

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 9, 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, WESCOM Manager Esther Click, Police Chief Buttice, Engineer Frank Nicholson, and City Clerk Lisa Neissl.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PRESENTATIONS

A. Proclamation of 9-1-1 Day

Mayor Scribner read a proclamation declaring September 11, 2024 as 9-1-1 Day in Walla Walla.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ruthann Brohman and Dorothy Knudson expressed their concerns regarding increasing rent and other expenses in Rancho Villa as well as continued issues with the corner at the entrance.

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:

- Douglas DeMers
- Barbara Knudson
- Ray Culbreth
- Vicky McClellan
- Pamela Culbreth

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Mayor Scribner inquired about the hearing date and staff said the goal for the hearing is September 21st and provided information on how notices will be provided.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Scribner introduced the Consent Agenda Item A as follows:

- A. Approves the minutes of the 07/24/2023 work session and the 07/26/2023 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 Nakonieczny seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

6. ACTIVE AGENDA

- A. Resolution 2023-081 Approves Contract with County for 2023-2025 Coordinated Housing Fund grant for Sleep Center.

Staff reported on the history of the sleep center and the need for a low barrier shelter, being tied to the City's no camping ordinance.

Mayor Scribner invited public input.
Chuck Hindman of the Alliance for the Homeless spoke about his appreciation for critical council support in the efforts to implement and operate the center.

There was discussion on:

- West ward neighborhood safety, which will be added to the retreat agenda.
- Mental health issues.
- Data tracking and the number of people served.
- Sustainability of the program and the need to diversify funding streams.
- Trespass of individuals unable to comply with rules.
- Enforcement of the no camping ordinance.

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Councilmember Reyna moved to adopt Resolution No. 2023-081.
Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

B. Resolution 2023-082 Approves Amendment 10 to Pacific Security Contract for Sleep Center with the ending date of December 31, 2023.

Staff reported on the changes to the contract in this tenth amendment and the plan to bring a new contract back at the beginning of the year incorporating all of the amendments.

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

There was discussion on:

- Issues of security in the West ward outside of the center.
- Staffing shortages, if any.
- Continuity of staff working at the center.

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2023-082
Councilmember Reyna seconded the motion.

After discussion on the funding sources for this contract, **the motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

C. Resolution 2023-083: Authorizes acceptance of a \$250,000 grant from the Department of Ecology, Office of Columbia River for design of the Well #5 ASR project.

Staff reported on the grant funding offer to convert well number 5 to aquifer storage and recovery (ASR).

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

There was discussion on:

- Success of this process with two other wells.
- Importance of increasing the water levels in the aquifer.

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2023-083
Councilmember Nakonieczny seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

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D. Resolution 2023-084: Accepts a hazard mitigation grant from the Washington State Military Department for watershed planning.

Staff reported on the possible risks to the watershed and the \$437,000 grant to hire a consultant to look at ways to mitigate those risks.

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

There was discussion on:

- Forward thinking of the department.
- Drought and the impact of recent rains.

Councilmember Reyna moved to adopt Resolution No. 2023-084
Councilmember Moss 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 agenda setting, the Valley Transit meeting, the County Community Health Advisory Board, the National Night Out, and a meeting with Scott Daggat.

Councilmember Casey reported the following:

A discussion about the agenda for the Walla Walla Valley MPO.

Councilmember Reyna reported attendance at the following:

The Emergency Management meeting.

Councilmember Nakonieczny reported attendance at the following:

The Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting.

Councilmember Eskil reported attendance at the following:

The Planning Commission meeting.

Councilmember Koehler reported attendance at the following:

The Community Development Block Grant meeting, the National Night Out, and a pocket neighborhood meeting.

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Mayor Scribner reported attendance at the following:

The agenda setting, the Library Board meeting, the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory committee meeting, the Arts Commission, the audit entrance meeting, time in the dunk tank at the Borleske event, a pocket neighborhood meeting, a meeting with Deputy CM Bob Francis, and gave a welcome address to the Washington Economic Development Association who is having their conference here.

8. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Chamberlain reminded council of the retreat scheduled for Friday, August 25th starting at 3:00 p.m.

9. MEETING ENDS

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 8:28 p.m.

Approved:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom" followed by a stylized flourish.

Mayor

Attest:



City Clerk