

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
June 28, 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, City Attorney Tim Donaldson, Development Services Director Preston Frederickson, Finance Director Jean Teasdale, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Parks and Recreation Director Andy Coleman, Grounds Maintenance Lead Travis Chester, and City Clerk Lisa Neissl.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PRESENTATIONS

A. Parks and Recreation Month Proclamation
Mayor Scribner read a proclamation declaring July as Parks and Recreation Month in Walla Walla.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following people expressed their ongoing concerns with the possible installation of a wireless communications facility at the Blue Mountain Community Church property on Sturm Avenue:

- Dave Gipson
- Barbara Knudson
- Vicky McClellan

Dorothy Knudson of Rancho Villa spoke about hazard potential at the intersection at the entrance/exit of Rancho Villa.

Mayor Scribner asked staff to explain if public comments at the City Council meetings are going to be part of the testimony before the

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hearing examiner. Staff explained how the public can have their comments included for the hearing examiner, and that council public comments are not maintained for that record. They can either attend and provide comment or email written testimony to permits@wallawallawa.gov.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Staff introduced the Consent Agenda Item A as follows:

A. Approves the Minutes of the 06/12/2023 Work Session and the 06/14/2023 Regular Meeting.

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

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

6. ACTIVE AGENDA

A. Resolution 2023-059: Authorizes a 2-year water lease agreement with the Washington Water Trust to leave 5.5 cubic feet per second (cfs) of the City's Mill Creek water right in Mill Creek during the months of August and September 2023 and 2024.

Staff reported on contract changes from prior years which include the use of well number 6 and an increase in compensation.

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

There was discussion on:

- Additional stream flows in Mill Creek for aquatic life.

Councilmember Reyna moved to adopt Resolution No. 2023-059 Councilmember Koehler seconded the motion.

The council made a request that staff provide updates on the impacts of this agreement at a future work session.

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

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B. Ordinance 2023-12 Amends the 2023-2024 Maintenance and Operations budget.

Ordinance 2023-13 Amends the 2023-2024 Amends the Capital Improvement budget.

Staff reported on the reasons for making quarterly budget amendments and some of the adjustments included in this amendment.

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. 2023-12
Councilmember Nakonieczny seconded the motion. The motion
unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

**Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2023-13
Councilmember Reyna seconded the motion. The motion unanimously
carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

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.

Staff presented a brief overview of the proposed amendments as reviewed in-depth at the work session on Monday.

Mayor Scribner opened the public hearing at 7:18 p.m.

Chad Hickox, President of Walla Walla Community College spoke in favor of the amendments citing issues with housing by students and staff at the college.

Sarah Bolton, President of Whitman College spoke in favor of the amendments citing issues with housing by students and staff at the college.

Laura Prado, representing Community Council, spoke about the amendments being a part of the Council's Affordable Housing Study goal #18.

Dorothy Knudson inquired if the YMCA would be eligible for this incentive. R.L. McFarland spoke in appreciation of the details included in the work session and recommended the public listen to it. He spoke about his takeaways from that meeting, and his experience working on a local study related to affordable housing and their attempts to define

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"affordable housing". He expressed his opinion that more thorough work needs to be done on the issue.

Jennifer Brown spoke about her frustration with the lack of affordable housing in Walla Walla and noted that she was forced to relocate to College Place for a less costly apartment.

Patricia Divine Wilder stated that she previously wrote in dissent of the proposal and now would like to change her position. She stressed the need for in-depth audit and oversight.

Deb Flagan, Vice President of Hayden Homes, and member of the Ad-hoc Housing Committee, spoke in favor of the proposed amendments. Mary Campbell with Community Council spoke about the multiple tools that are needed to address this issue and applauded the efforts of the City.

Mayor Scribner closed the public hearing at 7:41 p.m.

There was discussion on:

- The evolution of the discussions on housing solutions.
- Incentivize the private sector to become a part of the housing solution.
- Appreciation of the work with the County Assessor to explain the tax shift.
- Oversight by Development Services and safeguards to be put in place.
- Affordability requirements and the need to "trust but verify".
- There is more work to do.
- The impact of the word "generally" in the code related to proportionate units.

Councilmember Casey moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2023-09

Councilmember Reyna seconded the motion.

Mayor Scribner moved to amend the motion, that the proposed Ordinance in section 3, paragraph 2, clause 2, be changed by taking out the word generally. Councilmember Casey seconded the motion.

After discussion, the motion carried with 5 yes votes and 2 no votes (Moss, Reyna).

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

7. COUNCIL MEMBER MEETING REPORTS

Councilmember Moss reported attendance at the following:

The work session, the agenda setting, Valley Transit, the Chiefs Advisory

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group, and the Committee on Committees.

Councilmember Casey reported attendance at the following:

The work session, the Water and Wastewater Advisory Committee, the Good Roads meeting, and the Ziple Fiber ribbon cutting.

Councilmember Reyna reported attendance at the following:

The work session, the Blue Mountain Action Council, and the Committee on Committees.

Councilmember Nakonieczny reported attendance at the following:

The work session, Valley Transit, the Committee on Committees, the Good Roads meeting, the Juneteenth celebration, and the Ziple Fiber ribbon cutting.

Councilmember Eskil reported attendance at the following:

The work session, and the Association of Washington Cities Conference.

Councilmember Koehler reported attendance at the following:

The work session.

Mayor Scribner reported attendance at the following:

The work session, a meeting with Lydia Caudill, and the Juneteenth celebration at Washington Park.

8. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

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

- **Housing Authority for a term expiring June 30, 2028 – appoint Eric Schmid.**
- **Transportation Benefit District Improvement Committee for terms expiring June 30, 2026 – appoint David Scholl and Katherine Long.**

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

Ms. Chamberlain provided some updates on the Association of Washington Cities Conference.

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Ms. Chamberlain informed the Council that AWC will be hosting a budget workshop in Leavenworth in August.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Scribner announced the City Council would be recessing to executive session as per RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) To evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee.

The executive session will last no longer than one hour, and no further business will come before the Council in open session. The meeting recessed at 8:20 p.m.

10. MEETING ENDS

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 9:20 p.m.

Approved:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Scribner", written over a horizontal line.

Mayor

Attest:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lisa Neiss", written over a horizontal line.
City Clerk