

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF PULLMAN
OCTOBER 20, 2009

Roll Call, City Council

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Pullman was held on October 20, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers, City Hall, Pullman, Washington with the following present:

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

Roll Call, ASWSU

Codey Hooper	District 1
Mike Penttila	District 1
Samuel Lomasney	District 1
Bryan Inglin	District 3
Patrick Horton	District 4
Zac Nix	District 6
Christina Turner	District 8
Clint Amstrup	District 9
Riley Myklebust	District 10
Brandon Lorenz	District 10
Amanda Spalding	District 10
Jake Whitman	District 10

Call to Order

Mayor Johnson called the regular meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Councilmember Heath moved, Councilmember Wright seconded to excuse Councilmember Bloom from the meeting.

Motion Carried.

Announcements

Mayor Johnson made four announcements.

Meeting with ASWSU

College Hill
Core Neighborhood
Plan

1. Mayor Johnson announced that the first discussion item was the College Hill Core Neighborhood Plan. Planning Director Dickinson presented the staff report. He defined the College Hill Core and stated that it has issues such as high-density apartments, parking, disruptive behavior, and poor upkeep of property. He presented examples of different methods that have been tried on College Hill such as revising the zoning code, hiring three beat officers, hiring a Community Improvement representative, passing ordinances such as the noise and fighting ordinances, voluntary housing programs, the parking permit system, WSU real estate program, and lighting projects on College Hill with ASWSU.

Planning Director Dickinson discussed the “College Hill Tomorrow” group which led to this draft plan. He explained what is in the plan and stated that the plan has goals. He stated that City Council will consider the plan at a special meeting on November 5.

Senator Horton asked about implementation strategies of the plan and how it will work. Planning Director Dickinson stated it is a

long-term campaign. Senator Horton stated that students do not have tools to trim trees or remove snow. Mayor Johnson stated that he hoped that landlords would provide the necessary tools. Senator Horton suggested that a program might be developed where tools are purchased and checked out to students. Planning Director Dickinson stated that everything is on the table for ways to improve the area. Councilmember Weller stated that students and long-term residents should help each other. Senator Horton stated that a lot of College Hill is not long-term residents. Mayor Johnson suggested that groups could adopt blocks for cleanup.

Senator Horton asked if bike lanes had ever been considered. Planning Director Dickinson stated that bike lanes had been looked at in the 1970s. Senator Horton stated that the streets in this area are narrow and asked if they are considering making more one-way streets. Planning Director Dickinson stated they are exploring all options. Mayor Johnson stated that WSU had recently changed some streets to one-way streets.

Update on 2009
College Hill
Projects

2. Mayor Johnson announced that an update on 2009 College Hill projects is next. Public Works Director Workman gave the update. He stated that sidewalks have been an issue since 1998. The City passed a bond and used money from the bond to replace panels in sidewalks that presented tripping hazards. It is now an ongoing program. We first fixed sidewalks on College Hill, then Pioneer Hill, then Sunnyside, and two years on Military Hill. It is now back to College Hill where they are working on tripping hazards and ADA ramps.

Public Works Director Workman discussed the streets that have been repaved. A senator asked who handles the placement of crosswalks and overhanging vegetation. He mentioned problem areas on Merman Drive. Public Works Director Workman stated that the Parks Department responds to overhanging vegetation on a complaint basis and that Public Works does crosswalks. He stated that the areas mentioned would be mid-block crosswalks and this is not considered a safe practice. Councilmember Heath asked if the overhanging vegetation complaint could be passed on to the Parks Department. Mayor Johnson stated the complaint would be passed on.

A senator stated that the crosswalks at Thatuna/"B" Street and California/"B" Street are not safe. Public Works Director Workman responded that the intersection of Thatuna and "B" Street belongs to WSU and they are still looking at ways to improve this intersection. Mayor Johnson stated it is better now than when the crosswalk was at an angle. The Senator stated that the intersection of California and "B" Street is dangerous. Senator Spalding stated that a lot of people walk in this area and it is dangerous. Public Works Director Workman explained the steps the City has taken to make this a safer intersection. Mayor Johnson discussed the placement of flags on Stadium Way by the church and discussed the possibility of using flags at crosswalks. Public Works Director Workman stated that we are looking at using flags. Senator Horton and Mayor Johnson discussed using flags.

Transit Issues

3. Mayor Johnson announced that Transit issues is the next discussion item. Transit Manager Thornton presented the staff report and discussed how the changes at Thatuna have affected Pullman Transit routes. He stated that most changes in the routes are due to the changes at Thatuna. Transit Manager Thornton thanked the students for supporting Pullman Transit and stated that due to the increase in fees there are now six buses on Express Routes all day. He stated it has increased ridership and he discussed ridership statistics.

A senator asked if Pullman Transit encouraged or discouraged the drivers from waiting for runners. Transit Manager Thornton stated that we discourage the drivers from waiting for runners as it can put the drivers behind schedule. Transit Manager Thornton stated there are now cameras in the buses.

