

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 23, 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, Gustavo Reyna, and Mayor Tom Scribner.

Absent: Susan Nakonieczny.

City staff in attendance: City Manager Elizabeth Chamberlain, Deputy City Manager Robert Francis, City Attorney Tim Donaldson, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Parks and Recreation Director Andy Coleman, Librarian Liz George, Tech Services Director Chris Owen, Development Services Director Preston Frederickson, and City Clerk Lisa Neissl.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Scribner read a proclamation declaring August 23, 2023, as Walla Walla – Tambasasayama Sister City Day.

Mayor Scribner read a proclamation declaring August 31, 2023, as Overdose Awareness Day.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sybil Barrier and Cindy Horowitz spoke about safety issues, including recent crashes, at the intersection of Whitman and Division, requesting a four way stop and noting visibility issues with current stop signs.

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, and requested information on a set date for the Hearing Examiner meeting:

- Barbara Knudson
- Alice Gladden
- Dave Gipson
- Mary Gipson

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- Douglas DeMers
- Vicky McClellan

Mayor Scribner requested staff look into the visibility of several stop signs around town.

Staff provided information that the cell tower hearing examiner meeting will be held on Thursday, September 21, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. in city hall council chambers. Information was provided on how they can submit comments.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Resolution 2023-085: Purchase of Cla-Valve Meters in the amount of \$130,353.30 for the Pressure Zone Metering Project.
- B. Resolution 2023-086: Increases the spending authority for the Watershed Intake Debris Removal project by \$50,000.
- C. Resolution 2023-087 Approves the contract and annual renewal of our Microsoft Office 365 subscription licenses.
- D. Approves the minutes of the 8/09/2023 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 D. Councilmember Casey seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

6. ACTIVE AGENDA

- A. Resolution 2023-088: Authorizes a Professional Services Contract with David Evans and Associates, Inc., for design of the Poplar Street IRRP - 5th to 14th project in the amount of \$1,474,385.79.

Staff reported on the project scope, hopes for grant funding, and timeline of design starting this fall with construction during 2025 and 2026.

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

There was discussion on:

- The public involvement in the design phase.
- Grant funding and anticipation of federal funds.

**Councilmember Reyna moved to adopt Resolution No. 2023-088
Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

- B. Resolution 2023-089: Resolution authorizing a professional services contract with PBS Engineering & Environmental Inc. in the amount of \$107,206.00 for construction management services as part of the Heritage Square Project.

Staff reported the need for this construction management assistance.

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

There was discussion on:

- The scope of this contract and comparison to services in the next agenda item.
- Funding for the project.
- Specifics of management work PBS will perform.
- The project timeline. (End of February barring weather delays.)

**Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2023-089
Councilmember Casey seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

- C. Resolution 2023-090: Resolution authorizing a contract with Building Dynamics in the amount of \$67,500 for construction observation and monitoring as part of the Heritage Square project.

Staff reported on the scope of work for this contract.

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

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There was discussion on:

- The vendor selection process.
- Prior experience working with this vendor.

Councilmember Reyna moved to adopt Resolution No. 2023-090
Councilmember Casey seconded the motion. The motion unanimously
carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- D. Ordinance 2023-15 approves amendments to the Shoreline Master Program (SMP) and the Walla Walla Municipal Code, which would alter the review process for Shoreline Substantial Development Permits.

Staff provided a brief review of the information that was discussed at the Monday work session and offered to answer questions.

Mayor Scribner invited public input.

R.L. McFarland expressed concerns with removal of the public hearings in the process and requested they remain a part of the requirements.

There was discussion on:

- The amendments being staff recommendation and not a requirement to maintain compliance with state laws.
- Notices to the public will remain the same with the same comment period, even if public hearings are eliminated.
- The types of public notice and length of comment periods.
- What initiated the recommendations.
- Time savings to process applications as a benefit for applicants.
- Regulations are for land within the creek as well as 200 feet from the creek.

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2023-15.
Councilmember Casey seconded the motion. The motion unanimously
carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- E. Approves July 2023 Accounts Payable Register - checks 23469-23499; 23501-23594; 23596-23791; 582-591 totaling \$4,125,755.63.

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

Councilmember Moss moved to approve the payment of the July 31, 2023, accounts payable register except for the checks to Blue Mountain Action Council and Rick Eskil. Councilmember Koehler seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

Councilmember Moss moved to approve the payment checks to Blue Mountain Action Council. Councilmember Eskil seconded the motion. The motion passed with 4 yes votes, 0 no votes and 2 abstentions (Koehler, Reyna).

Councilmember Moss moved to approve the payment of the check to Rick Eskil. Councilmember Casey seconded the motion. The motion passed with 5 yes votes, 0 no votes and 1 abstention (Eskil).

F. Certifies and approves July 2023 City of Walla Walla Payroll totaling \$2,772,964.04.

Councilmember Moss moved to approve the payroll register for the pay period ending July 31, 2023. Councilmember Reyna seconded the motion. After clarification that all members were eligible to vote, the motion unanimously carried with 6 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, Finance Committee, Civil Service, and the County Wide Planning Ad-hoc group meeting.

Councilmember Casey reported attendance at the following:

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

Councilmember Reyna reported attendance at the following:

The work session, and the Blue Mountain Action Council meeting.

Councilmember Eskil reported attendance at the following:

The work session, the Valley Transit meeting, Blue Mountain Humane

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Society meeting, the LEOFF meeting and a neighborhood meeting with people living around Tietan Park.

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, the Finance Committee, the LEOFF Board meeting, a meeting with the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Chair, and a phone and email discussion with Scott Daggat.

8. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Chamberlain announced that she and some staff would be attending a roundtable meeting with Senator Cantwell on the fentanyl crisis in the area.

She also noted that she presented to the Sunrise Rotary this morning.

The council was reminded about the meeting with the Tambasayama delegation in the council chambers on Monday at 9:00 a.m.; and the council retreat on Friday starting at 3:00 p.m. also in the chambers.

9. MEETING ENDS

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 8:15 p.m.

Approved:



Attest:

Mayor



City Clerk