

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 24, 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: City Manager Elizabeth Chamberlain, Deputy City Manager Robert Francis, Assistant City Attorney June Riley, Planner Jon Maland, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, and City Clerk Lisa Neissl.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PRESENTATIONS

Presentation of the Anderson Perry Scholarship
Mayor Scribner thanked Anderson Perry for their scholarship program and introduced Mr. Jake Hollopeter who provided some information on their scholarship program and announced Jackson Adams, a 2023 graduate of Walla Walla High School who is the selected applicant for this year's award. Jackson was given a few minutes to address the audience regarding his award and plans to study mechanical engineering.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dorothy Knudson expressed support for a compost project being pursued by Dave Dressler.

The following people expressed their concerns about the proposed cellular tower at the Blue Mountain Community Church property on Sturm Ave.

- Pamela Culbreth
- Barbara Knudson
- Vickie McClellan
- Douglas DeMers

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Robert Lee of Thorne Street spoke, as a representative of his neighborhood, to request the installation of a streetlight in a "lighting dead zone" on Walnut. He provided information on his previous discussions with staff which includes an estimate from Pacific Power.

Mayor Scribner provided some feedback on the public comments.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Resolution 2023-053: A resolution setting July 26th as the Public Hearing date to consider the 60% Annexation Petition for properties located near Woodlawn Street, East Chestnut Street and Bryant Avenue.
- B. Resolution 2023-054: Authorizes an increase in the City Managers authority to execute change orders as part of the Walawála Plaza Improvement Project.
- C. Resolution 2023-055: Authorizes the annual Cooperative Agreement with the US Forest Service for protection of the Mill Creek Watershed in the amount of \$103,870.50.

Mayor Scribner invited public input.

Pamela Culbreth asked questions about the Chestnut Street Annexation.

Mayor Scribner explained that the action on the agenda is only setting a public hearing for the annexation and provided information on where details can be found.

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Consent Agenda Items A through C. Councilmember Casey seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

6. ACTIVE AGENDA

- A. Resolution 2023-056: Approves the recommendation of the Hearing Examiner regarding the Preliminary Plat for the East Sumach Subdivision, a 21 lot Subdivision located on Sumach Street, east of Clinton Street. (CLOSED RECORD- QUASI JUDICIAL)

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Mayor Scribner polled the council for any conflict of interest or appearance of fairness issues with this item. None were noted.

Staff reported on the proposed preliminary plat and recommendation of the Hearing Examiner.

There was discussion on:

- The potential for a future connection to Lewis Street at the east end.
- Review by first responders regarding the single access point.
- Density and affordable housing.
- Maintenance responsibilities for property dedicated to the city.

Councilmember Reyna moved to adopt Resolution No. 2023-056. Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- B. Resolution 2023-057: Authorizes an amendment with Columbia REA to extend the hydropower purchase agreement.

Staff reported on the proposal to extend this agreement for eight years, and provided information on the increases included in it.

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

There was discussion on:

- Market fluctuations.
- Amount of electricity generated and number of households that could be powered. (Est. of 1,500 households)

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2023-057. Councilmember Casey seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- C. Resolution 2023-058: Authorizes the City Manager to execute a professional services agreement with Tiberius Solution related to Tax Increment Financing.

Staff reported on the proposed agreement as discussed at the work session on Monday.

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

There was discussion on:

- Why should we start the contract at this time?
- Rules regarding the gifting of public funds.
- Understanding of the tax increment financing concept.
- Contract is time & materials with no penalty for early termination.
- The previous work session was in February.

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2023-058

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

- D. Approves the Minutes of the 05/08/2023 Work Session (Councilmember Eskil to abstain).

Councilmember Moss moved to approve the minutes as presented.

Councilmember Nakonieczny seconded the motion. The motion passed with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes and 1 abstention by Councilmember Eskil.

7. COUNCIL MEMBER MEETING REPORTS

Councilmember Moss reported attendance at the following:

The work session, the agenda setting, Valley Transit board meeting, Civil Service meeting, the Ad-hoc Housing committee, a meeting with Riley Clubb, and an Arbor Day presentation of award to Nabel Shawa.

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 meeting, the Blue Mountain Action Council meeting, the Ad-hoc Housing committee, and attended the Return to the River Salmon Festival.

Councilmember Nakonieczny reported attendance at the following:

The work session and the Valley Transit meeting.

Councilmember Eskil reported attendance at the following:

The work session, the Valley Transit meeting, Blue Mountain Humane

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Society meeting, Visit Walla Walla meeting, a trip to Washington DC for lobbying, and the Sustainability Committee meeting.

Councilmember Koehler reported attendance at the following:

The work session, Ad-hoc Housing committee, and an Arbor Day presentation of award to Nabel Shawa.

Mayor Scribner reported attendance at the following:

The work session, the agenda setting, the Library Board, and presented an Arbor Day award to former City Manager Nabel Shawa.

8. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Chamberlain provided information on the following:

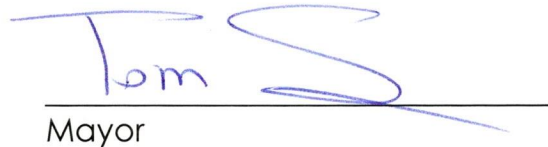
- A reminder of the ribbon cutting for the new section of US Hwy 12 tomorrow from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- She also provided some information on the trip to Washington D.C.
- A meeting with the U.S. Forest Service.
- Her attendance at the International Council of Shopping Centers conference in Las Vegas.

Councilmember Reyna announced the grand opening of Walla Walla Glass Recycling Spoke on June 6th from 9:00 a.m. to Noon at 240 6th Street at the airport.

9. MEETING ENDS

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 8:16 p.m.

Approved:



 Mayor

Attest:



 City Clerk