City Council Meeting - Hybrid (In-Person & Electronic) (Tuesday, February 25, 2025)
Generated by Maryelizabeth Garcia on Monday, February 24, 2025

1. Opening Items.
Procedural: 1.01 Call To Order

Mayor Hernández called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM

Procedural: 1.02 Roll Call
PRESENT:

Mayor -	Norma L. Hernández
Council Members –	Paul Jessup; Michael Cleveland; Tito Espinoza; Loren Peterson; Melodie Williams; Monica Boyle
Staff-	City Administrator, Michael Rizzitiello; Public Works Director, Robert McAndrews; Interim City Attorney, Eric Ferguson; City Clerk, Maryelizabeth E. Garcia; Deputy City Clerk, Rhett Beardemphl
Also Present -	Michael Rio, Interim Prosecuting Attorney; Leah Rohan, City of Walla Walla;
MEMBERS EXCUSED:	Heather Schermann;
MEMBERS ABSENT:	

Procedural: 1.03 Pledge of Allegiance

Information: 1.04 Public Comment - None.

2. Consent Agenda.
Action (Consent): 2.01 AB 25054 - Approve Agenda for February 25, 2025.
Action (Consent), Minutes: 2.02 AB 25055 - Approve Council Minutes from February 11, 2025.
Action (Consent): 2.03 AB 25056 - Excusing the Absence of Council Member Schermann.
Action (Consent): 2.04 AB 25057 - Purchase of City Vehicles for Parks, Public Works, and Community Development; & Surplus of Used Vehicles
Action (Consent): 2.05 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 Boyle made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Second by Member Jessup and the motion passed 6-0.

3. Presentations.
Discussion: 3.01 AB 25058 - Adoption of the 2024-2029 Walla Walla County Comprehensive Solid & Hazardous Waste Management Plan - Mr. McAndrews & Ms. Rohan
Ms. Rohan from the City of Walla Walla introduced herself and gave a timeline synopsis of the Comprehensive Solid & Hazardous Waste Management Plan. The process initially launched in 2014 and began again in 2020. Ms. Rohan stated that, although College Place entered into contract with Walla Walla and the County to create this plan, College Place could have their own if desired.

Discussion, Information: 3.02 AB 25059 - Washington Secretary of State Organize the File Room Grant - Ms. Garcia
Ms. Garcia presented to Council the third iteration of the Organize the File Room Grant and the City's intent to host two interns over the summer from Whitman College, if the grant is received.

Due to technical difficulties, the meeting was paused at 7:23PM and resumed at 7:31.

4. Public Hearings - None.

5. Action Items.

Action: 5.01 AB 25060 - Contract for City Attorney Services: Kerr Ferguson PLLC - Mr. Rizzitiello

Mr. Rizzitiello described the City's need for City Attorney services and presented a proposed contract with Kerr Ferguson PLLC.

> **Council Member Cleveland made a motion to adopt Resolution #25-010 which appoints Kerr Ferguson Law PLLC as the City Attorney and permits Mayor to sign contract. Second by Member Espinoza and the motion passed 6-0.**

Action: 5.02 AB 25061 - Contract for City Prosecutor Services: Rio Foltz PLLC - Mr. Rizzitiello

Mr. Rizzitiello described the City's need for a City Prosecutor and presented a contract with Rio Foltz PLLC.

> **Council Member Espinoza made a motion to adopt Resolution #25-011 which appoints Rio Foltz PLLC as the Contract City Prosecutor and authorizes City Administrator to sign agreement. Second by Member Peterson and the motion passed 6-0.**

Action: 5.03 AB 25062 - Adoption of the 2024-2029 Walla Walla County Comprehensive Solid & Hazardous Waste Management Plan - Mr. McAndrews

Mr. McAndrews referred to the previously presented Walla Walla County Comprehensive Solid & Hazardous Waste Management Plan and clarified that implementation will not have a fiscal impact.

