

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF PULLMAN
NOVEMBER 17, 2009

Roll Call A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Pullman was held on November 10, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers, City Hall, Pullman, Washington with the following present:

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

Call to Order Mayor Johnson called the regular meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Announcements Mayor Johnson made three announcements. Councilmember Paul also made an announcement regarding shredding.

ORDER OF BUSINESS Approval of Recommendations of Consent Agenda Items

CONSENT AGENDA Mayor Johnson reviewed the items on the Consent Agenda with the Council and audience. He stated that items listed on the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine in nature and will be enacted by a single motion of the Council without separate discussion. If separate discussion is desired, that item may be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Regular Agenda by Council request. Councilmember Weller moved, Councilmember Benjamin seconded to read the items on the Consent Agenda by title only.

Motion Carried.

City Attorney McAloon read the items on the Consent Agenda by title only. Mayor Johnson asked if there were any requests for removal of items from the Consent Agenda from either the Council or audience. Councilmember Waldrop asked that item No. 11 be removed for separate discussion. Mayor Johnson so ordered.

Eileen Macoll asked that Don Chapman be changed to John Chapman in the November 5, 2009, minutes.

Councilmember Wright moved, Councilmember Benjamin seconded to adopt items 1 through 10 on the Consent Agenda.

Motion Carried.

Motions

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| Minutes - November 5, 2009 | 1. The Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of November 5, 2009, and approved them as amended. |
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Resolutions

- Resolution No. R-62-09 - Surplus Property

2.

Resolution No. R-62-09

A RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN PROPERTY SURPLUS TO THE NEEDS OF THE CITY OF PULLMAN AND AUTHORIZING THE DONATION OF SAID SURPLUS PROPERTY, TO-WIT: BICYCLES TO INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION, A NON-PROFIT CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION.

Resolution No. R-62-09 was adopted unanimously.
- Resolution No. R-63-09 - Surplus Property

3.

Resolution No. R-63-09

A RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN PROPERTY SURPLUS TO THE NEEDS OF THE CITY OF PULLMAN AND AUTHORIZING THE DONATION OF SAID SURPLUS PROPERTY, TO-WIT: PERSONAL PROPERTY, TO GOODWILL INDUSTRIES, A NON-PROFIT CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION.

Resolution No. R-63-09 was adopted unanimously.
- Resolution No. R-65-09 - Short-Terms Loans

5.

Resolution No. R-65-09

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SHORT-TERM LOANS FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE PULLMAN-MOSCOW AIRPORT AGENCY FUND.

Resolution No. R-65-09 was adopted unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

Resolution

- Resolution No. R-64-09 - Flood Damage Prevention Grant

4.

Mayor Johnson announced that this item had been removed from the Consent Agenda at the request of Councilmember Waldrop. Councilmember Waldrop asked about the chock point at the car wash on North Grand. Public Works Director Workman talked about the chock points along the Missouri Flat Creek. He stated that there are actually three chock points but the section that this grant applies to is approximately from Enterprise Rent-a-Car downstream to the Presidents' Grove.

Councilmember Waldrop moved, Councilmember Benjamin seconded to adopt Resolution No. R-64-09. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing

- 2010 Final Budget Hearing

6.

Mayor Johnson announced that a public hearing is scheduled for the final 2010 budget hearing. Finance Director Mulholland presented the staff report. He also announced that there would be another budget amendment at the next Council meeting. Mayor Johnson opened the public hearing. There were no questions or comments from the Council or audience. Mayor Johnson closed the public hearing.

Resolutions and Ordinance

- Resolution No. R-66-09 - Declaring a Substantial Need and Ordinance No. 09-26 - Tax Levy

7.

Mayor Johnson announced that a resolution had been prepared making a declaration of substantial need. John Sherman presented the staff report stating that the Implicit Price Deflator (IPD) was below 1 percent and if the City wants to increase property tax above the IPD they must pass a resolution declaring substantial need. Finance

Director Mulholland presented the staff report. He gave nine reasons why the tax was needed and stated it is needed to maintain current service levels.

