

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Work Session Minutes
January 24, 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 (virtually), Deputy City Manager Elizabeth Chamberlain, City Attorney Tim Donaldson, Police Chief Scott Bieber, Human Resources Director Pam Taylor, Development Services Director Preston Frederickson, Police Captain Chris Buttice, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

2. ACTIVE AGENDA

A. Police Body Camera grant discussion follow up.

Staff responded to the questions and issues raised at the last Work Session. The deadline for the grant has been extended by two weeks.

The following members of the Chief's Advisory Committee spoke in support of a body worn camera program:

- Sandy Garcia
- Dick Morgan
- Kanasha Henderson
- Noah Leavitt

There was discussion and comments on a body worn camera program for police including:

- Citizen involvement in the development of policies to address privacy concerns.
- An additional staff member would be necessary to not only respond to public records requests but also to provide redacted camera footage to both the City Attorney's office and the County Prosecuting Attorney's office, which in turn will need to be made available to defense counsel.
- Funding the program through American Rescue Plan Act money.

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- Pending State legislation.
- The cameras may be linked to the same cameras used by the Sheriff's Department and College Place Police Department.
- A body worn camera program will be a long-term commitment and will help build community trust and demonstrate departmental transparency.

The City Council will be voting on whether to accept the \$90,000 grant over three years on January 26.

- B. Housing discussion:
 - a. Mobile home parks.
 - b. Multi-family property tax exemption.

Councilmember Reyna provided an overview of the issues he would like addressed through changes to the multi-family property tax exemption program and zoning protection for mobile home/manufactured home parks. Moratoriums are suggested for both the acceptance of applications for the multi-family property tax exemption and redevelopment of mobile home/manufactured home parks.

Staff reviewed:

- The City cannot prohibit the sale of mobile home/manufactured home parks.
- Difference in zoning between Walla Walla and College Place, and process to amend the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning map to include a designation for mobile home parks versus allowing them in the many different zones they are currently allowed in.
- Current State law requires twelve months' notice to residents of mobile home parks and filed with the County Auditor for any change of use.
- Rancho Villa mobile home park is in talks with City staff regarding expanding the park.
- There is nothing to indicate an immediate need for any type of moratorium on the redevelopment of mobile home/manufactured home parks.
- The work and composition of the ad hoc affordable housing task force.
- State legislation broadening the authority of cities in applying the multi-family property tax exemption.

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There was discussion on:

- The task force is looking at other ways to incentivize affordable housing.
- Determining if Riley Clubb is agreeable to continuing to work on the task force.
- Councilmember Reyna will be appointed to the task force.
- Staff will not be approving any applications for multi-family property tax exemptions.
- Notice requirements if mobile home parks are to be redeveloped.
- Focusing immediate efforts of the ad hoc task force on the more pressing issues.
- Recent State legislation providing cities more discretion on multi-family property tax exemptions.
- Communicating to mobile home park residents that are feeling housing insecurity.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.