

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 13, 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: Deputy City Manager Robert Francis, City Attorney Tim Donaldson, Fleet Services Supervisor Matt Edwards, Development Services Director Preston Frederickson, Parks and Recreation Director Andy Coleman, City Engineer Neal Chavre, and City Clerk Lisa Neissl.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PRESENTATIONS

- A. Mayor Scribner read a proclamation declaring September 15 – October 15, 2023, as Hispanic Heritage Month in Walla Walla.
- B. Mayor Scribner read a proclamation declaring September 17 – 23, 2023, as Constitution Week in Walla Walla.
- C. Mayor Scribner read a proclamation declaring September 22, 2023, as a day of celebration for the 75th Anniversary of the Veterans Memorial Golf Course.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Brian Mahoney asked questions about the recycling program regarding smaller bins for seniors and the choice to opt-out. 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:
Barbara Knudson
Douglas DeMers
Sybill Barrier expressed her concerns with the Whitman/Division intersection.

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Jean Dolling expressed her opinion on Rose Street and requested a roundabout at Rose/Myra intersection.
Dorothy Knudson provided an update on issues at Rancho Villa.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Staff introduced the Consent Agenda, Items A and B, as follows:

- A. Resolution 2023-091 Accepting a grant from the Wildhorse Foundation in the amount of \$10,000 for the purchase of security cameras in the parks.
- B. Approves the minutes of the 08/21/2023 Work Session and the 08/25/2023 Retreat.

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 and B. Councilmember Nakonieczny seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

6. ACTIVE AGENDA

- A. Resolution 2023-092 approving Hub, Ltd. to develop City Tourism Master Plan.

Staff reported on the proposal and noted the cost would be equally shared with Visit Walla Walla.

Mayor Scribner invited public input.

Brian Mahoney questioned what the driver for this study was. Bryan with HUB informed that he was available virtually to answer questions.

There was discussion on:

- The needs of the plan –
 - To provide the city with direction on spending of lodging tax funds.
 - To provide information on ways to expand tourism activities to areas beyond the wine industry.

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- To provide potential ways to expand the tourism season to make Walla Walla a 4-season destination.
- Scoring of the proposals.
- The length of the plan to be for ten years.

Councilmember Koehler moved to adopt Resolution No. 2023-092
Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- B. Resolution 2023-093 Authorizes the replacement and purchases of 20 fleet vehicles and equipment at a total purchasing cost of \$1,872,000. Resolution 2023-094 Authorizes the surplus of all associated vehicles and equipment being replaced.

Staff reported on the vehicles to be replaced and the benefit of using purchasing cooperatives.

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

There was discussion on:

- Availability for locals to purchase surplus vehicles/equipment.
- Life cycle of vehicles (370 pieces of equipment maintained by the department and planned for replacement cycles.)
- Availability of reserve funds to make the requested purchases.
- Staff reaches out to local vendors for options to meet/beat pricing.
- Supply chain issues can cause potential delays.
- Considerations of electric vehicles.

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2023- 093.
Councilmember Casey seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2023- 094 to surplus all associated vehicles and equipment being replaced as listed.
Councilmember Casey seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

- C. Resolution 2023-095 Authorizes acquisition of property for right of way.

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Staff reported on the reasons for the right of way purchases.

Mayor Scribner invited public input.

John Pao asked if this development would encroach on his property. It was noted that the development was only planned to be on the developer's property.

**Councilmember Reyna moved to adopt Resolution No. 2023-095
Councilmember Moss seconded the motion. The motion unanimously
carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

- D. Resolution 2023-096 Approves PocketiNet request to assign/transfer its franchise rights to LightSpeed Networks, Inc. dba LS Networks.

Staff reported on the request from PocketiNet to assign/transfer their franchise to LightSpeed Networks. It was noted that Todd Brandenburg of PocketiNet and Leif Hansen of LightSpeed were present and available for questions.

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

There was discussion on:

- The local history of PocketiNet.
- Services provided and planned improvements.
- Local presence to remain in place.
- Types of technology they provide.
- LS Networks focus on underserved areas.
- LS Networks' ability to provide a higher level of service to large users and to attract that high-tech type of business to the area.
- The compliment of the two businesses coming together.

**Councilmember Moss moved to adopt Resolution No. 2023-096.
Councilmember Casey seconded the motion. The motion unanimously
carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.**

- E. Approves the minutes of the 08/23/2023 Regular Meeting
(Councilmember Nakonieczny to abstain).

**Councilmember Moss moved to approve the minutes of the 08/23/2023
Regular Meeting. Councilmember Eskil seconded the motion. The motion**

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unanimously carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes and 1 abstention by Councilmember Nakonieczny.

- F. Approves August 2023 Accounts Payable Register checks number: 23792-23855; 23857-23887; 23889; 24137-24145; 24147-24209; and 593-607 totaling \$6,977,252.16.

Councilmember Moss moved to approve payment of the August 31, 2023, accounts payable register containing check numbers 23792-23855; 23857-23887; 23889; 24137-24145; 24147-24209; and 593-607 totaling \$6,977,252.16 except for the checks to the Blue Mountain Action Council. Councilmember Koehler seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes, 0 no votes.

Councilmember Moss moved to approve payment of the checks to the Blue Mountain Action Council. Councilmember Nakonieczny seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 5 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 2 abstentions by Councilmembers Koehler and Reyna.

- G. Approves August 2023 Payroll Totaling \$2,886,333.85

Councilmember Moss moved to approve payment of the August 31, 2023, payroll totaling \$2,886,333.85. Councilmember Casey seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried with 7 yes votes, 0 no votes.

7. COUNCIL MEMBER MEETING REPORTS

Councilmember Moss reported attendance at the following:

The work session, the Council Retreat, the agenda setting, the Ad-hoc Housing, County Community Health Advisory Board, the Audit Report meeting, Jean Teasdale's retirement party, and a quarterly meeting with the Port and College Place.

Councilmember Casey reported attendance at the following:

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

Councilmember Reyna reported attendance at the following:

The work session, the Council Retreat, the Ad-hoc Housing, the sister city Friendship Bridge plaque unveiling, and noted the upcoming South Ward party as well as an upcoming Pow Wow event.

Councilmember Nakonieczny reported attendance at the following:

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The work session, the Council Retreat, Fort Walla Walla meeting, and the sister city delegation welcome ceremony.

Councilmember Eskil reported attendance at the following:

The work session, the Council Retreat, and the LEOFF Board meeting.

Councilmember Koehler reported attendance at the following:

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

Mayor Scribner reported attendance at the following:

The work session, the Council Retreat, the agenda setting, the LEOFF Board meeting, the Arts Commission, a meeting with Jean Teasdale, and the sister city Friendship Bridge plaque unveiling.

8. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Nakonieczny noted how much work the families in the Pow Wow circuit work on their regalia to be able to continue their family traditions.

Mr. Francis noted that the City Manager Chamberlain would be back on Monday. He noted what a great job everyone did welcoming the Tambasayama delegation and commented that the Development Services Director was going to go there in October to learn about their planning practices.

9. MEETING ENDS

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 8:38 p.m.

Approved:



Attest:

Mayor



City Clerk