Resolution No. R-66-09 by title only reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF PULLMAN, WASHINGTON, RELATED TO TAXATION, MAKING A DECLARATION OF SUBSTANTIAL NEED FOR PURPOSES OF SETTING THE LIMIT FACTOR FOR THE GENERAL FUND PROPERTY TAX LEVY FOR 2010.

Councilmember Heath stated she is opposed to increasing taxes. She read several statements from Finance Director Mulholland's staff report that discussed potential extra money that could possibly come to the City. She stated she had talked to a long-term business owner and a family where one spouse is unemployed. She stated her job is to represent the citizens.

Councilmember Weller stated that he has talked to numerous individuals about this issue and has come to the conclusion that the City cannot continue services without finding a source of funding. Through wise financial planning and management we have kept going. Services cannot continue at the same rate unless we pass this.

Councilmember Waldrop asked about the blank section in the resolution. City Attorney McAloon stated that will be filled in when the Council makes their decision. Finance Director Mulholland stated that the City cannot count on Wal-Mart money in 2010 and we have used reserve money.

Councilmember Wright moved, Councilmember Benjamin seconded to adopt Resolution No. R-66-09 at 101 percent. The motion carried with Councilmember Heath voting nay.

Finance Director Mulholland presented the staff report on Ordinance No. 09-26.

Ordinance No. 09-26 by title only reads as follows:

AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE AMOUNT OF TAX LEVY FOR THE YEAR 2009 FOR COLLECTION IN 2010 TO RAISE REVENUE TO MEET ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES AND ESTABLISHING THE SPECIAL LEVY TO MEET GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND INDEBTEDNESS.

Councilmember Waldrop moved, Councilmember Benjamin seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 09-26. The motion carried with Councilmember Heath voting nay.

Resolution No. 8.
R-67-09 and Ordinance No. 09-27 - EMS Substantial Need and Tax Levy

Mayor Johnson announced that a resolution and ordinance had been prepared relating to the EMS Tax Levy. City Supervisor Sherman presented the staff report stating that the City has to consider a substantial need resolution for each tax levy.

Resolution No. R-67-09 by title only reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF PULLMAN, WASHINGTON, RELATED TO TAXATION, MAKING A DECLARATION OF SUBSTANTIAL NEED FOR PURPOSES OF SETTING THE LIMIT FACTOR FOR THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PROPERTY

TAX LEVY FOR 2010.

Councilmember Benjamin moved, Councilmember Paul seconded to adopt Resolution No. R-67-09 at 101 percent. The motion carried with Councilmember Heath voting nay.

Finance Director Mulholland presented the staff report on Ordinance No. 09-27.

Ordinance No. 09-27 by title only reads as follows:

AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE AMOUNT OF THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE (EMS) TAX LEVY FOR THE YEAR 2009 FOR COLLECTION IN 2010 TO RAISE REVENUE TO MEET ESTIMATED EMS EXPENDITURES.

Councilmember Wright moved, Councilmember Paul seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 09-27. The motion carried with Councilmember Heath voting nay.

Mayor Johnson adjourned the City Council meeting to conduct the Metropolitan Park District meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Mayor Johnson reconvened the City Council meeting at 7:58 p.m.

Ordinances

Ordinance No.
09-28 - Budget
Amendment

9. Mayor Johnson stated that an ordinance has been prepared amending the 2009 budget. Finance Director Mulholland presented the staff report stating that this budget amendment is to reduce the Utilities Fund by \$262,000 and to increase the Airport Agency revenue budget by \$1,051,488. Ordinance No. 09-28 by title only reads as follows:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 08-23 ADOPTED DECEMBER 9, 2008, AND ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF PULLMAN FOR THE YEAR 2009".

