

City Council Workshop - Hybrid (In-Person & Electronic) (Tuesday, January 7, 2025)

Generated by Maryelizabeth Garcia on Friday, January 3, 2025

1. Opening Items.

Procedural: 1.01 Call To Order

Mayor Pro Tem Loren Peterson called the workshop to order at 5:30 PM.

Procedural: 1.02 Roll Call

PRESENT:

Chair - Council Member, Loren Peterson

Council Members – Paul Jessup; Michael Cleveland; Tito Espinoza Jr.; Melodie Williams; Heather Schermann; Monica Boyle

Staff- City Administrator, Michael Rizzitiello; Police Chief, Troy Tomaras; Finance Director, Brian Carleton; City Clerk, Maryelizabeth E. Garcia.

Also Present - Zach Ratkai - Sageland Strategic, LLC

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Mayor, Norma L. Hernández

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Procedural: 1.03 Pledge of Allegiance

Information: 1.04 Public Comment - None.

2. Workshop Topics.

Information, Procedural: 2.01 Law Enforcement Appreciation Day Proclamation - Mayor Pro Tem Peterson

On behalf of Mayor Hernández, Mayor Pro Tem Peterson read the Law Enforcement Appreciation Day Proclamation and encouraged College Place residents to encourage and respect the dedicated Law Enforcement Public Servants in College Place.

Discussion, Information: 2.02 Draft FY 2025 to 2035 Strategic Plan - Mr. Zach Ratkai

Mr. Ratkai of Sageland Strategic LLC reviewed the last six months of work his business has completed and presented to Council of the final Mission and Vision Statements. Mr. Ratkai reviewed the new goals, values, and next steps and informed Council that, after adoption, he will work with staff to develop 30-60-90 day plans to begin implementing the new Strategic Plan. Mayor Pro Tem Peterson requested Mr. Ratkai return at the end of 2025 to evaluate progress and implementation of the Strategic Plan.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion, Information: 2.03 Draft Blue Mountain Humane Society Contract - Mr. Rizzitiello

Mr. Rizzitiello informed the Council of changes to the Blue Mountain Humane Society Contract including how the cost was determined. Chief Tomaras described statewide issues facing Humane Societies in Washington as well as efforts the College Place Police are making to reunite animals with their owners; Chief Tomaras offered support for the contract. If adopted, this BMHS contract will be valid for one year as opposed to the previous contract which had not been updated in eight years prior.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion, Information: 2.04 Lion's Park Community Center Architect & Engineering Services Contract Approval with Design West - Mr. Rizzitiello

Mr. Rizzitiello reviewed with Council the RFQW process and design work in the project's beginning stages as well as how it will be paid for. At this time, architecture is fully funded and the construction phase remains to be fully funded. The City is exploring a Memorandum of Understanding with the YMCA for their ELF Grant being redirected to College Place to help fund construction. Mr. Rizzitiello anticipates beginning demolition/construction in 2026 and beginning phase 2 in 2025.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion, Information: 2.05 Draft Utility Discount Code - Mr. Carleton

Mr. Carleton presented to Council the recommended changes to the Utility Discount Code including continuing College Place's threshold for program eligibility at 125% of the poverty level instead of mimicking Walla Walla's which is currently at 150% of the poverty level. Mr. Carleton informed Council that the program is currently restricted to senior citizens and people with disabilities, and of the City's desire to expand the program to any College Place household that can meet the 125% poverty level eligibility threshold. Mr. Carleton stated a separate code to unify and simplify the code is in progress.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion, Information: 2.06 Draft Blue Mountain Action Council Low-Income Discount Program Screening - Mr. Carleton

Mr. Carleton presented to Council the updated BMAC contract and reviewed changes to include the application fee, which was previously \$30/application, will be a flat fee charged to the City for \$500/month. Mr. Rizzitiello described his efforts to reduce the cost of the contract with BMAC, and his attempts to find alternative solutions. Council Members Boyle and Schermann requested a limited duration contract ending December 31, 2025 to evaluate the effectiveness of the contract.

Discussion ensued.

3. Closing Items.

Discussion, Information: 3.01 Good of the Order - None.

Discussion, Information: 3.02 FY 2023 Audit Results - Mr. Carleton

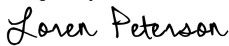
Mr. Carleton informed the Council that if a City receives more than \$750,000 in grants in a year, an audit is triggered at the federal and state level. Mr. Carleton announced to Council that the City's 2023 federal and state audits returned no findings. City Administrator Rizzitiello and Council Members congratulated the Finance Department and recognized their meticulous work.

Procedural: 3.03 Conclusion

Mayor Pro Tem Peterson concluded the Workshop at 6:56 PM.

Approved:

Signed by:



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Loren Peterson – Mayor Pro Tem

Attest:

Signed by:



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Maryelizabeth E. Garcia - City Clerk

The foregoing minutes are the official record of the City Council Workshop that occurred January 7, 2025. Further detail may be obtained by reviewing the actual audio recording made during this session.