

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF PULLMAN  
FEBRUARY 11, 2009

**Roll Call**

A special meeting of the City Council of the City of Pullman was held on February 11, 2009, at 5:30 p.m. in the Junior Ballroom, WSU Campus, Pullman, Washington with the following present:

Glenn A. Johnson	Mayor
Troy Woo	Finance Director
Keith Bloom	Councilmember
Ann Heath	Councilmember
Bill Paul	Councilmember
Barney Waldrop	Councilmember
Nathan Weller	Councilmember
Pat Wright	Councilmember

**Call to Order**

Senate Chair Fry-Pierce called the regular meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. All Councilmembers were present with the exception of Councilmember Benjamin. Councilmember Bloom moved, Councilmember Paul seconded to excuse Councilmember Benjamin.

Motion Carried.

**Public Testimony**

ASWSU Vice-President Fry-Pierce introduced ASWSU President Brandon Scheller. President Scheller made welcoming comments and provided updates on the survey launch project, lighting projects, and the safe walk. Mayor Johnson congratulated President Scheller, Vice-President Fry-Pierce, and ASWSU for the positive opinion received in the "Our Voice" section of the *Daily Evergreen*. Senate Chair Fry-Pierce complimented the various committees for all of their positive work.

**Discussion Items**

University 1&3.  
District and  
Planning Department  
Update on College  
Hill Issues

Senator Jessica Hart presented a staff report that included comments relating to use of WSU funds for the University District and President Floyd's new concept that will help protect students. Senator Hart urged the City Council to adopt a similar resolution to help further promote the safety of the WSU campus area. Senator Bakke stated that the recent revision to the concept by President Floyd has the support of his constituents and he feels that the University District is beneficial to both the City and the community.

Senator Myklebust asked the City Council to keep in mind that ASWSU Senators represent all students and that individual students who voice their opinion don't represent all the views of the students.

Mayor Johnson asked if the Senate discussed any names for the University District. Senator Myklebust responded that they had not and the name is not as important as the concept.

City Supervisor Sherman presented a staff report that included a synopsis of President Floyd's presentation to the City Council and that the City Council would be conducting a public meeting

on the University District at the February 24 meeting.

Planning Director Dickinson presented a staff report that included a description of the recent planning workshop and a description of the College Hill Tomorrow program. Planning Director Dickinson also presented the planning department update which included a summary of what was discussed at the recent planning workshop and expressed concern that students were not represented at the workshop.

Senator Chemodurov stated that support for the University District stems on the fact that the Board of Advisors would include students, business owners, and landlords.

Senator Yagiz asked if there were any thoughts to combining the College Hill Tomorrow program with the University District because they have many similarities. Planning Director Dickinson responded.

City Supervisor Sherman stated that President Floyd wants the University District Board of Advisors to have a wide range of stakeholders.

Councilmember Weller referenced a *Daily Evergreen* article that stated that the University District would give the students a larger voice in the community. Councilmember Weller pointed out that students should be involved in the City's existing committees and that projects like the University District take a great deal of time and this issue should be taken slowly. Councilmember Weller questioned where the funding would come from for the University District. Councilmember Weller stated that back in October of 2008 that an unofficial poll that he took showed that the majority of students were against the University District and wondered what had changed these students' opinions on the University District.

Senator Hart responded by stating that students are here for the short term so many projects must be fast-tracked and that she believed that improvements needed to be made for student safety and that someone must be held accountable. Senator Hart stated that she felt WSU and the City should fund the University District. Senator Hart stated she thought the change in student opinion was due to better understanding of the concept by the students.

Councilmember Weller noted that both ASWSU Senators and the City Council already have constituents that are providing input and that he had problems with a University District Committee presenting already approved suggestions to the City Council and that the City Council represents all stakeholders.

Senator Hart asked if the Committee would help to limit the amount of information coming in to make this a more efficient process.

Mayor Johnson noted that a great deal of input had already been received. Senator Myklebust stated that the concept has been out for a year and that the atmosphere was ready to take action. Senator Myklebust stated that the University

District Committee could help focus on certain areas to help speed the process and that the Senators appreciate being a part of the concept development.

Senator Chemodurow stated that she thought Councilmember Weller's unofficial survey was taken too early in the process because many rumors were being spread at that time.

Councilmember Heath stated that she felt that the concepts are being taken out of order and that the stakeholder group should decide if it should be developed and then determine the boundaries. Councilmember Heath stated she was troubled that there were no students involved with the College Hill Tomorrow workshops and that much progress has been made to improve College Hill. Councilmember Heath stated she was more interested in the interlocal agreement concept because it made more sense to her. ASWSU President Scheller apologized and explained why there was no student representation at the College Hill Tomorrow workshop and that the situation was not one of non-collaboration by the students.

Senator Penttila stated he felt as a student that the University is the center of his reality and that Citywide involvement does not interest students. Senator Penttila felt a connection with the University District because it more closely involved his area rather than the entire City.

Councilmember Paul stated he agreed with Penttila and shared statements by a Lansing, Michigan speaker for the Chamber of Commerce that said Pullman was lucky to have three main groups being WSU, high tech, and agricultural. Councilmember Paul described the community concept that was installed by former WSU President Rawlins and expressed concern that the University District would put the walls back up between the City and the University.

Senator Bakke stated that he had never been told of City committees that were available for student service and asked that the committee information be sent and made available so students can serve on those committees.