Councilmember Bloom moved, Councilmember Benjamin seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 09-28. The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No.
09-29 - Council
Salaries

10. Mayor Johnson announced that an ordinance has been prepared setting Councilmembers salaries at \$300 per month effective January 1, 2010. City Supervisor Sherman presented the staff report stating that at last week's meeting Councilmembers requested that an ordinance be presented reducing Councilmembers salaries to \$300 per month. He stated that a list of Councilmember's salaries from Eastern Washington jurisdictions over 10,000 population had been passed out. He read the list of salaries. Councilmember Paul stated that he thought this was going to be voluntary.

Councilmember Heath stated she did not get the benefit of the raise as she has not be re-elected since the increase was passed and she is now leaving the Council. She stated that when this increase was passed in 2007 the Council had not had an increase in ten years. She stated it can be expensive to run for Council and that Councilmember spend more time on City business than just attending Council meetings. She would like to preserve the current salary for future

Councilmembers.

Councilmember Weller agreed it is expensive to run for Council but he ran to serve Pullman. He stated that Councilmembers are public servants and it is not about the salary.

Councilmember Waldrop stated that Councilmembers need to set an example. If we do not maintain the 13 percent reserve the City will have to make cuts. He supports reducing the Council salary.

Councilmember Bloom stated that when he travels on City business he does not charge the City for his gas. The Council needs to set the tone and that leadership begins at the Council.

Councilmember Paul stated he would feel better if this was a voluntary refund.

Ordinance No. 09-29 by title only reads as follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PULLMAN, WHITMAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON, RELATING TO TITLE 1 ADMINISTRATION, AMENDING SECTIONS RELATED TO SALARIES OF CITY OFFICERS 1.40.025 OF THE PULLMAN CITY CODE AND PULLMAN CITY ORDINANCE NOS. 07-19 §1, (2007); 99-29 §2, (1999); 97-22 §2 (1997); 91-12 §2, (1991); 85-7 §1, (1985); 79-14 §1, (1979); 78-48 §1, (1978); AND A-981 §3, (1971) AND OTHER MATTERS PROPERLY RELATED THERETO.

Councilmember Waldrop moved, Councilmember Bloom seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 09-29. The motion carried with Councilmembers Waldrop, Bloom, Weller, and Wright voting aye. Councilmembers Benjamin, Heath, and Paul voted nay.

Resolution

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| Resolution No. 11. R-68-09 - College Hill Core Neighborhood Plan | Mayor Johnson stated that a resolution has been prepared adopting the College Hill Core Neighborhood Plan. City Planner Dickinson presented the staff report discussing non-conforming uses and zoning issues. He talked about the three basic options for resolution of this matter. The first is to consider RT for the entire Historic District, consider RT for a portion of the Historic District, or to omit any consideration of this proposal from the draft plan. |
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Planning Director Dickinson discussed revisions to the plan that had been made at the previous meeting. Councilmember Benjamin asked about the language in Strategy 4A where “from the public right-of-way” was added. He asked if an inspection is going on and the inspector is invited into the residence, would this language restrict them from entering the residence. He suggested adding the language “unless invited by owner”. Devon Felsted suggested adding an extra sentence to “Collection of Refuse and Recyclables”. The Council concurred with this suggestion.

The Council discussed adding language to the demographic data to clarify. Councilmember Weller and Planning Director Dickinson discussed how many people live in the area not counting the dorms and Greeks. Planning Director Dickinson stated that they did not consider not counting the Greek houses.

Councilmember Weller asked if there was an overlap between the Core Plan and the Certified Local Government (CLG). Planning Director Dickinson stated that the CLG does not deal with zoning and it will not clash with the Core Plan.

Councilmember Bloom stated that John Chapman made the argument that in a non-conforming use the owner cannot build a deck or playhouse on the property and asked if that statement was correct. Planning Director Dickinson stated that would be correct.

Mayor Johnson asked if this would not be subject to a variance. City Attorney McAloon stated that the Council could change the zoning ordinance. Councilmember Bloom stated that property values could be at risk in an RT zone. He also stated that structures are being built that bring other owners' property values down. He would like some architecture standards. Planning Director Dickinson stated an RT zone will not have any affect on design.

