

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 10, 2023

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Scribner called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Councilmembers Brian Casey, Ted Koehler, Steve Moss, Susan Nakonieczny, Gustavo Reyna, and Mayor Tom Scribner.

Absent: Rick Eskil, Brian Casey

City staff in attendance: Deputy City Manager Robert Francis, City Attorney Tim Donaldson, Development Services Director Preston Frederickson, Planner Jon Maland, Parks and Recreation Director Andy Coleman, Technology Services Director Chris Owen, Finance Director Jean Teasdale, Accounting Manager Liz Moeller, Engineer Monte Puymon, and City Clerk Lisa Neissl.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Scribner read a proclamation declaring May 21-27 as National Public Works Week in Walla Walla.

Mayor Scribner read a proclamation declaring May 12, 2023, as Provider Appreciation Day in Walla Walla, in recognition of childcare providers.

Mayor Scribner read a proclamation declaring May 2023 as Older Americans Month in Walla Walla.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dorothy Knudson spoke about the multifamily tax incentive and referenced parking issues and urged members to look up strongtowns.org.

The following people expressed concerns related to the potential installation of a cellular tower on the Blue Mountain Community Church property. Concerns ranged from heart illness, lack of information provided, FCC rules being under review, and city nuisance codes.

- Barbara Knudson
- Douglas DeMers

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- Mary Gibson
- Vickie McClellan

Jake Torrey inquired as to why there is not any glass recycling in Walla Walla.

Mayor Scribner provided feedback on some of the public comments.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Staff introduced the Consent Agenda, Items A through G, as follows:

- A. Accepts resignation of Jolie Welch from the Planning Commission.
- B. Accepts the resignation of Benjamin Murphy from the Historic Preservation Commission.
- C. Resolution 2023-048 Approves the surplus of items no longer used or needed by the City of Walla Walla. These items may be obsolete, broken, outdated or no longer needed by the City.
- D. Resolution 2023-049 Authorizes a Small Government Enterprise License Agreement (SGELA) with ESRI for GIS operations and system integrations.
- E. Resolution 2023-050: Authorizes a lease with Walla Walla Public Schools for the Carnegie facility.
- F. Minutes for the 04/19/2023 Special Joint Work Session with College Place.
- G. Minutes for the 04-24-2023 Work Session and the 04-26-2023 Regular Meeting.

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

After a brief discussion, item E was moved to a separate motion.

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Consent Agenda Items A through G excluding item E. Councilmember Nakonieczny seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 5 yes votes and 0 no votes.

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Consent Agenda Item E. Councilmember Koehler seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 4 yes votes and 0 no votes, with Councilmember Nakonieczny abstaining.

6. ACTIVE AGENDA

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- A. Resolution 2023-051: Authorizes an Engagement Agreement with Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP for Bond Counsel.

Staff reported the reason behind the need for a new Bond Counsel being that the former counsel has retired.

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

There was discussion on:

- Continuity as assistant to former counsel is now at Orrick.
- Time and money not specified as cost is based on a project-to-project basis with a 30% discount on their standard rates.
- The agreement can be terminated at any time.

Councilmember Reyna moved to adopt Resolution No. 2023-051
Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

- B. Ordinance No. 2023- 08 Approves Walla Walla Municipal Code (WWMC) Text Amendments to Chapters 19, 20 and 21 related to State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) exemption levels.

Staff and Consultant Matt Covert of LDC, Inc. reported on the proposed updates.

Mayor Scribner invited public input.

Dorothy Knudson inquired about what a loafing shed is.
R.L. McFarland expressed concern that traffic impact fees need to be dealt with.

There was discussion on:

- Other code provisions that still apply and may require SEPA.
- The process to develop these proposed changes.
- The Planning Commission voted to recommend it unanimously.
- Impact fees.
- Agency notifications.

Councilmember Koehler moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2023-08
Councilmember Nakonieczny seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously 5 yes votes and 0 no votes.

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- C. Public Hearing - Ordinance 2023-09 amending Walla Walla Municipal Code Chapter 2.28 and the designated Residential Targeted Area map related to Multifamily Housing Tax Incentives.

Mayor Scribner announced that there have been a number of questions regarding this item and therefore, the public hearing should be continued to the second meeting in June (June 28th). Those in attendance to comment may go ahead and comment at this time if they wish. He noted that this would not preclude them providing testimony at the public hearing on June 28th.

Staff provided some information on the Multifamily Housing Tax Incentive program as proposed by the ad-hoc committee.

Mayor Scribner opened the floor for public comment:

Trisha Divine Wilder spoke about the former developments affordable apartments not actually being affordable and there is a long waitlist for subsidized housing. Rent prices are being raised all around the area. She asked that there be a consideration of a tax break for existing landlords who are providing affordable housing to seniors now.

