

Electronic City Council Workshop (Tuesday, January 5, 2021)

Generated by Lisa Neissl on Monday, January 4, 2021

PRESENT:

Mayor – Via Web Norma L. Hernández

Council Members – Via Web Jerry Bobbitt, Michael Cleveland, Loren Peterson, Marge Nyhagen, Melodie Selby, Heather Schermann, Byron Trop

Administrator, Mike Rizzitiello; Finance Director, Brian Carleton;
 Police Chief, Troy Tomaras; SEO, Ron Nordman;
 Staff – Via Web Fire Marshall, John Boose; Community Development Director, Jon Rickard; City Clerk, Lisa Neissl; Deputy Clerk; Carolyn Holm

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

MEMBERS ABSENT:

1. Opening Items.

Procedural: 1.02 Call To Order

Mayor Hernández called the meeting to order at 5:34 PM.

Procedural: 1.03 Pledge of Allegiance

Procedural: 1.04 Moment of Silence for Reflection / Invocation - Any City Employee or Elected Official; delivering the invocation, does so in his/her capacity as a private citizen, and not in his/her official position as a city employee/elected city official.

2. Workshop Topics.**Discussion, Information: 2.01 Update on Legislative Activities -**

Brian Enslow spoke to Council about the upcoming legislative session. He noted that there is to be expected a learning curve to meeting in the virtual environment for the legislators which will likely reduce the number of matters that have action finalized. He spoke about those larger subjects that will still be addressed such as the budgets, transportation, community policing, etc. He reviewed what he believes will be some of the impacts of the pandemic on budget items.

Discussion ensued and he answered some questions.

Discussion, Information: 2.02 Blue Zones Project, Walla Walla Valley -

Meghan Debolt gave a presentation overview of the Blue Zones Project in the Walla Walla Valley. She spoke about the community transformation process and explained that the WW Valley project is now in the foundation phase which is expected to last around 6 months. She spoke about the importance of committees and how the project is looking to work with established committees in the valley that already work on related subject matter. She introduced the team and gave a little background information.

Discussion ensued and she answered some questions.

Discussion, Information: 2.03 Deccio Rd. Parking Discussion -

Mayor Hernandez requested that Council take a second look at the resolution passed in November regarding parking on SE Deccio Rd. She noted the recommended resolution was forwarded from the Utilities and Transportation Commission; however, there was not a professional consultant involved in the recommendation. Several residents of the South end of Deccio Rd. spoke at public comment during the December 8th council meeting about their displeasure with the resolution.

After considerable discussion, Council requested that Staff and a consultant look at the issue and provide several recommendations to resolve the parking/traffic issue. They also requested that the Clerk work with the City Attorney to determine how to place a "pause" on the implementation of the passed resolution until this study could be done.

Discussion, Information: 2.04 Walla Walla Valley Housing Needs Assessment -

Mr. Rickard gave an overview of the Housing Needs Assessment that was conducted as part of the Walla Walla Regional Housing Action Plan. This plan is a partnership with the City of Walla Walla, City of college Place, City of Dayton, City of Waitsburg, and Walla County. He spoke about the information

provided from the study and how it shows that housing availability and affordability is a challenge in the valley.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion, Information: 2.05 Cascade Natural Gas Franchise -

Mr. Rizzitiello reviewed a proposed 10 year franchise agreement with Cascade Natural Gas and requested Council review as it will be coming forward for action at the next meeting.

Council Member Trop made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 PM. Second by Council Member Cleveland, and with no objection, the meeting adjourned.

Approved:

DocuSigned by:

Norma L. Hernandez

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Norma L. Hernández –
Mayor

Attest:

DocuSigned by:

Lisa R. Neissl

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Lisa R. Neissl – City Clerk

The foregoing minutes are the official record of the City Council meeting that occurred January 5, 2021. Further detail may be obtained by reviewing the actual audio recording made during this session.