

**WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL**  
**Work Session Minutes**  
**June 6, 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 (virtually), and Mayor Tom Scribner.

Absent: None

City staff in attendance: City Manager Nabel Shawa, Deputy City Manager Elizabeth Chamberlain, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

**2. ACTIVE AGENDA**

- A. Accessible Communities Advisory Committee (ACAC) for Walla Walla and Columbia Counties.

Connie Taylor-Randall, Larry Hector, and Angie Peters outlined the formation of the ACAC, their activities, and focus going forward.

There was discussion on funding for projects, encouraging legislation, examining policies and diversity, and inclusiveness in employment.

- B. Discuss applying for and accepting grant funding for the Well #5 aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) project from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART grant program.

Staff outlined the goal to increase instream flows for fish recovery efforts. The City is partnering with the Department of Ecology, the Washington Water Trust, and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indians by using water from Well #1 during the low flow months of August and September at no cost to City residents. The estimated cost to convert Well #5 to an ASR well is estimated at \$3.2 million. The grant will cover half the cost with the City required to match the other half. The City is working with partners to identify financial resources for the match requirement.

There was discussion on how the ASR wells work to maintain the water levels within the aquifer and ensuring that citizen demands are met first.

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### C. Proposed sleep center expansion.

Staff reviewed a proposal to expand the existing sleep center property to include the grading and fencing of the half-acre of City property adjacent to the site; and purchase of ten pallet houses to provide housing for sleep center clients that have housing vouchers but are unable to find housing. This site could be developed in four separate phases. The Alliance for the Homeless has committed to the purchase of a bath/shower house for \$35,000 as part of this first phase. Staff will be seeking funding support from the City of College Place and Walla Walla County.

Chuck Hindman, Craig Volwiler, and Jordan Green, representing the Alliance for the Homeless, explained the need for this transitional housing.

There was discussion on:

- Cost for the first phase is estimated at \$275,000 and includes site preparation for the entire adjacent half-acre property.
- Capacity of the existing site and need for additional housing.
- Clients selected for this new housing will be those that are able to live more independently. There are ten to fifteen clients at the sleep center that have housing vouchers but cannot find housing.
- Role of the peer support specialists and services offered.
- Lack of facilities to keep families together.
- The Alliance for the Homeless only have staff for phase one addition of ten housing units.
- Removing this item from the Consent Agenda to allow for public input.

Staff reported on a letter of support for the Christian Aid Center who is working to improve the men's center. They are also seeking a funding commitment from the City for \$275,000 over three years.

### **3. MEETING ENDS**

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