Councilmember Waldrop requested information on the new "Senior Shuttle" service. Transit Manager Thornton stated it is a new fixed-route service for seniors. It has not been doing well as the seniors do not like the one-hour route. He stated they just started a half-hour route.

Senator Myklebust stated that there are security officers on some buses and asked if there are problems on the buses. Transit Manager Thornton responded that there are not problems due to having security officers on the buses.

Councilmember Paul thanked the students for supporting and voting for Transit. Mayor Johnson stated that Parking Control also supports Pullman Transit.

Joint Lighting
Project on College
Hill

4. Public Works Director Workman presented a history of joint lighting projects with WSU. He stated that last winter personnel from ASWSU, Avista, WSU, and the City of Pullman did a walk of College Hill. They identified areas that needed more lights, had lights out, dim lighting, and needed trees trimmed. He stated that the City and Avista have worked on these problems. He also stated that the City has revised how we notify Avista of street lights that are not working or are dim. He stated that yesterday there was a meeting on College Hill lighting. Avista and ASWSU were at the meeting. They found and discussed problems with lighting and sidewalks.

Senator Horton asked if there is a tree trimming program. Public Works Director Workman stated that we respond by complaint and we also survey areas. He stated that tree trimming won't always solve the problems. Mayor Johnson stated that the campus beat officers also report problems. Mayor Johnson asked who pays the electricity for these street lights. Public Works Director Workman responded that the City pays for the electricity and it is very costly. Councilmember Benjamin stated that WSU President Floyd has dedicated money for lighting.

Senator Horton asked about dark alleys. Public Works Director Workman stated that the City does not provide lighting in alleys. They discussed contacting the individual homeowners about alley lights. Senator Horton stated that the road quality of alleys is not well maintained. Public

Works Director stated the City does not maintain alleys the same as streets. Individuals can report bad alleys.

Solid Waste and Recycling

5. City Supervisor Sherman presented a staff report on solid waste and recycling. He explained the current program and stated that in 2008 the mixed-paper recycling market vanished. It has now been reinstated. He discussed commingling versus source-separated recycling. He also discussed WSU's recycling program and stated that some stores have programs to reuse cloth bags. He stated that the League of Women Voters has been a leader in this area. Mayor Johnson stated that we might be able to use smaller garbage cans if we recycled more.

Councilmember Paul stated that citizens must separate their recycling. He stated that Pullman Disposal does not have the manpower to separate recycling. WSU is not allowed to take recycling from off campus but students could use WSU's recycling. Senator Horton stated that some apartment complexes do not have recycling bins.

Devon Felsted, Pullman Disposal, stated that they started apartment recycling in the 1990s. The bins have disappeared but they will provide new containers when notified. He stated they also ask people if they need containers when they sign up for service.

Senator Myklebust asked if beer cans can be recycled. Mr Felsted stated they can be recycled. A senator stated that he has not seen recycling bins at Campus Commons North. Mr. Felsted stated there is a centralized location at this complex. Devon Felsted, Councilmember Waldrop, Councilmember Heath, Councilmember Weller, and City Supervisor Sherman discussed source recycling, mixed-paper recycling, the costs of recycling, not having a local market for commingling recyclables, recycling of glass, and contamination. Councilmember Paul stated that using someone else's dumpster is illegal.

Safety Issues

6. Police Chief Weatherly presented the staff report. He discussed abuse of alcohol and stated that the Hospital is seeing higher levels of blood alcohol in subjects being brought in for detox. He stated that Pullman had passed open container and fighting ordinances to try to contain the problem. He stated that alcohol abuse is a community problem. He discussed energy drinks mixed with alcohol. Mayor Johnson stated this is where assaults come from. He stated we want to keep everyone safe. Senator Myklebust stated that the bars are working with the police more than they had been. Chief Weatherly stated that Stubblefields works with the police. Mayor Johnson, Senator Spalding, and Chief Weatherly discussed putting up cameras, drinking activities of individuals over 21, education for fraternities and sororities, energy drinks, and binge drinking. Councilmember Weller stated that energy drinks can also affect the heart.

City Supervisor Sherman stated that President Floyd is committed to College Hill. Councilmember Waldrop stated that in 2006 ASWSU had a "housing guide" which was very good.

Senator Myklebust asked why Pullman did not adopt

regulations for taxis. Councilmember Benjamin explained the process the Council went through and why they decided not to pass regulations for taxis. He stated the Council did not want to require taxis to get multiple licenses. Senator Myklebust stated that we should protect citizens. Pullman should do background checks on taxi drivers. City Attorney McAloon presented some background on licensing of taxi cabs. Police Chief Weatherly stated that Moscow notified Pullman of two taxi cab drivers who failed Moscow's background checks but were driving taxi cabs in Pullman. Senator Myklebust stated we need to do background checks on drivers. Senator Spalding stated she is concerned about these two taxi cab drivers. She would like to know why they failed the background checks. Councilmember Benjamin, City Attorney McAloon, Senator Horton, Councilmember Heath, Councilmember Waldrop, and Police Chief Weatherly discussed background checks for taxi cab drivers, taxi cab operators, itinerant vendor licenses, and the taxi ordinance that Council did not adopt.

