City Council Meeting - Hybrid (In-Person & Electronic) (Tuesday, January 28, 2025)
Generated by Maryelizabeth Garcia on Tuesday, January 28, 2025

1. Opening Items.
Procedural: 1.01 Call To Order

Mayor Hernández called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Procedural: 1.02 Roll Call
PRESENT:

Mayor -	Norma L. Hernández
Council Members –	Paul Jessup; Michael Cleveland; Tito Espinoza; Loren Peterson; Melodie Williams; Heather Schermann;
Staff-	City Administrator, Mike Rizzitiello; Finance Director, Brian Carleton; City Attorney, Rea Culwell; Public Works Director, Robert McAndrews; City Clerk, Maryelizabeth E. Garcia;
Also Present -	
MEMBERS EXCUSED:	Monica Boyle
MEMBERS ABSENT:	

Procedural: 1.03 Pledge of Allegiance

Information: 1.04 Public Comment - Ms. Brittany Doctor of 327 E Rose Street in Walla Walla, WA, a former College Place resident and hopeful future resident, expressed her concern about the affordability of housing and asked the Council about housing projects in College Place. Mayor Hernández proposed that Mr. Rizzitiello or Mr. Rickard will get in touch with Ms. Doctor to review housing development in the City.

2. Consent Agenda.
Action (Consent): 2.01 AB 25022 - Approve Agenda for January 28, 2025.
Action (Consent), Minutes: 2.02 AB 25023 - Approve Council Minutes from January 14, 2025.
Action (Consent): 2.03 AB 25024 - Appointment Confirmation of Katherine Ferguson to the Historic Preservation Commission.
Action (Consent): 2.04 AB 25025 - Appointment Confirmation of Natalie Smith-Gray to the Historic Preservation Commission.
Action (Consent): 2.05 AB 25026 - Appointment Confirmation of Nic Ivy to the Planning Commission.
Action (Consent): 2.06 AB 25027 - 2025 Salary Ordinance - Ms. Schmick
Action (Consent): 2.07 AB 25028 - Excusing the Absence of Council Member Boyle.
Action (Consent): 2.08 Approve Consent Agenda - Our adopted rules of Parliamentary Procedure, The Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure, provide for a consent agenda listing several items for approval of the Council by a single motion. Most of the items listed under the consent agenda have gone through previous review either during the budget process, at a workshop, or by subcommittee review and recommendation. Documentation concerning these items has been provided to all Council Members and the public in advance to assure an extensive and thorough review. Items may be removed from the consent agenda at the request of any Council Member.

Council Member Schermann made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Second by Member Jessup and the motion passed 6-0.

3. Presentations.
Discussion, Information: 3.01 AB 25029 - Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs) Update - Mr. Rickard
Mr. Rickard presented to Council the Countywide Planning Policies Update agreement and reviewed the 2-year timeline and work that had been completed to arrive at the final update. Mr. Rickard reviewed the chapters of the plan, discussed the implementation timeline as well as the financial implications of the plan.

Discussion ensued.

4. Public Hearings. - None

5. Action Items.

Action: 5.01 AB 25030 - 2025 Internal & External Committee Assignments - Mayor Hernández

Mayor Hernández informed the Council and City Staff of their 2025 Internal & External Committee Assignments. Mr. Rizzitiello requested to be put in the BMAC assignment; Council Member Schermann agreed to serve on the Finance Committee; and Ms. Culwell requested to be added to the Public Safety Committee.

Discussion ensued.

> **Council Member Cleveland made a motion to approve the 2025 Internal & External Committee Assignments with the discussed amendments. Second by Member Schermann and the motion passed 6-0.**

Action: 5.02 AB 25031 - Rose Street Ornamental Pedestrian Lights - Mr. McAndrews

Mr. McAndrews reminded the Council of challenges with the Rose Street Pedestrian Light procurement in 2024. Mr. McAndrews informed the Council that those issues have been resolved and the City is now able to begin the process of procuring the lights seven weeks ahead of schedule.

Discussion ensued.

> **Council Member Espinoza made a motion to allow the Capital Project Manager to procure 57 Ornamental Pedestrian Lights from our local vendor in the amount of $142,505.02. Second by Member Cleveland and the motion passed 6-0.**

Action: 5.03 AB 25032 - Amended Ordinance for New Captain Position - Chief Tomaras

Chief Tomaras thanked the Council for the new Captain position within the Police Department and the need to update the City's Ordinance under sections 2.24.040 and 2.48.010 to allow for the new position. Chief Tomaras identified key changes to the code such as the language being gender-neutral.

> **Council Member Jessup made a motion to approve Ordinance #25-004 amending the existing Ordinance to authorize the new Captain position. Second by Member Schermann and the motion passed 6-0.**

Action: 5.04 AB 25033 - Economic Development Flyers for FY 2025 - Mr. Rizzitiello

Mr. Rizzitiello reviewed with Council the 2025 Economic Development Flyers that will be presented to prospective businesses interested in developing in College Place.

