

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF PULLMAN  
FEBRUARY 10, 2010

**Roll Call**

A special meeting of the City Council of the City of Pullman was held on February 10, 2010, at 5:30 p.m. in the Junior Ballroom of the CUB, Pullman, Washington with the following present:

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

**Call to Order**

ASWSU Vice-President Jay Hendrickson called the joint meeting of the City Council and ASWSU to order at 5:30 p.m.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**Discussion Items**

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| Implementation Plans for the College Hill Core | 1. | Planning Director Dickinson gave the staff report and went through his memorandum on the implementation plan for the College Hill area and the work that has been completed on it. There was interaction with several of the senators with questions on such things as the Landlord-Tenant Act as well as the Voluntary Inspection Program. Planning Director Dickinson gave the statistics in relation to the inspections that have been done so far, the number of violations that they found and areas that needed to be corrected, which are in the process of being corrected. City Supervisor Sherman mentioned that he and the Mayor had met with the code enforcers to discuss the College Hill area as well as general enforcement operations. Mayor Johnson gave a whole-hearted appeal to ASWSU to make sure that they get the information out to the students on responding to the census. He stressed how important the census is for WSU as well as for the City. He mentioned that Planning Director Dickinson was the City representative for the census. Mayor Johnson encouraged the students to make sure that they fill out the census ballots and put their home as Pullman since that is where they will be on the census date. He also requested they make sure to get the census ballot turned back in. |
| Taxi Licensing                                 | 2. | Police Chief Weatherly gave the staff report and explained the history and what has been done with taxi licensing. He stated that they will be coming back shortly with all the procedures in place, hopefully by the end of the month. Senator Riley Myklebust, Pro-Tempore, also talked on the work they have done with the Police Department on the inspection process. Vice-President Hendrickson also thanked the Council for their efforts in getting this ordinance passed and that the licenses will be better for everybody and especially for WSU.  |

Concerns Regard- 3.  
ing State Funding and  
Tuition Rate  
Increases

City Supervisor Sherman gave the staff report presenting statistics on the State government and actions they have been taking over the course of time. He indicated that State higher education funding amounts to about 26 percent. He also stated that even though over an eight-year period State spending increased by nearly 38 percent, the State's investment in higher education dropped by more than 7 percent.

Mayor Johnson also mentioned that since the students were going to "Coug Day" at the legislature this was the time to bring up their concerns. Mayor Johnson mentioned he had two meetings with the Governor in the last month and pointed out that the Governor only controls 30 percent of the budget. That function includes funding of the higher education so that is an area that does get cut.

Several of the WSU Senators weighed in on the conversation. Councilmember Paul mentioned that since we have such a small contingent of legislators on this side of the State that those students from the west side need to contact their parents to present more of a voice for funding higher education. The student's concerns were financial aid cuts and grants that they need, but will not be available to help pay for tuition increases.

Councilmember Weller mentioned the cuts are a result of the poor economy so obviously if the economy gets better a lot of these problems will go away. City Supervisor Sherman stated the big fear is that we are going to have a lost generation because of a lack of funding education. Down the road it is going to do nothing but hurt us tremendously as a State and as a nation. Without this financial support we will loose a whole generation.

Safety Issues

4. Police Chief Weatherly presented the staff report by highlighting some of the points on his discussion memo. He discussed the rates of assault, disorderly conduct, and citizen disputes. He stated that in the last several years, the impact of the fighting ordinance has had a direct effect on helping these issues to go down. The assaults are lower although the ferocity of them is increasing due to the alcohol abuse. He also mentioned the problems with the College Hill area with open containers even though an ordinance was passed to prevent that.

Fire Chief Wilkins gave a staff report talking about the incidents of intoxication. He mentioned the October Halloween problems they had with intoxicated students trying to pull hoses off of the fire trucks. He also mentioned the female who was brought to the Pullman Hospital with a .475 alcohol content which is the highest he has seen in a female and a male with a .399. This month alone they have had 19 individuals they had to take to the hospital, including one female who hit a nurse. There is a major concern with alcohol abuse and the effect on the community. Chief Wilkins stated that WSU students need an educational program to learn to drink responsibly and respect emergency service personnel. WSU has approved a "Good Samaritan" policy. The

“Good Samaritan” policy allows the students to make a call for any medical service or any police service to take care of an alcohol or drug- related incident without being reprimanded by the University. The university is trying to be proactive to get situations taken care of prior to them getting out of hand.

Senators brought up that they are working on an education program for the student population on alcohol abuse. One of the Senate commitments is to try to get this program started during their term.

Mayor Johnson mentioned that in the past, people who get a little bit inebriated would go back to their homes or apartments. But now, with the energy drinks, they are drunk and wired at 2 a.m. which is why these are a lot more confrontational fights than in the past.

City Supervisor Sherman read a memorandum from Public Works Director Workman on lighting and sidewalk repairs and the work that has been done.

Chase Gunnell, ASWSU Director of Greek Affairs, brought up that new lights are being installed on campus during Spring Break while the students are gone. He urged anyone with lighting concerns to contact his office. He also mentioned that they could call Public Works Director Workman. They are very happy with the responsiveness out of his office in correcting problems or lights that are out.

- Parking Issues
5. City Planner Dickinson presented the staff report. He stated they are looking at permit parking on College Hill for an area rather than just individual streets. He mentioned possible permit fees that they are considering to ease some of the congestion in the area. He also mentioned the free parking that is available for students during Spring Break so they can move their vehicles off the street so the City can do normal cleanup such as getting the gravel off the street.

Police Chief Weatherly also presented a staff report relating to parking enforcement. One of the Senators was concerned that they are using uniformed police for enforcement. Police Chief Weatherly stated that uniformed police are not being used, but individuals who are dedicated to enforcement. Uniformed police do get involved in enforcement if they see an infraction.

- ASWSU Update
7. Vice-President Hendrickson gave the ASWSU update. Some of the items that they had been able to take care of this past year has been the “Good Samaritan” policy and the SRC cameras for the Rec Center which allows people to log in and see if parking is available as well as the particular areas of the gym they are interested in. The resident/dinner account will now be allowed to roll over to the next semester. In the past, at the end of the semester, what had not been spent was lost. They have received \$100,000 to improve campus lighting. A lot of the lighting work will be done during Spring Break. They are encouraged by their “Safe Walk” program where students can call and be escorted back to their facilities. As many as 50 to 100 students will be going to “Coug Day” on Sunday to present their views to the legislature. They

also talked about Greek recycling.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.