

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 2, 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 Tim Donaldson, Finance Director Jean Teasdale, Accounting Supervisor Liz Moeller, Engineer Monte Puymon, Police Chief Buttice, Police Captain Eric Knudson, and City Clerk Lisa Neissl.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PRESENTATIONS – None.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ruthann Brahman of 1318 Rancho Villa Drive – reiterated her concerns regarding the zoning of mobile home park properties and asked for updates on the ongoing process.

Staff responded that the code amendment draft is in process and a notice should be posted in about one week. Information was provided on how to request special notifications as well.

Dorothy Knudson 1336 Rancho Villa Drive – encouraged the continuance of work on the rezoning. She also asked about what assistance there would be for a property owner who wanted to build affordable housing.

Mayor Scribner directed that they should contact the Development Services Department.

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

November 2, 2022

PAGE 2

5. ACTIVE AGENDA

A. Resolution 2022-117: Authorizes grant agreement with the Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE) for up to \$2,210,664 for design and construction of the Poplar Street project.

Staff reported on both items A and B providing information on what the grants were for and the projected timelines of the projects. Item A being a continuation of the Poplar Street project from 5th to 14th with construction tentatively planned for 2025 construction. It was also noted that the local match has now been reduced from 25% to 15% on both grant items A and B.

Item B is for Pine Street between 2nd and 9th Avenue and to include one block West to include the State truck route. Staff has also applied for a grant to provide a traffic signal at 9th and Pine. That traffic signal will require some additional lane alignment which is the reason for the additional state route block inclusion.

Additional grant applications were reported on as well.

Mayor Scribner invited public input.

Dorothy Knudson requested clarification on the timeline of the construction.

There was discussion on:

- The timeline of the projects
 - Poplar, goal of 2025 dependent upon additional grants
 - Pine, planned for 2025
- Various grant applications
- Lead time strategies / supply chain delay
- Sources of grant funding

Councilmember Moss moved to approve Resolution 2022-117 which authorizes acceptance of the grant agreement with the Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE) for up to \$2,210,664 for design and construction of the Poplar Street project. Councilmember Casey seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

November 2, 2022

PAGE 3

B. Resolution 2022-118: Authorizes a grant agreement with the Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE) for up to \$1,706,189 for design and construction of the Pine Street (2nd Ave to 9th Ave) project.

Councilmember Reyna moved to approve Resolution 2022-118 which authorizes a grant agreement with the Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE) for up to \$1,706,189 for design and construction of the Pine Street (2nd Ave to 9th Ave) project. Councilmember Nakonieczny seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

C. 2022 Property Tax Hearing - Action to be at 11/16/2022 meeting.

Staff reviewed the process of setting the levy amount for property taxes, including the general property tax levy and the voter-approved bond taxes. Staff also reviewed the other revenue sources of the City. This property tax levy amount is spread over all the properties within the City. The proposal is to not impose an increase in 2023 and bank the one percent levy amount.

Mayor Scribner opened the public hearing at 7:10 p.m. There being no public comment, the hearing was closed.

There was discussion on:

- Rationale behind the choice to bank the one percent levy amount.
- Other bond levy timelines.
- Options to fund the body camera program.
- Levy rate being lower, yet value assessment increasing.
- Options for use of banked amounts in future years.

D. 2023-2024 Biennial Budget Hearing.

Staff provided an overview of the proposed 2023-2024 Biennium Budget.

Mayor Scribner opened the public hearing at 7:37 p.m.

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

November 2, 2022

PAGE 4

Joe Field of Joe's Place which is the comprehensive sex offender program in Walla Walla. He spoke about the program and the various stakeholders involved and requested a funding allocation from the City be included in the budget.

It was suggested that he work with staff to present a detailed budget proposal to the finance committee for consideration.

Noah Levitt of 625 Whitman St. voiced his appreciation for the efforts to find funding for a body camera program.

Mayor Scribner closed the public hearing at 7:46 p.m.

There was discussion on:

- The timeline for the budget process.
- The inclusion of body worn cameras in the budget priorities.
- Use of the one percent levy amount to pay for the body worn cameras.

7. COUNCIL MEMBER MEETING REPORTS

Councilmember Moss reported attendance at the following:

The City Manager semi-finalist selection meeting, the work session, the Valley Transit accountability audit meeting, the housing ad hoc committee and the Civil Service meeting.

Councilmember Casey reported attendance at the following:

The work session, a meeting with the mayor, and a phone meeting regarding the Walla Walla Valley MPO.

Councilmember Reyna reported attendance at the following:

The work session, the emergency management executive board, and the housing ad hoc committee.

Councilmember Nakonieczny reported attendance at the following:

The work session.

Councilmember Eskil reported attendance at the following:

The work session and the City Manager semi-finalist selection meeting.

Councilmember Koehler reported attendance at the following:

The work session, the City Manager semi-finalist selection meeting, and the housing ad hoc committee.

Mayor Scribner reported attendance at the following:

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

November 2, 2022

PAGE 5

The work session, the City Manager semi-finalist selection meeting, a meeting with the library architect, met with a fireworks purveyor, a meeting with Councilmember Casey, and the Arts Commission.

8. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

It was recommended to add a discussion regarding the ward system to a retreat agenda.

Mayor Scribner noted that a letter has been drafted and will be going out to the County and the Port regarding the decision made on the legislative priorities.

Staff provided information and requested direction on a potential grant to assist funding for a sexual assault child advocate in-house. The turn around time to apply for the grant is fast; therefore, staff is asking for approval from council to complete an application for the grant.

There was discussion on:

- The funding source.
- Term of the employee
- In kind services qualify as the match

Consensus was to move forward with the application.

Reminders were provided about the work session on the 21st at 4:00 p.m. with the 16th District Representatives, and the employee recognition luncheon.

9. MEETING ENDS

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

Approved:

Attest:

Mayor

City Clerk