

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 12, 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: Deputy City Manager Elizabeth Chamberlain, City Attorney June Riley, Development Services Director Preston Frederickson, Planner Lisa Wasson-Seilo, Fire Chief Bob Yancey, Deputy Chief John Knowles, Deputy Chief of EMS Eric Wood, Fleet Services Supervisor Matt Edwards, and City Clerk Lisa Neissl.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Scribner explained that Deputy City Manager Elizabeth Chamberlain shall have the powers and perform the duties of the City Manager upon the retirement of City Manager Shawa as per the Walla Walla Municipal Code 2.17.020(g).

3. PRESENTATIONS

- A. Mayor Scribner read a proclamation declaring October 2022 Domestic Violence Action Month and the third week of October as YWCA Week Without Violence. He presented the proclamation to Anne-Marie Schwerin, Executive Director of the YWCA who said a few words about it.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Angie Peters and Anikó Samu Kuschatka of the Walla Walla and Columbia County Accessible Communities Advisory Committee spoke about the difficulties of accessibility at roundabouts for pedestrians, and particularly those with disabilities related to vision, hearing, or mobility.

Sarah who is an employee of a downtown business spoke about the difficulties of parking for those people who work in the downtown area and asked if anything was going to be considered for people such as

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herself who may have to walk a long distance to far away parking after shift at a late hour after dark.

There were comments by council.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Accepts the resignation of Hannah Bartman from the Arts Commission.
- B. Approves minutes from the 09-26-2022 work session.
- C. Approves minutes from the 09-28-2022 regular meeting.

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 through C. Councilmember Casey seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

6. ACTIVE AGENDA

- A. Resolution 2022-114 Authorizes the purchase of two ambulance and mission essential equipment using the established agreement between the City and HGACBuy cooperative purchasing organization through the contract vendor Hughes Fire Equipment, not to exceed \$696,000.

Staff reported on the scheduled replacement of the equipment and how the procurement process will work for the ambulances.

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

There was discussion on:

- Time frame for the purchase.
- Lifecycle of an ambulance and what determines the replacement zone for a useful life.
- Ambulance Utility relevance regarding this purchase.
- Planning and strategizing for equipment replacements.
- Availability of funding for the purchase.
- Surplus of old ambulances.

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Councilmember Moss moved to approve Resolution 2022-114 as presented and discussed. Councilmember Nakonieczny seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- B. Ordinance No. 2022-25 approves Walla Walla Municipal Code (WWMC) Text Amendments to Titles 15 and 20 implement the Walla Walla Comprehensive Plan 2040. The proposed amendments would apply city-wide.

Staff reported on the text amendments to WWMC Titles 15 and 20 related to building and construction as well as zoning. It was noted that the Planning Commission held two work sessions and a public hearing on these amendments. Then council held a workshop on them in September.

Mayor Scribner invited public input.

Kyle McFarley spoke in favor of the amendments specifically regarding changes to the garage ADU regulations.

There was discussion on:

- Housing issues and potential positive impacts.
- Statewide standards.

Councilmember Reyna moved to approve Ordinance No. 2022-25 which amends text of the Walla Walla Municipal Code (WWMC) Titles 15 and 20 to implement the Walla Walla Comprehensive Plan 2040. Councilmember Nakonieczny seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- C. Ordinance No. 2022-26 approves Walla Walla Municipal Code (WWMC) Text Amendments to Chapter 20.100 and 20.170 related to Wireless Communication Facilities.

Staff reported on the proposed amendments to wireless communication facilities to allow them, under specific circumstances, in residential areas, with the approval of a conditional use permit. Staff detailed the extensive public engagement process followed to ensure the information was well advertised.

Mayor Scribner invited public input.

Dr. Zana Carver spoke against the amendments noting the adverse health effects of wireless radiation including 5g. She provided some articles describing the risks.

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Jane Casey spoke against the amendments referencing a letter from Verizon and an article in the Union Bulletin. She spoke also about the waste caused by disposal of old technology when new technology is not compatible with it. She requested more research prior to this change.

Mayor Scribner instructed the Clerk to scan the articles provided by Dr. Carver and send them to the members of Council.

There was discussion on:

- The outreach by staff.
- The concerns made by members of the public tonight.
- Specific concerns can be addressed during the conditional use permit process.
- Options for action if none is taken tonight.
- Heights over 65 feet not being considered in the proposed code.
- Need for 5g in residential areas.
- Federal regulations that would potentially address waste issue.
- Potential public claims of lack of information.
- Time sensitivity of action and potential to reverse action at a future date.

