

**WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**December 21, 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 Elizabeth Chamberlain, City Attorney Tim Donaldson, Parks and Recreation Director Andy Coleman, Engineer Monte Puymon, Police Captain Knudson, CDBG Coordinator Lydia Caudill, Accountant Liz Moeller, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, and City Clerk Lisa Neissl.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**3. PRESENTATIONS**

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Linda Herbert of Walla Walla 2020, spoke about the destruction of the riparian area on the banks of Garrison Creek adjacent to Pioneer School. She requested that the Development Services Department be diligent in protection of these areas in future proposal reviews. Specifically noted is an upcoming development near Yellowhawk Creek.

R.L. McFarland added to the statements about Yellowhawk Creek noting that it is a controlled stream that may be needed in the future if a flood event requires overflow from Mill Creek be diverted there.

Council Members expressed their personal views on the matter and expressed interest in learning more about it from staff.

**5. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

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- A. Approves resolution 2022-133: Authorizes acceptance of a \$750,000 federal grant for the Rose Street Pavement Preservation project.
- B. Approves resolution 2022-134: Adopts the 2022 Annual Report and Work Plan for the Walla Walla City Transportation Benefit District (TBD).
- C. Approves resolution 2022-135 Authorizes a one-year contract for janitorial services.
- D. Approves resolution 2022-136: Accepts a grant in the amount of \$600,000 from the Recreation and Conservation Office for the rebuild of Heritage Square.
- E. Approves resolution 2022-137: Authorizes the City Manager to execute a design contract amendment for the Mill Creek Sportsplex Improvements Project.
- F. Approves resolution 2022-138 Approves the Axon body-worn camera lease package.
- G. Approves the minutes for the 12/05/2022 Work Session and the 12/07/2022 Regular Meeting.

Council Member Eskil requested an addition to the minutes of the December 7<sup>th</sup> meeting to include his statement regarding violation of the Open Public Meetings Act.

Council Member Casey requested item E be moved to the active agenda.

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

Staff provided information to clarify council questions on some items. This information satisfied the question regarding item E, and it was moved back to the consent agenda.

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

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### 6. ACTIVE AGENDA

- A. Resolution 2022-139: Authorizing an agreement with Blue Mountain Action Council for Commitment to Community Services. (Councilmember Koehler to abstain)

Staff provided a history of the program and information about the items that will be included in the program for 2023.

Mayor Scribner invited public input. No one chose to address the City Council on this issue. However, CDBG Coordinator Lydia Caudill spoke about how Commitment to Community provides public outreach services for the CDBG program.

There was discussion on:

- Neighborhoods involved with this program.
- Council Member Reyna on Board of BMAC – Determined to not be a conflict.
- Celebration organized by C2C last evening.
- Community relationship of C2C staff.
- Outreach through texting.

**Councilmember Moss moved to approve Resolution 2022-139 as presented and discussed. Councilmember Casey seconded the motion. The motion carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes with Councilmember Koehler abstaining.**

- B. Resolution 2022-140: Authorizing Execution of a Contract with Elizabeth Chamberlain to Serve as City Manager for the City of Walla Walla.

Mayor Scribner invited public input.

R. L. McFarland requested clarification on the mayor stating the term “Acting City Manager” and asked about a probationary period.

Mayor Scribner clarified his terminology and City Attorney Donaldson explained that there is a review period rather than a “probationary” period.

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Councilmember Moss moved to approve Resolution 2022-140 as presented and discussed. Councilmember Casey seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

### C. Public Hearing for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) 2023 Annual Action Plan.

Staff presented the 2023 Annual Action Plan for the Community Development Block Grant and requested a public hearing be held. It was explained that the final allocation of funds will be set once Congress approves the CDBG budget at which time the final plan will come before council for approval.

Mayor Scribner opened the public hearing at 7:25 p.m. No one chose to address the City Council on this issue and the hearing was closed.

There was discussion on:

- MercyCorps leaving the community.
- Jefferson Park project.
- The next five-year consolidated plan.
- A future shuffleboard tournament.
- Various partnerships of CDBG.

### D. Ordinance 2022-37 amending the 2021-22 Biennium Maintenance and Operations Budget.

And Ordinance 2022-38 amending the 2021-22 Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Budget.

Staff provided an overview of the final budget amendments.

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

There was a brief discussion.

Councilmember Reyna moved to approve Ordinance 2022-37 as presented and discussed. Councilmember Nakonieczny seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

Councilmember Casey moved to approve Ordinance 2022-38 as presented and discussed. Councilmember Reyna seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

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- E. Resolution 2022-141: Authorizes the purchase of a Hydro Excavation Truck and Surpluses for trade-in a 2001 Sterling Vactor Truck for a total purchase price of \$491,540.

Staff provided information on what this equipment does and how it was determined to be the right vehicle for the city.

