COUNCIL MEMBER MEETING REPORTS

Councilmember Moss reported attendance at the Washington Park block party; the Valley Transit meeting; Zoom meeting with the city manager recruitment firm; Meeting with Representative Tana Senn; Civil Service Commission meeting; various meetings with City Attorney Donaldson; several finance committee meetings; the Police Chief Advisory quarterly meeting; an MRSC workshop on housing; and the Committee on Committees.

Councilmember Casey reported attendance at the Wastewater/Water Advisory Committee; the Jackson Brown concert; and the work session.

Councilmember Reyna reported attendance at the Jackson Brown concert; a meeting with the recruitment committee; meeting with the organizers of Festival de Cultura Viva scheduled for October 16th at the Gesa Powerhouse Theatre at 11:00 a.m.; and the meeting with Representative Senn.

Councilmember Nakonieczny reported attendance at the Washington Park block party; the Valley Transit meeting; the work session; the ribbon cutting at Pioneer Park; and the Committee on Committees.

Councilmember Eskil reported attendance at the Valley Transit meeting, and the Blue Mountain Humane Society.

Councilmember Koehler reported attendance at a finance committee budget meeting, the work session, and downtown concerts.

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Mayor Scribner reported a meeting with Dr. Smith, Superintendent of the School District; attendance at the Public Library Board meeting; a meeting with Councilmember Moss; the agenda setting meeting; meeting with Councilmembers Reyna, Moss and Pamela Taylor regarding the city manager recruitment timeline; multiple Finance Committee meetings; reading of the Proclamation on Adam West Day; and the work session.

8. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Nakonieczny made a motion to appoint Nat Robertson to the Public Library Board, and Kathryn Witherington to the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee with terms ending December 31, 2023.

Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The motion carried with 5 yes votes and 2 no votes (Koehler, Scribner).

Councilmember Reyna spoke about the standards of a particular subject matter to reach the level of a council discussion.

Mayor Scribner and Pam Taylor spoke about the schedule for the city manager recruitment process. Important dates noted were:

- Thursday, October 27th from 4 to 6 P.M. to review applications to select 10 to 12 semi-finalist candidates.
- Friday, November 18th from 4 to 6 P.M. To narrow candidates down to the top four to five after receiving questionnaire answers and online interview videos from the selected semi-finalists.
- Tuesday, December 13th the top four to five finalists will present their first-year game plans for the city with the council from 10:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Then that evening there will be a meet-and-greet with city employees followed by a meet-and-greet with the community at the Marcus Whitman.
- Wednesday, December 14th will be the interviews with each candidate rotating through the four interview panels (two citizen panels, one of the leadership team, and one of council) between 8 A.M. and 3:30 P.M. (If there are five finalists, there will also be a tour of the city included.
 - Then from 3:30 to 5 p.m. the community panels will provide feedback to the council followed by the leadership team.

Mayor Scribner requested that everyone put these dates on their calendar to be sure they are able to attend.

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9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Scribner announced the City Council would be recessing to Executive Session to review the performance of a public employee pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g).

Councilmember Koehler made a motion to extend the meeting at 9:30 p.m. Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

The Executive Session will last no more than one hour, and no further business will come before Council in open session. The meeting was recessed at 9:33 p.m.

10. MEETING ENDS

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 9:50 p.m.

Approved:

Attest:

Mayor

City Clerk