

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 16, 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, Police Chief Buttice, Deputy Fire Chief John Knowles, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Finance Director Jean Teasdale, Accounting Supervisor Liz Moeller, and City Clerk Lisa Neissl.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Scribner read a proclamation declaring November 26, 2022, as Small Business Saturday in Walla Walla and encouraging residents to support small businesses and merchants on Small Business Saturday and throughout the year.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dorothy Knudson of Rancho Villa, Jo Records and Jan Leonard of Golden West Estates expressed their pleasure with the efforts made by the city regarding the zoning changes for manufactured home parks.

Chris Howard and Bob Carson, both of Walla Walla addressed the issue of gas-powered leaf blowers and requested the council consider a ban of them due to noise and pollution.

Cybil Barrier and Greg Nelson, both of Walla Walla expressed concerns with proposed pedestrian improvements along Division Street at Pioneer Park and to the Division and Whitman Street intersections specifically. In addition, they called out safety issues of speed and distracted driving along Division.

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Council requested that staff add agenda items for the gas-powered leaf blowers and the issues along Division Street for discussion at upcoming work sessions on each subject.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

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

A. - Accepts resignation of Nancy Macduff from the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

B. - Resolution 2022-119: Authorizes surplus of items no longer needed by the City of Walla Walla. Items are obsolete, broken, or outdated for City use.

C. - Resolution 2022-120: Adopts 2023 State Legislative Priorities; and Resolution 2022-121: Adopts 2023 Federal Legislative Priorities

D. - Resolution No. 2022-122: Bid award to MCC Electric in the amount of \$52,673.20 for the Sleep Center Expansion Project electrical work.

E. - Resolution 2022-123: Authorizes a 5-year contract with UniFirst for uniform/mat/towel/soap supply services

F. - Approval of minutes for the 10/17/2022 Joint Work Session

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

After brief council comments,

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Consent Agenda Items A through F as presented. Councilmember Casey seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

6. ACTIVE AGENDA

A. Resolution 2022-124: Ratifies the Emergency Declaration for repairs to the main gate at the Water Treatment Plant.

Staff reported on an incident that required emergency repairs to the gate at the Water Treatment Plant.

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

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There was discussion on:

- Potential for harm to the water system, although none happened this time.
- Legal process for emergency declarations.
- Investigation
- Additional alarms and/or procedures to mitigate potential for this in the future.

Councilmember Moss moved to approve Resolution 2022-124 as presented and discussed. Councilmember Casey seconded the motion. The motion carries unanimously with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

B. 2023 Property Tax Adoption:

- Ordinance 2022-27 Fire Bond
- Ordinance 2022-28 Police Bond
- Ordinance 2022-29 Pool Bond
- Ordinance 2022-30 Levy Refunds
- Resolution 2022-125 Property Tax Levy
- Ordinance 2022-31 Property Tax Levy

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 invited public input.

Dorothy Knudson of Rancho Villa asked how much each taxpayer would pay if the one percent was imposed to pay for the body cameras.

Staff provided the calculation that it would be 1.7 cents per 1,000 of assessed value. So, a house valued at \$400,000 would pay \$6.67 per year.

After some clarifications by council members.

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Ordinance 2022-27 Fire Bond as presented and discussed. Councilmember Nakonieczny seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

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Councilmember Reyna moved to approve Ordinance 2022-28 Police Bond as presented and discussed. Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

Councilmember Koehler moved to approve Ordinance 2022-29 Pool Bond as presented and discussed. Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

Councilmember Koehler moved to approve Ordinance 2022-30 Levy Refunds as presented and discussed. Councilmember Nakonieczny seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

Councilmember Moss moved to approve Resolution 2022-125 Property Tax Levy banking the 1% property tax as presented and discussed. Councilmember Casey seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

Councilmember Koehler moved to approve Ordinance 2022-31 property Tax Levy banking the 1% property tax Moss seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

C. 2023-2024 2nd Budget Hearing

Staff reviewed the process to date used to develop the proposed budget, as well as how the budget is monitored and adjusted as necessary throughout the biennium.

Mayor Scribner opened the public hearing at 7:53 p.m.

Testimony:

Noah Leavitt, Division Street, thanked council for listening to public opinion and including the body cameras funding in this budget.

There being no additional comments, Mayor Scribner closed the public hearing at 7:56 p.m.

There was discussion on:

- The conservative approach in planning the budget.
- Inclusion of the body camera program.
- The process as a whole.

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- Explanation of “charges for goods and services” being fees for parks programs, administrative service charges, building permit fees, and various service fees charged by departments.
- Clarification of difference between lodging tax money and tourism promotion funds.

D. **Resolution 2022-126: Approves the recommendation of the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee (LTAC) for the allocation Lodging Tax Revenue.**

Staff reported on the proposal by the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee for the allocation of the 2023 funds and reviewed the process used to determine those recommendations.

Mayor Scribner invited public input.

James Payne of Fort Walla Walla Museum and member of the LTAC spoke about consideration of the relationship between the dollars awarded and “heads in beds” when making award recommendations. He also noted the difficulty in planning for larger organizations when awards are only made for one-year periods and recommends moving toward a multi-year award process.

There was discussion on:

- The history of the process
- Council authority only to vote on whole proposal rather than individual awards.
- Methodology of deciding award amounts.
- Investing in new projects.

Councilmember Moss moved to approve Resolution 2022-126 as presented and discussed. Councilmember Reyna seconded the motion. After additional discussion regarding the funding award distributions. The motion carried with 5 yes votes and 2 no votes (Scribner, Casey).

E. **October 1-31, 2022, Accounts Payable Register - Checks # 20398-20554; 20556-20736; 441-457 totaling \$3,519,386.39**

Staff reported on

Mayor Scribner invited public input.

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There was discussion on:

Councilmember Moss moved to approve payment of the October 2022 accounts payable register containing check numbers 20398 through 20554, 20556 through 20736, and 441 through 457 totaling \$3,519,386.39 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 Reyna 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 reported attendance at the following:

The work session, agenda setting, City Manager Recruitment committee, Valley Transit agenda setting, Finance Committee, employee recognition lunch.

Councilmember Casey reported attendance at the following:

The work session

Councilmember Reyna reported attendance at the following:

The work session

Councilmember Nakonieczny reported attendance at the following:

The work session, a joint SWAC and Sustainability meeting

Councilmember Eskil reported attendance at the following:

The work session, Blue Mountain Humane Society meeting, LEOFF Board, and Visit Walla Walla meeting.

Councilmember Koehler reported attendance at the following:

The work session, finance committee, CDBG advisory board, and the employee recognition lunch.

Mayor Scribner reported attendance at the following:

The work session, agenda setting, finance committee, meeting with Andy Coleman, BPAC meeting, LEOFF Board, meeting with Chief Buttice, meeting with Ki Bealey and Ms. Chamberlain, a meeting with some Whitman/Division homeowners, the employee recognition lunch

8. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

There was discussion on having the portable speed sign placed on Division Street.

Staff sought a volunteer for the KUJ radio show on Friday morning and provided a reminder that there was a meeting with the 16th District Representatives on Monday the 21st at 4:00 p.m.

Mayor Scribner reminded council members of the meeting on Friday at 4:00 p.m. to evaluate the semi-finalists for the position of City Manager and asked that they do their homework in preparation of the meeting.

9. MEETING ENDS

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 9:00 p.m.

Approved:

Attest:

Mayor

City Clerk