

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF PULLMAN  
FEBRUARY 23, 2011

**Roll Call**

A special meeting of the City Council of the City of Pullman was held on February 23, 2011, at 5:30 p.m. in CUB Junior Ballroom, WSU Campus, Pullman, Washington with the following present:

Glenn A. Johnson	Mayor
William F. Mulholland	Finance Director
Francis Benjamin	Councilmember
Keith Bloom	Councilmember
Jeff Hawbaker	Councilmember
Barney Waldrop	Councilmember
Nathan Weller	Councilmember
Pat Wright	Councilmember

**Call to Order**

ASWSU Vice-President Joshua Meyers called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Finance Director Mulholland took the City roll call. Councilmember Weller and Councilmember Wright were not present. Mayor Johnson stated that Councilmember Weller had a class and in all probability would not be at the meeting and Councilmember Wright would be approximately 15 minutes late to the meeting.

Councilmember Bloom moved, Councilmember Benjamin seconded to excuse Councilmembers Weller and Wright.

Councilmember Wright arrived at 5:47 p.m. and participated in the remainder of the meeting.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**Discussion Items**

Safety

1. Public Works Director Workman discussed safety and road repair. He indicated that particularly on a University campus, crosswalks can make an intersection more dangerous. This is because pedestrians seem to have the attitude that they have the right to cross at a marked crosswalk and the white lines somehow protect them, which of course they do not. This time of the year also provides other problems such as glaring, an unavoidable weakness with street painting including crosswalks, when much of the street painting is severely diminished due to weather and wear. Weather conditions need to be relatively warm and dry to apply street paint which he indicated will start up as soon as the weather warms up and they get the rocks off the street.

Public Works Director Workman indicated that the City budgets and spends about \$40,000 a year on sidewalks to continue addressing tripping hazards on a hill-by-hill basis. Under the program, sidewalk panel, edges raised between one-half inch and one inch are ground to eliminate the abrupt edges. Panels more than an inch are removed and replaced. The last couple of years, 2007-2009, the work has been on College Hill. For 2010 they were on Pioneer Hill and they plan to continue on that hill for 2011. The City also budgets another \$40,000 for construction of sidewalks and to infill

gaps to the sidewalk system. Last year this money was spent on the widening of the sidewalk on "B" Street from California to Alpha Street. The work included a modular block retaining wall, widening the sidewalk from four to seven feet, and a pedestrian rail on the outer edge. This summer the sidewalk improvement will extend from Alpha Street to Michigan Street. "B" Street and the sidewalk will be closed for 30 days to accomplish this work. As for roads, approximately \$600,000 from the Street Fund is budgeted annually for the Accelerated Street Maintenance Program. This is the primary avenue used to reconstruct street surfacing in Pullman. He indicated several criteria used to select the streets to be reconstructed including the conditions of the street, average daily traffic, whether or not the street is part of a bus route, the extent of utilities in the streets that need to be replaced, the potential for adjacent property development requiring utility trenches in the street, cost, and the distribution of construction to the WSU population.

He indicated that for the summer, the major street construction will be a section of Stadium Way from Grand Avenue to Colorado. There is a 12-inch cast iron water main under the street that needs to be replaced and there is a large diameter storm drain line along the north side of the street that needs to be replaced. The storm drain project is the first phase of the waterline replacement currently scheduled for 2012. The work on Stadium Way is over the summer when the student population is down. The ongoing project of interest is the North Grand Widening with the assistance of a \$1,216,000 grant from the State Transportation Improvement Board. The City is widening Grand Avenue from the bridge over Missouri Flat Creek, near UPS to Nye Street. The project includes channel improvement of the Missouri Flat Creek to compensate for impacts to the floodway, and the replacement of the waterline and sewer lines that cross under the Missouri Flat Creek and the railroad tracks east of the creek. A section of sidewalk along the west side of Grand at Missouri Flat Creek bridge will be replaced and an asphalt pedestrian path diverging from Grand along the east side of the creek and across the creek back to Grand near Ritchie. He also indicated that unfunded federal regulations require that the City replace all the street signs and regulatory signs with a higher reflective material. The City is doing mass replacement of signs on a hill-by-hill basis starting with Military Hill.