Councilmember Koehler moved to approve Ordinance No. 2022-26 as written, which approves Walla Walla Municipal Code (WWMC) Text Amendments to Chapter 20.100 and 20.170 related to Wireless Communication Facilities. Councilmember Reyna seconded the motion. The motion carried with 5 yes votes and 2 no votes (Casey, Nakonieczny).

A. Resolution 2022-115: City Council Designating October 12 as Indigenous Peoples' Day

Councilmember Reyna presented his proposed Resolution designating October 12th as Indigenous Peoples' Day in Walla Walla, and directing future cooperation with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR).

Mayor Scribner invited public input.

The following people spoke in favor of the resolution and future cooperation with the CTUIR, noting that this will establish a working relationship with a Tribal Government entity as the CTUIR is a Sovereign Nation:

Noah Leavitt – In person

Jeanine Gordan (member of CTUIR) - Virtually

Michelle Liberty (member of CTUIR) - Virtually

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Don Sampson (Chief of the Walla Walla Tribe) - Virtually

There was discussion on:

- The work on the Resolution.
- Appreciation for the public comments.
- Collaborations with CTUIR.
- Resolutions vs. Proclamations

Councilmember Koehler moved to approve Resolution 2022-115 as presented and discussed. Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- B. Approves September 2022 Accounts Payable Register containing check numbers 19995 through 20152, 20154 through 20273, 20275 through 20397, and 431 through 440 totaling \$6,821,820.88.

Councilmember Moss moved to approve payment of the September 2022 accounts payable register containing check numbers 19995 through 20152, 20154 through 20273, 20275 through 20397, and 431 through 440 totaling \$6,821,820.88 except for the checks to the Blue Mountain Action Council. Councilmember Koehler seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously 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 carried with 6 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 1 abstention by Councilmember Koehler.

7. COUNCIL MEMBER MEETING REPORTS

Councilmember Moss report:

Attendance at the work session, the agenda setting meeting, the Valley Transit agenda setting meeting, a meeting with Fire, Police and Councilmember Casey regarding the Community Paramedic Program and mental health. He also noted watching virtually a meeting of the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance.

Councilmember Casey report:

Attendance at the work session, a meeting of the Walla Walla Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization and the meeting with Councilmember Moss with Fire and Police staff regarding the Community Paramedic Program and mental health.

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Councilmember Reyna report:

Attendance at the work session, a meeting with the mayor and staff Ki Bealey and Kyle Clemens regarding canopy and tree strategy and environmental restoration. He also listened to the meeting of the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance. He informed and invited everyone to attend a presentation on tribal names in the Walla Walla Valley that will be at Fort Walla Walla Museum on Thursday at 5:00 PM.

Councilmember Nakonieczny report:

Attendance at the work session.

Councilmember Eskil report:

Attendance at the work session, he attended a meeting with Fire and Police staff regarding the Community Paramedic Program and mental health. He also met with the Port and County officials on legislative issues.

Councilmember Koehler report:

Attendance at the work session.

Mayor Scribner report:

Attendance at the work session, the agenda setting meeting, the Arts Commission meeting, met with member Reyna and staff Ki Bealey and Kyle Clemens regarding canopy and tree strategy and environmental restoration. A meeting with Fire and Police staff regarding the Community Paramedic Program and mental health. And Nabil Shawa's retirement event.

8. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Moss spoke about a house in the Eastgate area that burned twice in the same year and asked about policy needs to improve the process or move it forward.

Councilmember Eskil asked about the upcoming survey and the number of responses from each ward and how we acquire a true representation of the city. Ms. Chamberlain suggested that discussion be held until the consultant is here at an upcoming work session.

Staff addressed the issue of the fire property and spoke about some possible strategies that staff is working on with code enforcement that may alleviate some of these concerns. She noted there may be some policy issues to discuss at a future work session. There was some discussion on code enforcement staffing.

In addition, staff noted there was a press release about the prescribed burn in the watershed that will be happening sometime during the weather window between October 14th and October 21st.

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On Wednesday, October 19, 2022, Ms. Chamberlain will be in Olympia presenting on Walla Walla's housing approaches to the Senate Housing and Local Government Committee.

Staff gave a reminder of the joint work session with the County on Monday the 17th.

The Rotary will be planting trees in partnership with the City Parks Department at the golf course this Saturday.

9. MEETING ENDS

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 8:51 p.m.

Approved:

Attest:

Mayor

City Clerk