

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Retreat Minutes
August 25, 2023

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Scribner called the meeting to order at 3:00 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, Fire Chief Knowles, Police Captain Baynes, HR Director Pam Taylor, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, and City Clerk Lisa Neissl.

2. ACTIVE AGENDA

Staff provided a report on stop signs that were mentioned as being difficult to see during the public comment period at the regular meeting on Wednesday. The report included photos of the mentioned stop signs and/or stop ahead signs being visible from 50 to 150 yards away.

A. Council Meeting Procedural Rules

The following Issues were discussed:

- Discussion whether to adopt additional procedural rules from what currently identified in city code. After discussion on:
 - Roberts Rules, potential need for training.
 - Currently work well and are respectful to each other.
 - Order and process for Councilmember questions.
 - Opportunity for members to request clarification.
 - Ward representation.
 - It was determined that there is not currently a need for additional formalized council rules.
- Public Comment during regular council meetings:
 - Hard cut-off at three minutes to maintain fairness to all participants.
 - Possible implementation of a speaker sign up process.
 - Process for addressing comments made, including potential follow-up at the next meeting. (Similar to the stop sign issue that was presented at the beginning of this meeting.)
- Roles and Responsibilities:
 - Policy making.
 - Budget setting.
 - Direction to City Manager, not direct to staff.
 - AWC training on Roles and Responsibilities of Council.

RETREAT MINUTES
AUGUST 25, 2023
PAGE 2

- Term limits discussion:
 - Legality of council to implement term limits.
 - Benefit – bring in new perspectives, increase diversity.
 - Disadvantages – loss of institutional knowledge and experience.
 - Elections somewhat manage term limits.
 - Where is the “sweet spot” of time, 2 terms, 3 terms?

B. Advisory Boards and Commissions

The following issues were discussed:

- Commissions that are required – Planning Commission, Historic Preservation, Library Board, Lodging Tax, Hotel/Motel, Housing Authority, Community Development Block Grant.
- Five public works commissions that tend to overlap in responsibilities.
 - Potential to consolidate those five into two commissions.
 - Adjust time and/or frequency for increased topics.
- Public works staff also liaise with multiple outside agency commissions.
- Considerations to formalize Chief's Advisory Committee, or to create a Public Safety Advisory Committee.
 - Consensus was to increase communication with presentation(s) from public safety staff to council.
- Discussion on former Citizens Academy and thoughts on bringing it back.
- Review of a draft revised board and commission application.
 - Include information of Ward residency.
 - If they do business with the city.
 - If they are or are related to a city employee.

C. Break/Dinner – at 5:09 p.m. Mayor Scribner announced a recess for dinner and to return at 6:00 p.m.

D. Homeless Response Overview:

The following issues were discussed:

- Review of anti-camping ordinance and structure of the City's homeless response.
 - Camping on sidewalks is only allowed if there is no availability at the sleep center.
 - Being trespassed from the sleep center does not then allow camping.
 - Recreational Vehicles cannot be lived in on a city street, park, or parking lot.
- Enforcement approach.
 - Proactive approach to educate and work toward compliance.

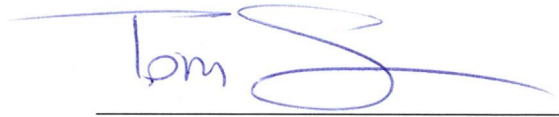
**RETREAT MINUTES
AUGUST 25, 2023
PAGE 3**

- Connect with services and help them to navigate the system as there are lots of steps and hoops.
- Reminder that being homeless is not a crime.
- Address behavior that is criminal.
- Deal with the problem to the extent that the law requires and allows.
- Laws are improving and community help is available.
- Behavioral health/mental health response.
 - Recent roundtable with Senator Cantwell.
 - Agencies are understaffed and underfunded.
 - The nearest in-bed treatment facility is in Yakima.
 - Programs including the Community Paramedic Program and Community Court.
 - Narcotics issue is a large problem.
 - Greater Columbia Behavioral Health is evaluating the process for service and resource gaps.
 - It is not possible to eliminate the problem, it is in how we manage it.
 - Need to keep attention on funding needs.

3. MEETING ENDS

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 7:05 p.m.

Approved:



Mayor

Attest:



City Clerk