

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
June 14, 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, Parks and Recreation Director Andy Coleman, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Planner Jon Maland, Engineer Monte Puymon, Engineer Ryan Skeen, and City Clerk Lisa Neissl.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PRESENTATIONS

A. Proclamation – Walla Walla Sweet Onion Month – July 2023
Mayor Scribner read a proclamation declaring July 2023 Walla Walla Sweet Onion Month.

B. 2023 Juneteenth Proclamation
Mayor Scribner read a proclamation declaring June 19th and Juneteenth in Walla Walla.

C. Main Street Week Proclamation – June 12-16, 2023
Mayor Scribner read a proclamation declaring the week of June 12-16, 2023 as Main Street Week in Walla Walla.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Barbara Knudson and Vicky McClellan expressed their concerns regarding the potential installation of a wireless communications facility at the Blue Mountain Community Church property on Sturm Ave.

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**2023****PAGE 2**

Ruthann Broman and Dorothy Knudson expressed concerns about increasing rents at Rancho Villa as well as a hazardous intersection created by the installation of new manufactured homes at the corner of 15th street.

Alyssa Witherington stated that she would appreciate having snacks available at the meeting.

Sybil Barrier expressed concerns regarding engineering projects and how they consider accessibility issues.

Sharon K. Schiller expressed disappointment in the design of the Wala Wala Plaza regarding parking areas on half the street. She also stated her concerns about the West Ward being underfunded and an eyesore.

Councilmembers provided feedback on some of the public comments, and Ms. Chamberlain said staff would look into the safety issue at 15th Street in Rancho Villa.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

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

A. Resolution 2023-59: Authorizes the City Manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with Greater Columbia Behavioral Health to act as the Opioid Abatement Council.

B. Resolution 2023-060: Authorizes a Professional Services Contract with David Evans & Associates, Inc. for bridge inspections and on-call bridge program support, for a total cost not to exceed \$100,000.

C. Resolution 2023-061: Authorizes submission of an application for a Department of Justice Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership grant funds to cover half of the cost to replace approximately twenty-one expiring ballistic vests.

D. Resolution 2023-062: Approves the acceptance of grants for the Myra Traffic Signal Coordination/Illumination and the Pine Street TBD - 2nd Avenue to 9th Avenue projects.

E. Approves the minutes of the 05/22/2023 Work Session and the 05/24/2023 Regular Meetings.

**WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
2023
PAGE 3**

Mayor Scribner invited public input.

Dorothy Knudson asked a question about the Opioid Abatement Council. Ms. Chamberlain explained the function of the Opioid Abatement Council and offered to speak more about the issue with her at another time.

Daniel Richards asked questions regarding how much money the City and County were receiving from the opioid abatement settlement.

Councilmembers asked a couple of questions regarding the items which were answered by staff.

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

6. ACTIVE AGENDA

A. Resolution 2023-063: Awards the bid for Heritage Square to ESF Solutions, LLC in the amount of \$2,652,000.

Staff presented the design of Heritage Square and provided information on the changes made to the previous design when bids were rejected due to the excessive costs.

Mayor Scribner invited public input.

Daniel Richards expressed concern that funding is being used for these items rather than the opioid problems facing the city.

There was discussion on:

- The use of funding
- The timeline of the project

**Councilmember Reyna moved to adopt Resolution No. 2023-063
Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

B. Resolution 2023-064: Public Hearing and Adoption of the resolution approving the Alteration and Partial Vacation of the Westdale First Addition subdivision, located on Callanan Drive, north of The Dalles Military Road.

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**June 14, 2023****PAGE 4**

Staff reported on the requested plat alteration and partial vacation. It was noted that this request is for the vacation of property lines and right-of-way, not for approval of the site development. The site plan review is a staff level authority approval.

Mayor Scribner opened the public hearing at 7:35 p.m.
Daniel Richards spoke in opposition to the development stating that it impacts his property and there is not sufficient water pressure available.

Dorothy Knudson expressed concerns about water availability.

Tony Sosebee, representing the applicant, addressed comments made regarding the water availability and plans. He noted this will create additional affordable housing.

The public hearing was closed at 7:46 p.m.

There was discussion on:

- Recent purchase of the property by a new owner.
- Concerns from letters received.
- Timeline of the mobile home park and commercial development.
- What action is before council with this resolution.
- Trucks unload goods on public streets rather than private property.
- Steps of the process.
- Opportunities for the public to challenge the development plan.

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2023-064

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

C. Resolution 2023-065: Public Hearing and Adoption of the 2024-2029 Comprehensive Transportation Plan.

Staff reported on the proposed update to the Comprehensive Transportation Plan.

Mayor Scribner opened the public hearing at 8:01 p.m.

Dorothy Knudson commented on the Yellowhawk bridge.

The public hearing was closed at 8:02 p.m.

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
June 14, 2023
PAGE 5

There was discussion on:

- A potential Highland Drive LID.
- Previous improvements from the Dominos “paving for pizza” program.
- Projects that were removed and those that were added.
- Maximization of resources.

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2023-065
Councilmember Nakonieczny seconded the motion. The motion
unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

D. Resolution 2023-066: Authorizes the City Manager to execute a joint facility use agreement with Walla Walla Public Schools.

Staff reported on the history of cooperation between the City and Public Schools without a written agreement, and the benefit of having a written agreement to ensure the cooperation continues beyond current administrations.

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

There was discussion on:

- Cooperation between the two agencies.
- Forestry and maintenance cooperation.

It was noted that Councilmember Nakonieczny would abstain since she is employed by the School District.

Councilmember Reyna moved to adopt Resolution No. 2023-066
Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The motion carried with 6 yes
votes and 0 no votes and 1 abstention (Nakonieczny).

