

WALLA WALLA CITY COUNCIL
Work Session Minutes
April 24, 2023

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Scribner called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and announced the addition of another item to follow-up on the joint meeting with College Place.

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, Parks and Recreation Director Andy Coleman, Parks Maintenance Supervisor Wes Walker, Public Works Director Ki Bealey, Development Services Director Preston Frederickson, Finance Director Jean Teasdale, Accountant Liz Moeller, and City Clerk Lisa Neissl.

2. ACTIVE AGENDA

- A. 2023 Legislative Session Update with Mara Machulsky, Northwest Solutions.

Ms. Machulsky provided an update on the status of various bills that were of interest to the city. She noted the possibility of a special session to address the incomplete action on drug possession laws.

There was discussion on:

- Potential leadership changes in the legislature.
 - House Bill 1110 on Growth Management Act housing.
 - Broadband match funding.
 - Stadium improvement for Walla Walla Sweets.
 - Transportation budget including funding for Hwy 12 and an upcoming ribbon cutting for the latest phase.
- B. Review the City of Walla Walla Sustainability Committee's Recommendation on gas powered leaf blowers within the city.

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Representatives from the Sustainability Committee provided an overview of the recommendations made by them to the Council.

Staff provided information on what impact those recommendations may have on city operations for parks and facility maintenance.

There was discussion on:

- Sustainable Living Center program or incentive possibilities.
- Technology advancements in electric equipment.
- Timelines for a possible phase out.
- California legislation to ban gas powered lawn equipment by 2025.
- Supply chain issues.
- Differences between residential and commercial use equipment.
- Equivalent electric equipment options.

C. Proposed Update to the City of Walla Walla's Investment Policy.

Deanne Woodring of Government Portfolio Advisors (GPA) gave a presentation on what the proposed changes are for the investment policy and provided reasoning for why the proposal is being made.

There was discussion on:

- Compliance with State Statutes.
- Risk and control measures.
- Regular future reviews by Finance Committee every three years at a minimum.

D. Follow-up discussion on joint meeting with College Place.

Staff led a discussion on the next steps recommendation from the joint meeting with the City of College Place regarding wastewater treatment.

There was discussion on:

- Regionalization being more of a future discussion.
- College Place wants partnership to be included in the current study.
- Need to look at renter or customer model for now.
- Cost analysis for renter or customer model study by FCS is necessary before moving forward.

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- Creation of a committee consisting of FCS for finance, JUB for engineering, and both city Public Works Directors to determine what assumptions should be included in the study.
- Costs and scope for the FCS contract and what ratio of payment should be from each city.
- Benefit to City of Walla Walla.

3. MEETING ENDS

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 6:01 p.m.

Approved:

A handwritten signature in black ink that appears to read "Tom". The signature is written above a horizontal line.

Mayor

Attest:


A handwritten signature in blue ink that appears to read "Lisa Neisl". The signature is written above a horizontal line.
City Clerk