> **Council Member Peterson made a motion to adopt Resolution #25-012 authorizing adoption of the 2024-2029 Walla Walla County Comprehensive Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plan. Second by Member Jessup and the motion passed 6-0.**

Action: 5.04 AB 25063 - Resolution authorizing City Administrator to enter into contract with National Center for State Courts Municipal Court Services Project - Mr. Rizzitiello

Mr. Rizzitiello reviewed the need for an evaluation of Municipal Court Services covered at the Council Workshop on February 3, 2025. Mr. Rizzitiello stated that the grant program opens every 4 years, and the grant window is now open.

> **Council Member Jessup made a motion to approve Resolution #25-013 which authorizes City Administrator to enter into contract with National Center for State Courts for Municipal Services Project. Second by Member Boyle and the motion passed 6-0.**

Action: 5.05 AB 25064 - Washington Secretary of State Organize the File Room Grant - Ms. Garcia

Ms. Garcia reviewed the previously-presented Washington Secretary of State Organize the File Room Grant.

Discussion ensued.

> **Council Member Boyle made a motion to adopt Resolution #25-014 authorizing the City Clerk to apply for the Secretary of State Organize the File Room Grant. Second by Member Cleveland and the motion passed 6-0.**

Action: 5.06 AB 25065 - FY 2025 Community Grants - Mr. Rizzitiello

Mr. Rizzitiello presented the proposed FY 2025 Community Grant recipients as Downtown College Place Association for $2000, Walla Walla University Center for Humanitarian Engagement for $3750, YMCA for $2400, Andy's Market for $3500, Enable Art for $1225, College Place High School for $750, Gesa Powerhouse Theatre for $625, and Walla Walla Valley Ice Rink for $750.

Council Member Boyle recused herself from the vote due to her role as Executive Director of the Gesa Powerhouse Theatre.

> **Council Member Peterson made a motion to adopt Resolution #25-015 allocating FY 2025 Community Grant Program Proceeds. Second by Member Espinoza and the motion passed 5-0.**

Action: 5.07 AB 25066 - Resolution to permit City Administrator to sign grant agreement with State Department of Commerce (ELF Direct Appropriation) for Lions Park Community Center - Mr. Rizzitiello

Mr. Rizzitiello described earmarked funds that were awarded from the State Department of Commerce for Lions Park Community Center last year, but took a year to get the contract in-hand. Mr. Rizzitiello presented the grant agreement and accompanying resolution.

> **Council Member Cleveland made a motion to adopt Resolution #25-016 which permits City Administrator to sign grant agreement with the State Department of Commerce through the Early Learning Fund Direct Appropriation Program for the Lions Park Community Center. Second by Member Boyle and the motion passed 6-0.**

Action: 5.08 AB 25067 - Resolution Authorizing and Supporting A Prioritized Investment List for FY 2026 Congressional Directed Spending (CDS) Grant Program - Mr. Rizzitiello
Mr. Rizzitiello presented priority Congressional Directed Spending asks to Council, requesting $3M for Reservoir #4, $2.5M from Senator Patty Murray for Lions Park Community Center, $3M from Governor Baumgartner for the Police Station, and, as money is available, funds for SE 12th Street.

> **Council Member Jessup made a motion to adopt Resolution #25-017 which demonstrates City Council support for prioritized list of infrastructure projects. Second by Member Peterson and the motion passed 6-0.**

Action: 5.09 AB 25068 - Resolution of Support for USDA Rural Development Rural Business Development Grant Downtown Parking Lot & Incubation Engineering/Architecture work - Mr. Rizzitiello
Mr. Rizzitiello informed Council of the USDA RD Business Development Grant which, if awarded, will be used to fund the downtown parking lot project. Mr. Rizzitiello stated the money is already secured in the TIF Bond, however the City is attempting to get outside funding to be as fiscally conservative as possible.

> **Council Member Peterson made a motion to authorize Resolution #25-018 which supports a grant application into the USDA Rural Development Rural Business Development Opportunity Grant Program to pay for engineering and architecture work for the Downtown College Place Parking lot project. Second by Member Boyle and the motion passed 6-0.**

Action: 5.10 AB 25069 - Resolution of Support for AARP Community Challenge Grant for Veterans Park Renovations - Mr. Rizzitiello
Mr. Rizzitiello presented on the plans for pickleball and basketball courts at Veterans Park to be primarily used by active seniors, and his hopes to acquire $50,000 from AARP for the project.

