

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Work Session Minutes
July 11, 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, City Attorney Tim Donaldson, Development Services Director Preston Frederickson, Finance Director Jean Teasdale, Fire Chief Bob Yancey, Deputy Fire Chief Eric Wood, Accounting Supervisor Liz Moeller, City Engineer Neal Chavre, Ambulance Billing specialist Jennifer Scott, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

2. ACTIVE AGENDA

- A. Presentation from right-of-way franchise applicant, Zply Fiber Pacific, LLC.

Representatives from Zply Fiber Pacific reviewed their request for a franchise to install a fiber network in the City's right-of-way to provide Internet services at a reasonable cost to residents.

There was discussion on the reason for a non-exclusive franchise to use the City's right-of-way; services to be provided; length of franchise; and whether the fiber will be installed underground or on poles.

- B. Main Street tax credit program.

Kathryn Witherington, Executive Director of the Downtown Walla Walla Foundation, explained how the Main Street tax credit program works and its recent legislative two-year expansion to include funding for services from cities in exchange for a seventy-five percent tax credit.

There was discussion on the tax credit program, maximum allowed funding through the program, and some of the services that could be provided with additional funding.

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C. Ambulance utility fee discussion.

Staff reviewed the finances of the ambulance utility and why an ambulance utility fee is necessary to continue to provide advanced life support services. A \$7.00 per month ambulance utility fee would provide the necessary income to continue services. This proposal has been presented to the City's finance committee that requested it be reviewed by the entire Council.

There was discussion on the fairness of imposing an additional fee on City residents and ensuring continued advanced life support services. It was the consensus of Council to bring this issue forward for formal consideration.

D. Budget process overview.

Staff provided an overview for development of the 2023-2024 biennium budget. There was brief discussion on the scheduled meetings.

3. MEETING ENDS

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 6:04 p.m.