

**WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL**  
**Retreat Minutes**  
**March 19, 2022**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Scribner called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.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, Deputy City Manager Elizabeth Chamberlain, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Fire Chief Bob Yancey, Development Services Director Preston Frederickson, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

**2. ACTIVE AGENDA**

A. Strategic Plan review/update.

The final draft of the proposed strategic plan was reviewed. There was discussion on the time frame for analyzing body worn cameras and shortening the time frame to fit the implementation into the 2023-2024 biennium budget.

B. City Council new ideas discussion.

The following issues were discussed:

- Providing a listing of issues that will be coming before the Council at future meetings. Staff will email a copy of the agenda item report when distributing the links for the agenda packets.
- Holding an additional Work Session if necessary.
- Working on long-range planning with measurements.
- Establishing a formal framework with the Port of Walla Walla and Walla Walla County to identify public lands that may be available to develop for affordable housing.
- Holding a regular City Council meeting in each of the four wards.
- Recognizing volunteer committee members on the City's website.

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- Analysis of a project to have a paved bike/walk path along Mill Creek from 9<sup>th</sup> to Gose Street. Private funding may be available but public right-of-way is necessary for portions of this area and could be challenging to obtain.
- Need for a building maintenance master plan for City-owned buildings.
- Addressing the proliferation of noxious weeds, especially puncture vine (goat heads).
- Inclusion of the importance of multi-modal paths in the strategic plan.
- Biennial budget calendar.

### C. Partnership opportunities.

Staff introduced the concept of working together with adjacent jurisdictions on economic development and sharing additional sales tax revenues from these ventures rather than competing against each other. Council agreed this concept may be beneficial for further study and collaboration.

There was discussion on the preferred alternative of an interchange at Highway 12 and Clinton Street and unlikelihood of getting grant funding for an interchange. Staff reviewed the possibility of a grant to extend Myra Road south from State Route 125. Council agreed that this grant opportunity should be pursued.

At 12:03 p.m. the Council recessed for a lunch break and reconvened at 12:15 p.m.

### D. Economics of Streateries.

Dr. Patrick Jones and Kelley Cullen, Eastern Washington University via Zoom, reviewed their findings on the economic impact of the downtown streateries. They concluded that these streateries have had a favorable economic impact, even for all downtown businesses.

There was discussion on downtown parking enforcement. Staff will be bringing forth additional information with a presentation at a future Work Session.

Staff showed photos of some downtown businesses expanding their outdoor dining without permits and encroaching on the sidewalk area.

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These businesses will be asked to remove these encroachments to comply with accessibility and safety standards.

- E. Proclamations – To do or not to do; if so, what’s the process/considerations.

After discussion, it was the consensus of Council for staff to bring back proclamation issuance guidelines to Council for formal approval with an amendment that all requests shall go through the City Clerk’s office who will email a copy to the Council to determine if there are any objections to issuance of the proclamation.

- F. 2023 City Manager recruitment – process discussion.

Staff outlined a typical process for soliciting a request for proposal/request for qualifications to hire a firm to solicit and screen applicants for the City Manager position in anticipation of City Manager Shawa’s retirement in October 2023. There was discussion on whether the position should first be made available to in-house candidates before seeking outside applicants and whether this process is allowed to be discussed in Executive Session. Staff will verify with the City Attorney whether this is an allowable subject for discussion in Executive Session.

### **3. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:32 p.m.