Councilmember Bloom indicated that on the WSU Intermediate Walk Enhancement Program they were establishing some new paddle flashing to alert traffic to use caution approaching the crosswalks which are not at intersections. They're adding two more blinkers and tweeters at the major intersection crosswalks.

Senator Johnson asked about repainting crosswalks on Colorado. Councilmember Bloom indicated that was WSU property and would be taken care of in the spring.

Senator Inglin asked about tree trimming to aid lighting which was done by the City. Public Works Director Workman indicated they thought that most

of those areas had been taken care of. The crews are maintaining the areas they had problems with before.

Senator Lovelle wanted to know what streets belong to WSU and what streets belong to the City. Councilmember Bloom said we would get a map to them.

Senator Smith asked about bike lanes on Grand. Public Works Director Workman indicated that due to construction they are right against the property lines, so there wouldn't be any. He did indicate there is a path that runs along there that can be utilized.

Senator Johnson wanted to know about where they report problems with signs. Public Works Director Workman indicated they could do that on the City website.

## Security Cameras

Police Chief Jenkins indicated that the City was trying to get grants to install security cameras in high crime areas along Greek Row and other places in the City. He indicated that they would not be installed without the grant. He also discussed energy drinks which was brought up at the last ASWSU meeting. He indicated that according to his officer that has the College Hill beat, Don Heroff, in conversation with bar owners that the use of energy drinks has declined considerably. The decline is due, in part, to being a fad and in part to the higher cost in comparison to other available drinks. It appears that energy drinks are not the problem that they were the previous semester.

Senator Skaug asked about the cameras. Police Chief Jenkins indicated they would be put on City-owned property or where they had permission to place them.

Senator Hanon wanted to know how effective they had been in other cities. Police chief Jenkins indicated that in Santa Monica, where he had been a police officer, they are highly effective in high crime areas and result in identifying a lot of perpetrators. Mayor Johnson indicated that if we do get the security cameras, another location they are looking at is Adams Mall where there had been a considerable number of assaults.

## Higher Education 2. and Funding

Vice-President Josh Meyer indicated that 20 to 22 students had gone over to the capitol for student day. Vice-President Meyer said that the students at the capitol were able to meet with seven senators. They asked the senators that if increases are going to occur than let it be predictable over several years. The main message they tried to get across to them was not to cut financial aid.

Senator Skaug indicated his message to them was "we're not numbers, we have faces." The cuts in financial aid and increases in program costs have caused several of his friends to drop out. Mayor Johnson indicated this very much mirrored the discussions the Council had with the legislators.

Councilmember Paul mentioned that in his message what he tried to take to the legislature was that we are third from the bottom in funds spent in education and the legislators need to know this

is not acceptable.

Councilmember Benjamin indicated that on the first and third Fridays they receive a conference call with legislative updates. Councilmember Benjamin invited any of the ASWSU senators to come to the legislative updates during the legislative session. The conference call is at the SEL Center at 7:30 a.m. and he indicated they would be very welcome.

City Supervisor Sherman indicated that two weeks ago they sent two resolutions to the legislature on higher education and funding. We have done everything we could to make sure legislators know the situation.

Senator Skaug was glad the City did the resolutions. Senator Hanon said he agreed with Senator Skaug and indicated we need to continue to contact the legislators throughout the year on the education problem.

Councilmember Bloom indicated that the senators need to get the student population involved in making sure their relatives on the west side contact their legislators about the situation.

Environmental  
Issues

College Hill  
Recycling

3. Devon Felsted of Pullman Disposal Service was not at the meeting. He indicated, in his memo, that roll carts will be available in the next few weeks to the residents of College Hill. It is anticipated that College Hill neighborhoods will appear cleaner and more appealing through the use of the automatic collection system. There are still problems with recycling and students losing the recycling calendars on what week they have pickup. They have been sending the recycling trucks from other areas up when they are done with their runs through College Hill. If they spot any recycling they pick it up. In doing so the amount of recyclable littering the street on College Hill has been reduced.