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

There was discussion on:

- Finance Committee review of this purchase and inter-fund loan.
- A replacement schedule for the future.
- Ease of use of this equipment.
- Analogy to a "giant shop-vac".
- Hours and mileage on vehicle.

**Councilmember Reyna moved to approve Resolution 2022-141 as presented and discussed. Councilmember Nakonieczny seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

- F. Resolution 2022-142: Awards the bid for the 2023 Sewer Main Replacement Project to Halme Construction in the amount of \$790,187.63.

Staff provided information on the project and bids that were received. It was noted this bid came in under the engineers estimate.

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

There was discussion on:

- Oversight when working with a new firm.
- State law requirements regarding lowest *responsible* bidder.

**Councilmember Reyna moved to approve Resolution 2022-142 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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- G. Ordinance 2022-39: Creates compost procurement requirements for compliance with RCW 43.19A.150.

Staff reported on the requirement to codify this practice that the City of Walla Walla has already been practicing for several years. This will add a requirement to track the usage of the compost in projects.

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

There was discussion on:

- State mandated tracking and reporting, and additional work involved.
- Reasons for tracking and what will be tracked.
- Quantity used in each project.
- Demand for compost.
- Mandate for all cities and counties.
- Methane gas emission reduction.

**Councilmember Nakonieczny moved to approve Ordinance 2022-39 as presented and discussed. Councilmember Casey seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

- H. Approves the November 1-30, 2022, Accounts Payable Register checks #20737-21064; 21066-21076; 458-463; and 465-471 totaling \$4,913,236.62.

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

**Councilmember Moss moved to approve payment of the November 30, 2022, accounts payable register containing check numbers 20737 through 21064, 21066 through 21076, and 458 through 463, and 465 through 471 totaling \$4,913,236.62 except for the checks to the Blue Mountain Action Council and Adam Eskil. Councilmember Eskil 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.**

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**Councilmember Moss moved to approve payment of the check to Adam Eskil. Councilmember Nakonieczny seconded the motion. The motion carried with 6 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 1 abstention by Councilmember Eskil.**

- I. Approves the minutes of the 11/21/2022 special work session – Council member Reyna to abstain.

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

**Councilmember Moss moved to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2022 special work session as presented. Councilmember Nakonieczny seconded the motion. The motion carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes, and 1 abstention by Councilmember Reyna.**

### 7. COUNCIL MEMBER MEETING REPORTS

Councilmember Moss reported attendance at the following:

Agenda setting, Valley Transit board meeting and the annual safety awards, Transportation Benefit District, and the Committee on Committees.

Councilmember Casey reported attendance at the following:

Good Roads and a meeting with Steve Nokes of Argo Transmission about parking.

Councilmember Reyna reported attendance at the following:

Downtown Walla Walla Foundation Board Meeting, Blue Mountain Action Council Board Meeting, Committee on Committees.

Councilmember Nakonieczny reported attendance at the following:

Valley Transit board meeting and the annual safety awards, Good Roads meeting, Committee on Committees.

Councilmember Eskil reported attendance at the following:

Valley Transit board meeting and the annual safety awards, Meeting with Ms. Chamberlain, Visit Walla Walla meeting, and a meeting with Mr. Bealey, Ms. Chamberlain, and Port staff.

Councilmember Koehler reported attendance at the following:

A meeting with Development Services Director Frederickson.

Mayor Scribner reported attendance at the following:

The agenda setting meeting, a meeting with Scott Daggett, and the Library Board meeting.

## **8. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS**

**Councilmember Nakonieczny moved to allow Noemi Reed to continue service on the Historic Preservation Commission after she moved out of the city limits but remains within Walla Walla County as allowed by the code. Councilmember Reyna seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

**Councilmember Nakonieczny moved to make the following appointments:**

**Arts Commission – reappoint Laura Hope for a term expiring December 31, 2025.**

**Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee – reappoint Dan Calzaretta and appoint Brett Isenhower to terms expiring December 31, 2025.**

**Parks, Recreation, and Urban Forestry Advisory Board – appoint Michael Maret and Isaac Long for terms expiring December 31, 2027.**

**Planning Commission – reappoint Brenda Bernards and Jolie Welch and appoint Jeffrey Robinson for terms expiring December 31, 2025.**

**Public Library Board of Trustees – appointment of Lauren Osborne for a term expiring December 31, 2027.**

**Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

Council expressed their gratitude to city staff for all their work throughout the year in all weather conditions.

There was some discussion on the wireless tower application for the Blue Mountain Church property including:

- Height cap of 65'
- Current application grandfathered under current code regardless of any future changes to the code by the council.
- Hearing Examiner process for current proposal.
- Council options to make additional changes to the land use code and process involved.

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- Staff provided an update on the status of the current application.

Ms. Chamberlain shared that the NBC station produced a news story on the lease of the amphitheater.

**9. MEETING ENDS**

**There being no further business, the meeting ended at 8:42 p.m.**

Approved:

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk