

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Work Session Minutes
January 10, 2022

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Scribner called the meeting to order at 4:00 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 Nabel Shawa, Deputy City Manager Elizabeth Chamberlain, Development Services Director Preston Frederickson, Human Resources Director Pam Taylor, Parks & Recreation Director Andy Coleman, Police Chief Scott Bieber, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Police Captain Chris Buttice, Legal Coordinator/Deputy City Clerk Jodi Stephens, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

Also in attendance virtually: William SaintAmour, Cobalt Community Research.

2. ACTIVE AGENDA

A. Presentation of the 2021 resident satisfaction survey results.

Staff and Mr. SaintAmour reviewed the survey process, data collection, random sampling, and summarized the survey results.

After discussion, it was suggested that an additional Work Session be held after the City Council has had an opportunity to further review the survey information.

B. Police body cameras discussion.

Staff reported the Department of Justice has awarded the City a \$90,000 grant over three years to purchase and implement a body camera program for the Police Department. Besides the purchase of the cameras, software, and storage, an additional records clerk will need to be hired to process public records requests. This program is estimated to cost \$777,803.35 over a five-year period (\$867,803.35 minus the \$90,000

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grant). Staff does not oppose a body worn camera program but wants to ensure it is done properly.

There was discussion on the cost for implementation of a body worn camera program, the potential for the State legislature to mandate a program, potential funding sources, whether any potential benefits outweigh the cost of the program, and other uses for the City's general funds. This item will be brought back for further discussion in two weeks.

- C. Text amendment to Municipal Code Section 20.100.040(F) footnote number three to allow for the first-floor conversion of hotels and motels to residential dwelling units within the Central Commercial zoning district.

Staff outlined the text amendment brought forward by Fortify, Inc. to amend the Municipal Code to allow hotels and motels in the Central Commercial zone to convert their first floor to residential units. This change would apply to all hotels and motels in the Central Commercial zone. This amendment is on the Council's agenda for consideration on January 12.

There was discussion on potential impacts of this Code change to other properties and any unintended consequences of the amendment to other properties in the downtown area. Council also suggested looking at the multi-family housing tax exemption to ensure that residential units are affordable in exchange for the property tax exemption.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:46 p.m.