Water Quality

Stormwater Services Program Manager Rob Buchert gave a spirited presentation on the Stormwater update. He indicated that since 2007 we have been in a five-step program which has to be completed by February 16, 2012. For the Phase II portion, he indicated it is like starting off from the starting line at Daytona with nothing and having a five-lap race, building the car as you go. He said the biggest item in water quality they have is maintenance, maintenance, maintenance. He stated that there are 2,000 catch basins, 964 manholes, 37 miles of pipe, 14 miles of natural drainage, 80 plus outfields, and 30 plus detention ponds and other public stormwater drainage facilities. Another area they are working on is the illicit connection identification where lines are hooked up to the stormwater drainage system rather than the sewer lines. He said this isn't a big problem, but there are some that they need to identify. They are working with a WSU graduate student in setting up a program for annual waste management. The mantra for this is "Scoop It, Bag It, and Trash It". The fourth item is litter. Everything that blows eventually winds up in one of the streams. He indicated that on April 9 there is the annual "Stream Cleanup" and he wanted to point out that the majority of the people who work on this project are students from WSU and he

gratefully appreciates their involvement. He would also like to implement an "Adopt the Stream Program" where sections of the stream could be adopted by an organization, fraternity, or other group to keep that section of the river clean throughout the year instead of just once a year.

Councilmember Bloom wanted to thank Stormwater Services Program Manager Buchert for his help in WSU obtaining a million dollar grant to work on how to clean up wastewater prior to it hitting the streams. He also stated that the University incorporated "green" processes in the areas around the new playfields and also in the new global veterinary building. They are installing pervious concrete which allows water to seep through instead of running off.

Senator Deupree wanted to know why we have stormwater problems and if it is just us or if other people have the same situation. Stormwater Services Program Manager Buchert indicated that any city that had a population above 10,000 was included in the Phase II program. The original requirement by the federal government came out for cities with populations over 50,000. This was changed by the State to the lower limit. We also have a lot of hills which increases the runoff and so we're the same as a lot of cities, but different from a lot of cities.

Councilmember Benjamin wanted to clarify the fecal chloroform problem that Stormwater Services Manager Buchert had talked about. The last testing they had could not determine if it was human or animal matter or if it was animal matter they couldn't determine if it was co-matter or wild laminae.

Councilmember Paul wanted to emphasize that, once again, this was an unfunded mandate which they had petitioned against. He also indicated that the signs that we have to comply with, the new reflective signs, are another unfunded federal mandate.

Community  
Involvement

4. Mayor Johnson talked about the involvement of the students at WSU on a lot of various committees throughout the City including the Police Advisory Committee. Individuals on that committee helped to select the new police chief. He really appreciates student involvement on all committees. He also said they were looking for someone, probably a freshman or sophomore, who could serve on the Arts Committee.

Senator Inglin said it might be helpful to reward individuals that are doing this service with a letter. Mayor Johnson indicated he would be happy to write any letter to talk about volunteers.

ASWSU Update

5. They then went around starting with the vice president on various projects they have been working on.

ASWSU Vice-President Josh Meyer indicated they put on "Coug at the Capitol", a multi-cultural fundraiser, a housing fair for rentals as well as for student services, and also had a program involving drunk driving education.

Senator Inglin stated that members of ASWSU had

had dinner with Dr. Floyd to discuss issues, to include environmental issues on campus.

Senator Turner talked about "Outreach Meetings" with various groups on campus. They proceeded to go around the table with senators with various projects that they were working on during the course of the semester and it was quite impressive.

Councilmember Waldrop wanted to recognize the outstanding job the senators are doing and he holds them in the highest regard for all the work that they have done.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Councilmember Bloom moved, Councilmember Wright seconded to adjourn the regular meeting of the City Council.

Motion Carried.

Mayor Johnson adjourned the regular meeting of the City Council at 7:04 p.m.