> **Council Member Williams made a motion to adopt Resolution #25-003 authorizing Fiscal Year 2025 Economic Development Fliers and associated information. Second by Member Peterson and the motion passed 6-0.**

Action: 5.05 AB 25034 - Sherwood Trust Letter of Interest for Veteran's Park - Mr. Rizzitiello

Mr. Rizzitiello informed the Council of prospective funding for the Veterans Park renovation from Sherwood Trust's CORE Grant and reviewed other potential funding sources. Mr. Rizzitiello identified the park's playground equipment was not commercial grade and upgrades to the equipment are necessary.

> **Council Member Peterson made a motion to adopt Resolution #25-004 which supports Veterans Park Renovation Project and permits the City Administrator to submit Letter of Interest to Sherwood Trust. Second by Member Williams and the motion passed 6-0.**

Action: 5.06 AB 25035 - Public Records Index Maintenance Pursuant to RCW 42.17.070 - Ms. Culwell

Ms. Culwell reviewed with Council the City's efforts to mitigate risk through legislation declaring the creation of any and all indexes to be unduly burdensome.

> **Council Member Williams made a motion to approve Resolution #25-005 declaring maintenance of a City-Wide Index and/or Department-Specific Indexes as unduly burdensome. Second by Member Espinoza and the motion passed 6-0.**

Action: 5.07 AB 25037 - Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs) Update - Mr. Rickard

Mr. Rickard referred to the Countywide Planning Policies Update previously presented and clarified that Prescott and Waitsburg still need to vote on it before implementation begins.

Discussion ensued.

Council Member Peterson made a motion to approve Resolution #25-006 ratifying proposed updates to the Countywide Planning Policies and supporting adoption of the 2024 updates to the Walla Walla Countywide Planning Policies by the Board of Commissioners for Walla Walla County. Second by Member Schermann and the motion passed 6-0.

Action: 5.08 AB 25036 - Violette Property Purchase & Sale Agreement - Ms. Culwell
Ms. Culwell informed the Council of progress on the purchase on the Violette property to build a parking lot across the street from the City of College Place Municipal Campus.

Discussion ensued.

Council Member Williams made a motion to approve Resolution #25-007, a Resolution by the City Council of the City of College Place, Washington regarding authorizing City Administrator to execute necessary documents to purchase and acquire real property for the purchase price of $300,000.00 for the purpose of development of a public parking facility. Second by Member Cleveland and the motion passed 6-0.

Action: 5.09 AB 25038 - Anderson Perry Contract Amendment No. 5 - Lions Park Improvements - Mr. Rickard
Mr. Rickard informed the Council of updates to the Lions Park Improvement plan with Anderson Perry & Associates, and described issues with construction management. As a result of the issues with the contractor, a representative from Anderson Perry is now on-site at all times to ensure timely progress and adherence to building regulations. The contractor, Nelson Construction, has agreed to complete the project and is in discussion with Mr. McAndrews about actual damages to the City. Mr. Rickard anticipates an additional 90 days of construction are needed but the project is still projected to be complete by the opening of Farmer's Market. Mayor Hernández requested to be kept informed of project deadlines and timeline changes in the future.

Discussion ensued.

Council Member Williams made a motion to authorize the City Administrator to sign Amendment No. 5 to the Agreement for Professional Services with Anderson Perry & Associates. Second by Member Schermann and the motion passed 6-0.

Action: 5.10 AB 25039 - Indigent Defense Services - Proposed Contract with Ponti Law, LLC - Ms. Culwell
Ms. Culwell reminded Council that Lemons Law was contracted to provide indigent criminal defense services to the City and has decided not to renew the agreement. Ms. Culwell informed the Council of the agreement that has been reached with Ponti Law, LLC and presented the agreed-upon 3-year contract to Council.

Council Member Williams made a motion to grant authority to the Mayor to execute the contract for Indigent Criminal Defense Services with Ponti Law, LLC. Second by Member Peterson and the motion passed 6-0.

6. Administrative Reports. - None

7. Informational Reports.
Information: 7.01 CPPD Monthly Report
Information: 7.02 Community Development Reports
Information: 7.03 MRSC Guidance on Running for Local Elected Office

8. Executive Session.
Discussion: 8.01 AB 25040 - Real Estate Acquisition - Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(b) & (c)
The Council adjourned to Executive Session.

Mayor Hernández opened the Executive Session at 8:50 PM.

The Council considered the selection and acquisition of real estate by the City pursuant to RCW 42.320.110(b)

Mayor Hernández called the Regular Meeting back to order at 9:05 PM.

9. Closing Items.

Discussion, Information: 9.01 Good of the Order?

Council Member Peterson requested a series of field trips for Council Members to become acquainted with the sewage treatment plant, the fire station, the water tower, and other pertinent locations around the City.

Action: 9.02 Conclusion - Motion to Conclude the Meeting.

Council Member Williams made a motion to conclude the meeting at 9:07 PM. Second by Member Cleveland and with no objection, the meeting concluded.

Approved:

Signed by:

Norma Hernández

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Norma L. Hernández – Mayor

Attest:

Signed by:

Maryelizabeth Garcia

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Maryelizabeth E. Garcia – City Clerk

The foregoing minutes are the official record of the City Council meeting that occurred January 28, 2025. Further detail may be obtained by reviewing the actual audio recording made during this session.