Discussion ensued.

> **Council Member Espinoza made a motion to adopt Resolution #25-019 which authorizes and supports an application to AARP for the Community Challenge Grant - Veterans Park Renovations. Second by Member Peterson and the motion passed 6-0.**

Action: 5.11 AB 25070 - February 2025 Update to the City of College Place Standard Specifications and Drawings - Mr. McAndrews
Mr. McAndrews reviewed minor updates to Standard Specifications such as pedestrian curbs to driveway standards, rock backfill in trenches, 90 degree elbows on water services, standard language on street specifications, public Right of Way and accessibility guidelines, markers for addressing lots for emergency responders, and mailboxes. Mr. McAndrews clarified the date of approval and existing applications will not be subjected, but encouraged, to conform to new standards.

> **Council Member Espinoza made a motion to approve Resolution #25-020 adopting the February 2025 update to the City of College Place Standard Specifications and Drawings as attached in Appendix A. Second by Member Boyle and the motion passed 6-0.**

Action: 5.12 AB 25171 - Amendment to Agreement for Professional Services for the Lift Station #5 Replacement Project - Mr. McAndrews
Mr. McAndrews identified Lift Station #5 and described the need to rebuild the road base due to native soil being under the existing road. This discovery resulted in a significant change order, requiring 50 extra working days and construction observation from JUB Engineers.

Discussion Ensued.

Council Member Boyle made a motion to authorize the Public Works Director or designee to approve and sign the amendment for professional services with JUB Engineers for Lift Station #5 Relocation project increasing the amount by $43,250. Second by Member Jessup and the motion passed 6-0.

Action: 5.13 AB 25072 - Amendment to Contract with RH2 Engineering for Well No.7 Drilling and Design - Mr. McAndrews

Mr. McAndrews updated the Council on the status of Well No. 8 (formerly Well No. 7) which was reviewed at the workshop on February 4, 2025. Mr. McAndrews stated that further inspections determined that the screens are clogged, the clearing of which will hopefully result in higher yields. Mr. McAndrews postulated that the flow may not be anticipated 1000-1500 gallons per minute, but it is probable to get to 500 gallons per minute and can be used as a back up water source. Mr. McAndrews stated that Gregory Drilling cannot complete the project but RH2 has sourced Holt Industries, and that despite the increased fee, the project is still under budget. Mr. McAndrews stated that RH2 has begun water rights adjustments, including the area of the City by Martin Airfield.

Council Member Peterson made a motion to authorize the Public Works Director or designee to sign Contract Amendment No. 1 for Well No. 7 Drilling and Design increasing the authorized engineering fee by $197, 168. Second by Member Cleveland and the motion passed 6-0.

6. Administrative Reports.

Mr. McAndrews discussed possibilities for Council tours of Public Works sites around College Place and stated that potential dates will be discussed at the upcoming Council Workshop on March 4, 2025.

7. Informational Reports.

Information: 7.01 CPPD Monthly Report

Information: 7.02 Community Development Monthly Report

8. Executive Session - None.

9. Closing Items.

Discussion, Information: 9.01 Good of the Order?

Council Members requested information for plans on flood control. Mr. McAndrews reported no issues in College Place to his knowledge and stated that risks of flooding are lower due to the cessation of rain and cooler overnight temperatures; Mr. McAndrews is aware that Bennington Lake is being filled as needed. Council commended the Public Works crew for their work on NE Ivy Lane sink holes after the waterline broke; Mr. McAndrews reported the community being cooperative and grateful.

Action: 9.02 Conclusion - Motion to Conclude the Meeting.

Council Member Cleveland made a motion to conclude the meeting at 8:22PM. Second by Member Espinoza and, with no objection, the meeting concluded.

Approved:

Signed by:

Norma L. 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 February 25, 2025. Further detail may be obtained by reviewing the actual audio recording made during this session.