Senator Kilpatrick stated that change is needed and that a student committee would make it easier to receive input.

Senate Chair Fry-Pierce stated he felt that the University District was attractive because there would be student involvement and noted that President Floyd has to focus his time on other issues.

Councilmember Weller stated that he was impressed with the student involvement with the University District. Councilmember Bloom stated he was shocked that the ASWSU Senate unanimously adopted the resolution supporting the University District because he had been urged by his constituents to vote against it. Councilmember Bloom stated that the students now have his attention and he is impressed with the work conducted by ASWSU. Councilmember Bloom stated that the University

has worked hard to make this a community and that the City Council has the opportunity to approve whatever the committee presents to them.

Senator Pentilla stated that ASWSU Senators are in support of a group of advisors to help develop the University District concept and that change is in the hands of the students since they will have a voice on how they live on College Hill. Senator Pentilla stated that improvements are needed and that the committee would help make it more visible.

Senator Bakke stated that President Floyd's proposed footprint of the University District is, at least, a starting point and that it has to start somewhere. Senator Bakke suggested that the footprint be started small and that it be expanded in the future.

Councilmember Waldrop stated that the City has an obligation to address the unsafe home complaints and urged that those addresses be provided and that those residents invite the City into their homes so it can react to the complaint.

- Pullman Transit      2.      Senator Aigner stated that the Pullman Transit system is much appreciated and it is very efficient. Transit Manager Thornton stated that ridership in 2008 was 1.3 million which is a new record and that he hopes that Pullman Transit is providing services that the students have asked for. Transit Manager Thornton described the challenges that Pullman Transit had with this winter's snow and gave a status report on the TxtWire service.

Mayor Johnson asked for an update on the purchase of new buses. Transit Manager Thornton responded.

Senate Chair Fry-Pierce described the resolution that proposes to increase student fees for Transit services because the system does need some improvements. Transit Manager Thornton responded. Mayor Johnson shared his observation of the habits of those who ride near the Terre View Drive and Merman Drive area.

Senate Chair Fry-Pierce described the financial challenges faced by the Pullman Transit system and the need to provide assistance to riders. Transit Manager Thornton responded. Mayor Johnson asked if the increased fee would allow for seven-day service. Transit Manager Thornton responded.

Senator Hart noted that the students are being asked to pay more for extra service and asked if the City will be contributing anything extra. City Supervisor Sherman and Transit Manager Thornton responded. Senate Chair Fry-Pierce noted that the vote to increase student fees for Transit failed last year and now the situation is worse due to escalated costs. Transit Manager Thornton responded. Mayor Johnson noted that some parking fees also fund Transit services.

John Shaheen, Director of Parking, Transportation, and Visitor Center, stated that WSU is happy to have the partnership and that the students take advantage and support Transit services. Mr. Shaheen noted that the \$10

increase will not fund Sunday service or Thursday late-night service but would expand service in the Express Routes. Senator Bakke commented that Transit Manager Thornton and John Shaheen are helping to improve the service for students and it is amazing what Pullman Transit was able to accomplish with the increase in ridership. John Shaheen thanked Senator Bakke for his comments and stated that the WSU and Pullman Transit relationship was unique. Mayor Johnson noted that the Paratransit service is very effective as well and that WSU students and staff do use that service and asked for comments regarding the federal law that requires Paratransit service when fixed-route service is provided. Transit Manager Thornton responded. Transit Manager Thornton stated that Pullman Transit could not do what it does without the help of the students. Senate Chair Fry-Pierce noted that if the increased fees are not approved then some services may be cut.

Police Department Report on Fighting Ordinance and Open Container Ordinance Compliance

4. Police Chief Weatherly provided a staff report on the fighting ordinance that described the ordinance, provided infraction statistics, and described the variables used to measure the effectiveness of the ordinance. Mayor Johnson noted that the fighting ordinance is in place due to complaints received and that the police department needed a tool to help protect students. Police Chief Weatherly responded.

Police Chief Weatherly presented a staff report which described the open container ordinance and provided statistics on infractions. Mayor Johnson asked if alums were among the biggest violators of the open container laws. Police Chief Weatherly responded.

Police Chief Weatherly provided a report on party trash enforcement and the number of infractions written. Police Chief Weatherly noted that students were participating on the Police Advisory Committee.

Questions and Answers

5. Councilmember Paul stated he appreciated working with the students and that these joint meetings helped the Council hear student voices. City Supervisor Sherman noted that the first joint meeting with ASWSU took place on April 23, 1997, and commended both ASWSU senators and the City Council for their cooperation.

Mayor Johnson noted that he received updates from the National League of Cities and he observed that the City of Pullman is ahead of many college communities in terms of their problems. Mayor Johnson noted that few Councils meet with their student bodies and that there is room for student service and input. Mayor Johnson noted that there was good communications with students.

Senate Chair Fry-Pierce stated that students live in the same community, represent a different segment of the community, but working together does result in improvements.

Mayor Johnson asked for an update on the lighting issues. Public Works Director Workman described a lighting walk-through with Avista and provided a status update on the areas that were observed to have low lighting. Mayor Johnson asked where

to report lighting issues to. Public Works Director Workman responded.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Councilmember Bloom moved, Councilmember Weller seconded to adjourn the special meeting of the City Council.

Motion Carried.

Mayor Johnson adjourned the regular meeting of the City Council at 7:07 p.m.