

**WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**July 12, 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, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Engineer Neal Chavre, Fire Chief Knowles, Police Captain Bayne, CDBG Coordinator Lydia Caudill, and City Clerk Lisa Neissl.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**3. PRESENTATIONS – None.**

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The following people expressed their concerns with fireworks regulations and urged council to restrict or ban fireworks in the city limits and enforce those regulations:

- Paula Nichols
- Suzie Hamburg Davis
- Skip Nichols
- Brad Reardon
- Dave Womack
- Chris Zagelow

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:

- Marva Preas
- Dan Preas
- Douglas DeMers
- Barbara Knudson
- Jean Dalling

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Derrick Knoll expressed his concerns about increased graffiti tagging in the Eastgate area of town.

Several councilmembers commented regarding potential options for dealing with fireworks and had discussion on a plan to move forward and the timeline to take action due to the requirement to delay enactment for one year after the action.

Councilmembers discussed the proposed cell tower and asked the City Attorney to review what legal options they may have to express their current opinion to the Hearings Examiner. In addition they requested clarification regarding the time frames to process applications.

Councilmembers requested staff look into options to improve the issue with graffiti tagging.

**5. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- A. Resolution 2023-069: Authorizes a contract amendment with PBS Engineering and Environmental for design of the Pioneer Park Pedestrian Improvement project, in the amount of \$217,353.
- B. Resolution 2023-070: Accepts a Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety Program grant for the Pine Street - 2nd Avenue to 9th Avenue project.
- C. Resolution 2023-071: Construction bid award for the Watershed Re-Roof Project to Elsom Roofing Inc. in the amount of \$69,986.00.
- D. Resolution 2023-072: Accepts the 2023 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Allocation in the amount of \$398,347.
- E. Approves the minutes of the 06/26/2023 Work Session and the 06/28/2023 Regular Meeting.

Mayor Scribner invited public input.

Greg Nelson inquired about item A, and realized that his comment is regarding active agenda item A.

Jean Dolling thanked the council for the many bicycle and pedestrian pathways such as what is being proposed on the Pine St. project.

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Lydia Caudill informed that the CDBG funding is at risk of being cut and asked anyone interested to please write to congress in support of continued funding of the program.

Staff provided clarification on item A, that it is to add the IRRP project east of Division Street, and that item C was specific to the intake building.

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

**6. ACTIVE AGENDA**

- A. Resolution 2023-073: Adopts the preferred alternative for the Pioneer Park Pedestrian Improvements Project.

Staff reported on the preferred alternative recommended by the consultant and staff as reviewed in detail at the work session on Monday.

Mayor Scribner invited public input.

The following people expressed their concerns with the recommended alternative and stated their preference would be a four-way stop. Among their concerns were the flashing light, non-stop beeping, speed of cars on Division, and they did not feel the public outreach was robust enough.

- Sybill Barrier
- Terri Jacobsen
- Peter Jacobsen
- Greg Nelson

Angie Peters expressed her support for the recommended alternative and spoke about the benefits of a reduction in speed and the Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB).

There was discussion on:

- The evolution of the project.
- Location of the radar speed signs and speed limit reduction to 25 mph.
- Considerations between four-way stop and the RRFB (rectangular rapid flashing beacon).

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- Removal of the temporary candlestick installation and revision of curb extensions to only be on Division St with the distance still to be determined.
- The RRFB only flashes when activated and adjustable volume which should only be audible for 12 ft.
- Public outreach was more extensive for this project than most.

**Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2023-073.****Councilmember Reyna seconded the motion.**

There was additional discussion on whether there should be additional review on other options.

**The motion carried with 6 yes votes and 1 no vote (Eskil).**

- B. Resolution 2023-074: Authorizes an Interlocal Agreement with the Tri-State Steelheaders to provide a 15% match (up to \$385,933) to remove and replace the 5th Avenue bridge over Mill Creek with a bicycle and pedestrian structure.

Staff reported on the project scope and required match by the city.

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

There was discussion on:

- Other projects by the Tri-State Steelheaders.
- Appreciation for this partnership.
- Benefits for fish passage in Mill Creek.

**Councilmember Koehler moved to adopt Resolution No. 2023-074.****Councilmember Nakonieczny seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

- C. Approves June 2023 City Payroll totaling \$2,761,114.28.

**Councilmember Moss moved to approve the payroll register for the pay period ending June 30, 2023. Councilmember Reyna seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

- D. Approves June 2023 Accounts Payable Register checks #23128-23147; 23149-23405; 23407-23468; 564-581 totaling \$6,322,125.67.

**Councilmember Moss moved to approve payment of the June 30, 2023, accounts payable register totaling \$6,322,125.67 except for the checks to**

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**the Blue Mountain Action Council. Councilmember Koehler seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

**Councilmember Moss moved to approve the checks to Blue Mountain Action Council totaling \$7,669.29. Councilmember Casey seconded the motion. The motion passed with 5 yes votes and 0 no votes, 2 abstentions (Koehler and Reyna).**

**7. COUNCIL MEMBER MEETING REPORTS**

Councilmember Moss reported attendance at the following:

The work session, the agenda setting, the Ad-hoc Housing meeting, a meeting with Ms. Chamberlain, and the County Community Health Advisory Board.

Councilmember Casey reported attendance at the following:

The work session, and the Walla Walla Valley MPO meeting.

Councilmember Reyna reported attendance at the following:

The work session, and the Ad-hoc Housing meeting.

Councilmember Nakonieczny reported attendance at the following:

The work session, and the Fort Walla Walla meeting.

Councilmember Eskil reported attendance at the following:

The work session.

Councilmember Koehler reported attendance at the following:

The work session, the Ad-hoc Housing meeting, and attended the first summer concert series event.

Mayor Scribner reported attendance at the following:

The work session, the agenda setting, the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory committee, and a meeting with Ms. Chamberlain.

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**8. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS**

There was discussion regarding the work plan for wireless communications facilities that was ordered by the interim Ordinance. Ms. Chamberlain will pass the information on to Mr. Frederickson.

Councilmembers discussed the executive session held on June 28<sup>th</sup>, which was to evaluate the performance of the City Manager after six months on the job. Discussion included both her performance to date, as well as a desire to offer a multi-year contract including minimum compensation and benefits.

**Councilmember Moss made a motion to grant the City Manager a 3% increase effective August 1, 2023, and a 3-year contract with no less than a 3% increase for each of the next three years. In addition, business related travel in her personal vehicle would be reimbursed at the full IRS approved rate and ask that staff prepare a document that they can act on at the next regular meeting. Councilmember Reyna seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

**9. MEETING ENDS**

**There being no further business, the meeting ended at 9:31 p.m.**

Approved:

  
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Mayor

Attest:

  
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City Clerk