Councilmember Benjamin stated that in the RT area there are 26 structures that fall into the non-conforming use. He asked how many non-conforming are in the R2 zone and how many are single-family homes. Planning Director Dickinson stated none. Councilmember Benjamin stated that most single-family homes are not affected. He stated he prefers to keep the RT zone in the plan.

Councilmember Waldrop asked if the Design Standards are independent of the CLG. Planning Director Dickinson stated that if the CLG ordinance is adopted the design standards are part of it.

Councilmember Waldrop asked if "Area A" is already a National Historical Area. Planning Director Dickinson replied in the affirmative. Councilmember Weller asked questions about the RT designation. Planning Director Dickinson advised that if a house with a non-conforming designation in an RT zone burns down, it would have to be rebuilt as conforming.

Councilmember Heath thanked Planning Director Dickinson for all the information and stated that zoning is the most critical part of this plan and needs to be considered first.

Councilmember Wright thanked the College Hill Association for their input. She advised the report stated there had been little opposition to the plan in the Planning Commission meetings. She stated we need to consider all options.

Councilmember Weller stated a Master Hill Plan could be created from this Core Plan. He stated that the McGee Park area is going downhill and asked where displaced individuals will go. Planning Director Dickinson stated that we need to recognize the limits of our resources.

Councilmember Bloom stated that the RT designation would help the historic preservation effort.

Councilmember Bloom, Councilmember Heath, Councilmember Paul, Councilmember Weller, and Planning Director Dickinson discussed the CLG, the deterioration of property, pedestrian activity, displacing people, future adjustments to the plan, the historical district, an R3 zoning designation,

the national register, and different zoning designations.

Councilmember Bloom stated that zoning needs to be discussed thoroughly.

Resolution No. R-68-09 by title only reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A PLAN FOR THE COLLEGE HILL CORE NEIGHBORHOOD.

Councilmember Benjamin moved, Councilmember Wright seconded to adopt the Resolution No. R-68-09 with the three changes. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion

- Safer Grant
12. Mayor Johnson announced that a motion is scheduled to authorize the submittal of a SAFER grant. City Supervisor Sherman presented the staff report stating that in the past if you accepted these grants you were required to keep the staff at the end of the grant. The new regulations are for a three-year program with no local match for years one and two. Year three the City would pick up the entire amount but there is not a requirement to keep the staff after two years. It is probable that in two years we could sustain the positions.

Councilmember Bloom stated this is funded for two years but he is concerned about the future.

Councilmember Weller stated he does not like to plan for things we cannot pay for but Pullman is growing and we need to plan for the future.

Councilmember Paul, Chief Wilkins, Councilmember Benjamin, and Councilmember Wright discussed fire and ambulance call volume and the bargaining unit. At the end of the discussion Councilmember Waldrop moved, Councilmember Weller seconded to authorize the submittal of a federal SAFER grant application for three new firefighter positions. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion

- Legislative Priorities for the Town Hall Meeting
13. Mayor Johnson announced that a discussion is scheduled on legislative priorities for the December 8, 2009, Town Hall meeting. City Supervisor Sherman presented the staff report presenting eight issues for discussion and asked for additional discussion items.

Councilmember Waldrop recommended adding as a discussion item ways to resolve the State budget crisis. Councilmember Bloom stated a way to improve businesses is a reduction of the B&O taxes. He suggested adding finding a way to restore capital funding to the University Maintenance and Operations. He stated there is currently little State funding of design for public works projects. Councilmember Paul stated we need a level playing field for border cities. Councilmember Benjamin stated he agreed with Councilmember Paul and suggested add improving the ramp access into Pullman to the Town Hall meeting agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Johnson asked if there was any new business from the Council or audience. Janice Brown stated

she would like more information at the Town Hall meeting about closing schools with a population of less than 500.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Weller moved, Councilmember Benjamin seconded to adjourn the regular meeting of the City Council.

Motion Carried.

Mayor Johnson adjourned the regular meeting of the City Council at 9:26 p.m.