Shauna Bogley stated opposition to the proposal as it does not resolve the housing issue. She noted that there are no impact fees for the developer to help pay for services their development impacts. She provided suggestions for alternatives that help existing renters and taxpayers.

John Bogley expressed concerns with the discussion of tax breaks for developers while at the same meeting, discussing lack of impact fees for developers. He spoke about the changes in the area since the study was conducted that led to this proposal. He suggested stepping back and taking another look.

Councilmember Moss moved to continue the public hearing to June 28th. Councilmember Koehler seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously 5 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- D. Resolution 2023-052: Authorizes a professional services contract with David Evans & Associates, Inc. for design of the Citywide Preventative Bridge Maintenance project in the amount of \$210,802.

Staff reported on the successful grant award which was a zero-match requirement. This firm was the only respondent to the RSQ, and the State has

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approved since there were not multiple responses which results in this not being a competitive process. It was noted that the construction is planned for 2025.

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

There was discussion on:

- State agreement that the consultant is qualified.
- Prior experience with this company.
- The grant covers both design work and construction, yet this contract is only for design.
- Which bridges are included in this project.
- 5th Avenue bridge being replaced with a pedestrian bridge through funding obtained by the Tri-state Steelheaders and Snake River Salmon Recovery Board, which will come before council at a later date.

Councilmember Koehler moved to adopt Resolution No. 2023-052

Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously 5 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- E. Minutes for the 04-10-2023 Work Session and the 04-12-2023 Regular Meeting (Mayor Scribner to abstain.)

Clerk Note: Mayor Scribner was present at the 04-10-2023 meeting.

Councilmember Moss moved to approve the minutes as presented.

Councilmember Nakonieczny seconded the motion. The motion carried with 4 yes votes, 0 no votes and 1 abstention (Scribner).

- F. Ordinance 2023-10 Updates the Provision of the Walla Walla Municipal Code Regarding Criminal Offenses, Civil Violations, and Infractions.

Staff reported on the need to periodically review and update the Municipal Code, and provided information on what some of the recommended changes are.

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

Councilmembers expressed thanks to staff for keeping our laws current.

Councilmember Reyna moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2023-10

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Councilmember Nakonieczny seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously 5 yes votes and 0 no votes.

G. Approves April 1-30, 2023, Accounts Payable Register 22436-22448; 22450-22491; 22493-22744; #534-547 totaling \$3,348,160.95

Councilmember Moss moved to approve payment of the April 30, 2023 check register containing check numbers 22436 through 22448; 22450 through 22491; 22493 through 22744; 534 through 547 totaling \$3,348,160.95 except for the checks to Blue Mountain Action Council. Councilmember Reyna seconded the motion. The motion carried with 5 yes votes and 0 no votes.

Councilmember Moss moved to continue consideration of payment of the checks to the Blue Mountain Action Council totaling \$28,775.38, because two members need to abstain, and four votes are required to approve payments. Councilmember Nakonieczny seconded the motion. The motion carried with 3 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 2 abstentions by Councilmembers Koehler and Reyna

Councilmember Moss moved to approve the payroll register for the pay period ending 3/31/2023. Councilmember Koehler seconded the motion. The motion carried with 5 yes votes and 0 no votes.

Councilmember Moss moved to approve the payroll register for the pay period ending 4/30/2023. Councilmember Koehler seconded the motion. The motion carried with 5 yes votes and 0 no votes.

7. COUNCIL MEMBER MEETING REPORTS

Councilmember Moss reported attendance at the following:

The work session, the agenda setting, the Finance Committee, the Parks and Recreation Advisory meeting, County Community Health Advisory Board, a meeting with the County Assessor, Chief Yancey's retirement party, BMAC ribbon cutting,

Councilmember Reyna reported attendance at the following:

The work session.

Councilmember Nakonieczny reported attendance at the following:

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The work session, Fort Walla Walla meeting.

Councilmember Koehler reported attendance at the following:

The work session and the Finance Committee meeting.

Mayor Scribner reported attendance at the following:

The work session, agenda setting, Finance Committee, Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory committee, a meeting with Chief Buttice, County Conservation District meeting, a meeting with Larry Hector, Arts Commission meeting and the Artists Reception, a meeting with Riley Clubb, participation in the Jr. Achievement Program, a meeting with CM Chamberlain and City Attorney Donaldson.

8. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Nakonieczny announced that she will be seeking another term on council.

Mayor Scribner announced that Councilmember Moss intends to run again, and he himself plans to run again. He then announced that Councilmember Koehler does not plan to run again, so the East Ward will have an open seat. He stated that the filing period is next week, May 15th through 19th and the filing fee is \$120.

Dorothy Knudson spoke about a project that Dave Dressler is proposing to turn garbage into compost.

9. MEETING ENDS

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 8:44 p.m.

Approved:



Mayor

Attest:



City Clerk