

City Council Workshop - Hybrid (In-Person & Electronic) (Tuesday, September 5, 2023)

Generated by Sherri St Clair on Tuesday, September 5, 2023

1. Opening Items.

Procedural: 1.01 Call To Order

Mayor Hernández called the workshop to order at 5:31 PM.

Procedural: 1.02 Roll Call

PRESENT:

Mayor - Norma L. Hernández

Council Members – Paul Jessup, Michael Cleveland; Tito Espinoza Jr.; Loren Peterson; Melodie Williams

Staff- City Administrator, Michael Rizzitiello; Finance Director, Brian Carleton; Deputy Finance Director, DaShari Schmick; City Clerk, Sherri St. Clair

Also Present - Walla Walla Valley Blue Zones - Emily Brown;
Lucinda Richards - Trilogy Recovery;
Krista Timm - Walla Walla County Department of Community Health;
Basin Disposal - Rebecca Francik

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Heather Schermann; Monica Boyle

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Procedural: 1.03 Pledge of Allegiance

Information: 1.04 Public Comment - None

2. Workshop Topics.

Discussion, Information: 2.01 Walla Walla Valley Blue Zones -

Ms. Richards shared a tobacco and nicotine assessment for the Walla Walla Valley and information on youth substance abuse in Walla Walla County. Ms. Timm shared a quick tips guide for tobacco retailers to help avoid youth from nicotine use and addiction. Ms. Timm and Ms. Brown also informed Council that they have created a sticker for retailers that participate in a program for preventing youth nicotine use. Ms Brown informed Council that they would like the City to pass a resolution encouraging businesses to participate in the program to help prevent youth nicotine use.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion, Information: 2.02 Basin Disposal -

Ms. Francik provided an annual report for Basin Disposal in College Place outlining the recycling market overview, residential unlimited service, Basin Disposal's partnership with the City, and contractual rate adjustments. Ms. Francik also provided information clarifying the 32 gallon cart phase out. Ms. Francik informed Council that Basin Disposal would like to know if Council is willing sign an addendum regarding keeping the 32 gallon carts at a subsidized rate or phasing them out.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion, Information: 2.03 Transportation Benefit Districts -

Mr. Rizzitiello gave a presentation on the Transportation Benefit District (TBD). Mr. Rizzitiello provided an overview of what a TBD is, how it works, and informed the Council that the City had adopted an ordinance in 2017 to create a TBD. Mr. Rizzitiello informed the Council that while the City has federally classified many of its roads and can apply for grant funding to maintain these roads, local roads do not qualify for such funding. Adding a one tenth of one percent increase in sales tax will allow the City to collect funds to help maintain local roads.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion, Information: 2.04 Utility Base Rate Charges -

Mr. Carleton informed the Council that utility bills include base and consumption charges in which a current month's base charges are billed with the previous month's consumptions charges. For several reasons, this form of billing is unfavorable and the City has not been able to find a basis for why it has been done this way. Therefore, the City is proposing that this process be changed to make both base and consumption fees be billed for the current month at then end of the month. However, this would mean that the City would not collect the base fee for one month. The City has a sufficient fund balance to cover the cost of not collecting the base fees in order to change the billing process.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion, Information: 2.05 Government Finance 101 -

Mr. Carleton gave a presentation on Government Finance outlining the key differences between government and for profit business accounting, governmental financial statements, generally accepted accounting principals, the basis of accounting, fund accounting, governmental budgeting, and financial transparency.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Carleton also presented the 2023 Budget Schedule.

Discussion ensued.

3. Closing Items.

Discussion, Information: 3.01 Good of the Order - None

Procedural: 3.02 Conclusion

Mayor Hernández concluded the workshop to order at 7:46 PM.

Approved:

DocuSigned by:

Norma L. Hernández

Norma L. Hernández – Mayor

Attest:

DocuSigned by:

Sherri St. Clair

Sherri St. Clair – City Clerk

The foregoing minutes are the official record of the City Council Workshop that occurred September 5, 2023. Further detail may be obtained by reviewing the actual audio recording made during this session.