

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 25, 2023

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Scribner called the meeting to order at 6:30 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: Community Development Director Preston Frederickson, City Attorney Tim Donaldson, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Parks and Recreation Director Andy Coleman, and City Clerk Lisa Neissl.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PRESENTATIONS - None

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following people spoke in opposition of an application for a cell tower at the Blue Mountain Community Church and the code that was changed last year to allow wireless communication facilities in residential areas. Their concerns included health implications, property values, wetlands and local wildlife.

- Barbara Knudson
- Unnamed resident located 194 ft from the tower.
- Unnamed resident of Pleasant St.
- Pamela Culbreth
- Michelle Lucas
- Dan Preas
- Jane Casey
- Mary Gibson
- Glynis McClellan
- Douglas Demers
- RL McFarland
- Vicky McClellan

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

January 25, 2023

PAGE 2

Tonya Ambres and Andre Lorendo spoke from opposing points of view regarding recent no parking signs in the alleyway between their residences at North 4th and North 3rd.

Sharon K. Schiller spoke about a desire to not have police officers responding to calls regarding mental health issues.

Dorothy Knudson spoke about the upcoming zoning change for manufactured housing parks.

Council thanked the citizens for attending and expressed their individual opinions some of which included the following:

- Hearing Examiner, not Council now has authority over the application at BMCC, and they are encouraged to participate in that process.
- Blue Mt. Community Church as the property owner should have the authority to decline the lease.
- Public participation in the Hearing Examiner process and potential appeal avenues available if the ruling is in favor of the tower proceeding.
- How to be placed on a list to receive special notice of when those hearings are going to take place.
- Council must operate under existing laws regarding land use, and there is a process that must be followed to change the code again.
- Potential need for greater conversation on the issue with additional public input opportunities.
- The Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem. will look further into the alley parking issue.
- Community Paramedic program is becoming more actively involved in calls related to mental health.
- Potential consideration of a moratorium.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Scribner stated that he wanted to remove item A from the consent agenda to the active agenda.

Staff introduced the Consent Agenda, Item B, as follows:

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

January 25, 2023

PAGE 3

- A. ~~Ordinance 2023-01 Amends the City Code to include Veterans Memorial Golf Course as a park facility where smoking/vaping of tobacco is not permitted.~~
- B. Accepts the resignation of Pam Ray from the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

Mayor Scribner invited public input. No one in the audience chose to address the City Council on any of these items.

Mayor Scribner as the liaison to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee and noted that she was a valuable contributor to the committee.

It was also noted that in her resignation she indicated the need for greater participation from pedestrians on the committee.

Councilmember Moss moved to approve Consent Agenda Item B. Councilmember Casey seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

6. ACTIVE AGENDA

A-1 - Ordinance 2023-01 Amends the City Code to include Veterans Memorial Golf Course as a park facility where smoking/vaping of tobacco is not permitted.

Staff spoke about reasons that this item needs to be removed from the agenda for further review by staff prior to possibly bringing back for consideration in the future.

After discussion, this item was removed from the agenda.

- A. Resolution 2023-07 Authorizes a five-year contract with Utility Cloud for utility database software in the amount of \$145,000.

Staff reported on issues with the previously approved software company for this purpose, as it became apparent after the kickoff meeting that they could not meet the minimum qualifications stated in the request for

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

January 25, 2023

PAGE 4

proposals that was published and responded to by other proposers. After multiple meetings with that company, it was decided to terminate that contract and come back to council and seek approval to contract with the second highest rated company. Staff has vetted that this company meets or exceeds the minimum requirements.

Mayor Scribner invited public input. No one chose to address the City Council on this issue.

There was discussion on:

- Use of the system.
- Reasons for prior company failure.
- Potential funds owed to first company.

**Councilmember Reyna moved to adopt Resolution No. 2023-07.
Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

- B. Resolution 2023-08: Authorizes \$90,000 of additional funding authority to the Well #6 Cleaning Project for the replacement of the well pump and column.

Staff reported on the discovery of additional part replacement needs identified during the cleaning project of Well #6.

Mayor Scribner invited public input. No one chose to address the City Council on this issue.

**Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2023-07.
Councilmember Koehler seconded the motion.**

After inquiry, it was explained that the costs would be paid by the water fund.

The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- C. Resolution 2023-09: Authorizing the use of an Electronic Signature Process for City Contracts.

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

January 25, 2023

PAGE 5

Staff reported on the request to implement an electronic signature software for use on city contracts.

Mayor Scribner invited public input. No one chose to address the City Council on this issue.

There was discussion on:

- The security of the software.
- Authority of persons signing contracts.
- Experience of councilmembers using DocuSign.

Councilmember Reyna moved to adopt Resolution No. 2023-07. Councilmember Nakonieczny seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

D. December 1-31, 2022 Accounts Payable Register – Checks #21077-21357; 472-476; 478-490 totaling \$9,394,241.21

Councilmember Moss moved to approve payment of the December 31, 2022, accounts payable register containing check numbers 21077 through 21357, and 472 through 476, and 478 through 490 totaling \$9,394,241.21 except for the checks to the Blue Mountain Action Council.

Councilmember Koehler seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

Councilmember Moss moved to approve payment of the checks to the Blue Mountain Action Council. Councilmember Reyna seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 1 abstention by Councilmember Koehler.

7. COUNCIL MEMBER MEETING REPORTS

Councilmember Moss reported attendance at the following:

The work session, agenda setting, and Valley Transit.

Councilmember Casey reported attendance at the following:

The work session, and the water/wastewater advisory committee.

Councilmember Reyna reported attendance at the following:

The work session, the Downtown Walla Walla Foundation, and Blue Mt. Action Council.

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

January 25, 2023

PAGE 6

Councilmember Nakonieczny reported attendance at the following:

The work session.

Councilmember Eskil reported attendance at the following:

The work session, Valley Transit, Blue Mountain Humane Society, Columbia Rural Electric Association, and Visit Walla Walla

Councilmember Koehler reported attendance at the following:

The work session.

Mayor Scribner reported attendance at the following:

The work session, agenda setting, and the Library Board.

8. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

After discussion at the work session regarding recycling legislation.

Councilmember Moss made a motion to have support of the broad overview of the intent of this legislation brought to the attention of the Legislature when the city representatives are in Olympia. Councilmember Reyna seconded the motion.

Mayor Scribner invited public input. No one chose to address the City Council on this issue.

The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

There was some additional discussion on a potential housing ad-hoc committee.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Scribner announced the City Council would be recessing to executive session to discuss with legal counsel representing the City: Matters relating to agency enforcement actions; or Litigation or potential litigation involving the City pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i). To discuss with legal counsel litigation or potential litigation to which the City is a party or is likely to become a party pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)

The executive session will last no later than 9:30 p.m., and no further business will come before the Council in open session. The meeting recessed at 8:40 p.m.

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
January 25, 2023
PAGE 7

10. MEETING ENDS

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 9:21 p.m.

Approved:

Attest:

Mayor

City Clerk