

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Work Session Minutes
August 8, 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, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Development Services Director Preston Frederickson, and City Clerk Kammy Hill.

2. ACTIVE AGENDA

- A. Discuss establishment of a Vision Zero goal for serious injuries and deaths within the city's transportation system.

Staff reported on Federal legislation and funding to enable agencies to work towards a Vision Zero goal and showed a four-minute video. There was discussion on the process in establishing this safety program and targeting social equity in neighborhoods that are underserved.

- B. Housing ad-hoc committee recommendations:
- Amending the multi-family property tax exemption code.
 - Request for proposals approach for City surplus land for affordable housing.

Staff and members of the ad-hoc housing task force reviewed the proposed expansion of the multi-family property tax exemption as an incentive for developers to build a minimum of twenty-five percent of the units as affordable housing as defined by the affordability index for Walla Walla.

After discussion, it the was the consensus of a majority of Council to have staff move forward to bring back an ordinance to modify and expand the multi-family property tax exemption.

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Staff and members of the ad-hoc housing task force explained the process to issue requests for proposals for surplus City property to incentivize building affordable housing on these surplus properties by offering the property at no cost. There is a parcel on Princess Street that has already been declared surplus and the other property is the public parking lot at Sumach Street and 5th Avenue that is not being utilized. By establishing this process, it is also hoped that other local government entities might consider using a similar process for surplus property held by them.

Staff provided an update on the process to amend the comprehensive plan and zoning for manufactured home parks. The City has no control over rents being charged residents.

3. MEETING ENDS

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 5:27 p.m.