

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
July 26, 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, Planner Jon Maland, Engineer Neal Chavre, Public Works Deputy Director Mike Laughery, Fleet Services Supervisor Matt Edwards, HR Director Pamela Taylor, and City Clerk Lisa Neissl.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PRESENTATIONS - None

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sarah Davies expressed her concerns over the SPL23-0001 short plat application for property located at 764 Bryant.

Sybil Barrier provided photos of an accident that occurred at the intersection of Whitman and Division last week and expressed her concern with the safety of the intersection.

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:

- Dan Preas
- Douglas DeMers
- Mary Gipson
- Barbara Knudson
- Vicky McClellan

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**July 26, 2023****PAGE 2**

Councilmembers provided feedback on some of the public comments and requested some information on the short plat process from Ms. Chamberlain.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Resolution 2023-075 Authorizes Grant Application and Interlocal Agreement Regarding the 2023 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant.
- B. Resolution 2023-076: Accepts a \$100,000 grant from the Bureau of Reclamation for pressure zone metering.
- C. Approves the Minutes of the 07/10/2023 Work Session and the 07/12/2023 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 Items A through C. Councilmember Nakonieczny seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

6. ACTIVE AGENDA

- A. Public Hearing and Ordinance 2023-14: Approves the 60 percent petition for the Woodlawn Street, East Chestnut Street, Fern Avenue, and Bryant Avenue annexation.

Staff reported on the proposed annexation and the process to date regarding this request.

Mayor Scribner opened the public hearing at 7:11 pm.

- Tony Dickman spoke in favor of the proposed annexation.

With no additional testimony, Mayor Scribner closed the public hearing at 7:12 pm.

There was discussion on:

- Benefits to the area of annexing into the city.
- Reasoning behind not including the nearby area around Chestnut Drive.

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

July 26, 2023

PAGE 3

- Age of septic systems on Chestnut Drive and Lowell Drive and the capital project that would be required to install sewage lines into that area.
- Correction of irregular city boundaries.
- Continuation of land use as a legal non-conforming use.

Councilmember Reyna moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2023-14.**Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

- B. Resolution 2023-077: Construction bid award for the City Roofs Project to Washington Roofing Solutions, LLC in the amount of \$426,016.80.

Staff reported on the bid process and reason for selection of the second lowest bidder due to a claim of error on their bid. Staff requested approval to award the contract to the second lowest bidder.

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

There was discussion on:

- If the city has a history of working with this company and staff review of their qualifications.
- Products to be used in relation to energy efficiency.
- Upcoming facilities master plan that will include consideration of solar installations on facilities.

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2023-077.**Councilmember Nakonieczny seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

- C. Resolution 2023-078: Professional Services Contract with PBS Engineering & Environmental Inc. for design services on the Howard IRRP - Juniper to Bryant Project in the amount of \$322,666.00

Staff reported on the project which will extend from Juniper to Bryant and include a roundabout at the Howard/Chestnut intersection. Staff plans to seek grant funding for the project with plans for construction in 2025.

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

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**July 26, 2023****PAGE 4**

There was discussion on:

- Scope of the project.
- Great work on getting grants by the Public Works Department.
- Oval shape of the roundabout.
- Estimate of 3-million-dollar cost of the project.
- Recent public feedback regarding roundabouts being positive.

Councilmember Reyna moved to adopt Resolution No. 2023-078. Councilmember Nakonieczny seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- D. Resolution 2023-079 authorizing amendments to the City Manager's employment contract. The City Council directed staff to prepare an amended contract and resolution at the last council meeting on July 12, 2023.

Mayor Scribner provided information on the events that led to staff drafting this resolution and updated employment contract for the City Manager.

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

There was discussion on:

- The dollar amounts of compensation specified in the contract.
- The duties and responsibilities of the City Manager.

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2023-079. Councilmember Reyna seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- E. Resolution 2023-080 ratifies emergency declaration for repairs to the Landfill's Caterpillar D8 Bulldozer.

Staff reported on engine component failures that required quick response to make repairs to a crucial piece of equipment. It was noted that this equipment is the main resource to control fires at the landfill.

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

There was discussion on:

- If there is any backup for this equipment.
- Who will rebuild the motor and how long it will take.

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**July 26, 2023****PAGE 5**

- The undercarriage and transmission were rebuilt in 2020, and this engine rebuild was planned to be done in the next budget cycle.
- The life expectancy of the equipment after the rebuild.
- Estimate cost of rebuild being \$115,000 as compared to a new bulldozer costing close to a million dollars.
- This equipment is used on a daily basis.

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2023-080.**Councilmember Casey seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried 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, the Valley Transit meeting, the Finance Committee, Civil Service meeting, a meeting with the CDBG Coordinator, and a Walla Walla County Commissioner Meeting.

Councilmember Casey reported attendance at the following:

The work session and the Water/Wastewater Advisory Committee meeting.

Councilmember Reyna reported attendance at the following:

The work session and the Downtown Walla Walla Foundation meeting.

Councilmember Nakonieczny reported attendance at the following:

The work session, the ad-hoc golf committee, and Valley Transit meeting.

Councilmember Eskil reported attendance at the following:

The work session and reported the resignation of the director of the Blue Mountain Humane Society.

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, the agenda setting, and the Finance Committee.

8. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

There was discussion regarding:

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

July 26, 2023

PAGE 6

- The need to reevaluate what the city is doing in regard to transients and camping outside.
- The judicial system releases people arrested on drug charges on their own recognizance when there is such a problem with overdoses.
- Mental health care and what services are being provided by Comprehensive Health.
- The protocol for responding to public comments during public input.

9. CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Scribner announced the City Council would be recessing to a closed session per RCW 42.30.140(4)(a)

Subject: (Topic not subject to the Open Public Meetings Act

Collective bargaining sessions with employee organizations, including contract negotiations, grievance meetings, and discussions relating to the interpretation or application of a labor agreement; or (b) that portion of a meeting during which the governing body is planning or adopting the strategy or position to be taken by the governing body during the course of any collective bargaining, professional negotiations, or grievance or mediation proceedings, or reviewing the proposals made in the negotiations or proceedings while in progress.

The closed session will last no longer than one hour, and no further business will come before the Council in open session. The meeting recessed at 8:05 p.m.

10. MEETING ENDS

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 9:05 p.m.

Approved:



Attest:

Mayor



City Clerk