E. Resolution 2023-067: Ratifies an Emergency Declaration for dredging at the water intake.

Staff reported on the reason behind the emergency declaration and the permitting process involved with the project.

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

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**June 14, 2023****PAGE 6**

There was discussion on:

- Plans for renovation of the watershed infrastructure in the future.
- The age of the structure.

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2023-067

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

F. Ordinance 2023-11 that locally adopts the Legislature's Blake fix and reconciles Ord. 2023-10 (May 10, 2023) to the new legislation.

Staff reported on the previous Ordinance passed on May 10th due to inaction on the part of the Legislature. Through a special session, the Legislature has now acted, and this proposed Ordinance will reconcile the previously passed Ordinance with the action of the Legislature.

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

Councilmember Koehler moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2023-11

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

G. Approves the minutes of the 05/10/2023 regular meeting, Councilmembers Eskil & Casey to abstain.

Councilmember Moss moved to approve the minutes as presented.

Councilmember Casey seconded the motion. The motion carried with 5 yes votes and 0 no votes and 2 abstentions (Eskil and Casey).

H. Approves payments excluded from approval of the April 1-30, 2023, Accounts Payable Register, specifically the checks numbered 22554 and 22555 to the Blue Mountain Action Council totaling \$28,775.38. (Councilmembers Koehler and Reyna to abstain)

Councilmember Moss moved to approve check numbers 22554 and 22555 to the Blue Mountain Action Council. Councilmember Nakonieczny seconded the motion. The motion carried with 5 yes votes and 0 no votes and 2 abstentions (Koehler and Reyna).

I. Approves May 1-31, 2023, Accounts Payable and Payroll Register.

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

June 14, 2023

PAGE 7

Councilmember Moss moved to approve payment of the May, 2023 check register totaling \$6,209,824.10, except for the checks to Blue Mountain Action Council and Councilmember Rick Eskil. Councilmember Reyna seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

Councilmember Moss moved to approve payment of the check to Rick Eskil totaling \$513.45. Councilmember Nakonieczny seconded the motion. The motion carried with 6 yes votes, 0 no votes and 1 abstention (Eskil).

Councilmember Moss moved to approve payment of the checks to Blue Mountain Action Council totaling \$35,975.33. Councilmember Nakonieczny seconded the motion. The motion carried with 5 yes votes, 0 no votes and 2 abstentions (Koehler and Reyna).

7. COUNCIL MEMBER MEETING REPORTS

Councilmember Moss reported attendance at the following:

The work session, the agenda setting, an Ad-hoc Housing meeting, Parks & Recreation Board meeting, the all-staff luncheon, the County Community Health Advisory Board, Community Council Annual luncheon, a meeting with the County Assessor and the Committee on Committees.

Councilmember Casey reported attendance at the following:

The work session, and the Walla Walla Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization meeting.

Councilmember Reyna reported attendance at the following:

The work session, Downtown WW Verge Conference, Community Foundation Annual Luncheon, and the Committee on Committees.

Councilmember Nakonieczny reported attendance at the following:

The work session, a Washington Park gathering, the highway ribbon cutting, and the Committee on Committees.

Councilmember Eskil reported attendance at the following:

The work session, the highway ribbon cutting, and the LEOFF board.

Councilmember Koehler reported attendance at the following:

The work session, an Ad-hoc Housing meeting, and a meeting with Ms. Chamberlain and BMAC CEO, Danielle Garbe-Reser.

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**June 14, 2023****PAGE 8**

Mayor Scribner reported attendance at the following:

The work session, the agenda setting, the LEOFF board, the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory committee, and the Arts Commission.

8. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Nakonieczny made a motion to make the following board/commission appointments:

- **Civil Service Commission for terms expiring June 30, 2026 – reappoint Yazmin Bahena and appoint Gayla Ernst.**
- **Historic Preservation Commission for terms expiring June 30, 2026 – reappoint Noemi Reed and Julian Saturno and appoint Tye Watts.**
- **Housing Authority for a term expiring June 30, 2028 – appoint Nicolas Soto.**
- **Planning Commission to fill an unexpired term expiring December 31, 2025 – appoint Amy Schwab.**
- **Sustainability Committee for terms expiring June 30, 2026 – reappoint Ann Johnson and William Gatchel.**
- **Transportation Benefit District Improvement Committee for a term expiring June 30, 2026 – reappoint John Gahbauer.**
- **Water and Wastewater Advisory Committee for terms expiring June 30, 2026 – reappoint Amanda Nelson and David Haire.**
- **Parks and Recreation, Urban Forestry Board to fill an unexpired term expiring December 31, 2023 – appoint Chloe Pullman.**

Councilmember Reyna seconded the motion.

There was a discussion on the potential of a conflict if Amy Schwab is elected to the Port Commission and it was determined that no conflict would occur.

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

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Scribner announced the City Council would be recessing to executive session to discuss with legal counsel representing the City:

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

June 14, 2023

PAGE 9

Subject:

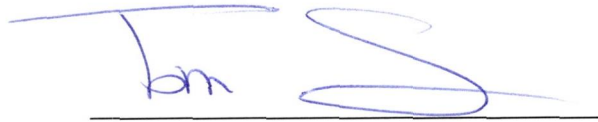
RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i) To discuss with legal counsel representing the agency matters relating to agency enforcement actions, or to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency, the governing body, or a member acting in an official capacity is, or is likely to become, a party, when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency.

The executive session will last no longer than 45-minutes, and no further business will come before the Council in open session. The meeting recessed at 8:47 p.m.

10. MEETING ENDS

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 9:28 p.m.

Approved:



Attest:

Mayor



City Clerk