Stormwater
Regulations

7. Stormwater Services Program Manager Buchert presented the staff report going through the history of stormwater. He stated that car washes will be allowed as long as an effort is made to reduce the amount of polluted runoff that leaves the property. He discussed charity carwashes and residential car washing. He talked about grant applications that he has applied for to help with the cost of the program. Mayor Johnson discussed the education campaign. City Attorney McAloon stated that the City of Pullman has an ordinance prohibiting parking in front yards and that an ordinance will be coming after the first of the year amending that ordinance to allow washing cars.

ASWSU Update

8. Senator Myklebust introduced ASWSU Vice-President Jay Hendrickson who discussed ASWSU projects such as the Liasion Program, the ASWSU website, and Cougar Quarterly. He stated that there will be a blog by the end of the semester and he discussed ASWSU's involvement in redoing the playfields. He stated they are willing to work with the City of Pullman. He thanked the City Council for this meeting and stated they are pushing safety this year. He discussed the Safe Walk, which is a service to walk students to their residences. He also thanked Chief Weatherly and Mayor Johnson for their help with the "Running of the Cougars".

Councilmember Weller asked if ASWSU's website has a link to the City of Pullman's website. Senator Spalding stated they refer individuals to the City of Pullman's website.

Mayor Johnson thanked ASWSU for this meeting.

Mayor Johnson announced that the Council would recess for approximately four minutes. He adjourned the meeting at 9:44 p.m.

Mayor Johnson reconvened the meeting at 9:52 p.m.

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 Wright 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 Heath asked that item No. 10 be removed for separate discussion. Mayor Johnson so ordered. Councilmember Paul moved, Councilmember Benjamin seconded to adopt item No. 9 on the Consent Agenda.

Motion Carried.

Motions

- Washington Traffic Safety MOU
9. The Council approved a MOU with the Washington Traffic Safety Commission to provide overtime funding to Pullman Police Department to conduct nightttime DUI enforcement.

REGULAR AGENDA

Resolution

- Resolution No. R-58-09 - Stormwater Grant
10. Mayor Johnson announced that this item had been removed from the Consent Agenda at the request of Councilmember Heath. Councilmember Heath stated that there is a provision in this grant that \$50.00 of the money can be used for refreshments. She does not feel that the City should be using this money for refreshments and requested the Council to direct personnel to use all this money for stormwater issues. Stormwater Services Manager Buchert stated that the refreshment portion is to be used for when the stormwater committee is holding meetings. The Council directed that the money not be used for refreshments.

Resolution No. R-58-09 by title only reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A FY 2010-2011 PHASE II STORMWATER PASS-THROUGH GRANT BETWEEN THE CITY OF PULLMAN AND THE STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY.

Councilmember Heath moved, Councilmember Weller seconded to adopt Resolution No. R-58-09. The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance

- Ordinance No. 09-24 - Monetary Donation
11. Mayor Johnson announced that an ordinance had been prepared authorizing a restricted monetary donation to be used for the Cemetery Paving project. Finance Director Mulholland presented the staff report stating that the money will be given in stock.

City Supervisor Sherman stated this is a gift from Tom and Faye Neill. He showed slides of the paving project and stated that Motley-Motley did the work. He expressed appreciation for the donation.

Ordinance No. 09-24 by title only reads as follows:

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING A RESTRICTED MONETARY DONATION FROM TOM AND FAYE NEILL TO THE CITY OF PULLMAN TO BE APPLIED TO COSTS RELATING TO THE CEMETERY PAVING PROJECT.

Councilmember Waldrop moved, Councilmember Benjamin seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 09-24. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution

Resolution No. 12.
R-59-09 - Title VI
Plan

Mayor Johnson announced that a resolution had been prepared adopting a Title VI Plan and a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Plan. Assistant Public Works Director Gardes presented the staff report stating that the City had received a grant for \$800,000 to expand ERD. The City needs to adopt this resolution as part of that grant. He explained the plan. Mayor Johnson stated we already have a plan and asked if we still needed to adopt this plan. Deputy Public Works Director Gardes stated that we do need to adopt this plan. Councilmember Waldrop asked if a disadvantaged bidder would place before the low bidder. Deputy Public Works Director Gardes responded that no, a disadvantaged bidder would not be put before the low bid. Councilmember Waldrop asked about the 1 percent spent with disadvantaged businesses. Deputy Public Works Director Gardes responded that the State has a website and we will use the website. Councilmember Paul asked if this grant will increase Deputy Public Works Director Gardes workload. Deputy Public Works Director Gardes stated that the reports are almost complete and once they are completed they can be used for other federal projects.

Resolution No. R-59-09 by title only reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A TITLE VI PLAN IN CONFORMANCE WITH THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964, AND A DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PLAN, IN CONFORMANCE WITH FEDERAL CODE 49 CFR PART 26.

Councilmember Benjamin moved, Councilmember Wright seconded to adopt Resolution No. R-59-09. The motion carried six votes aye with Councilmember Paul voting nay.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Johnson asked if there was any new business from either the Council or audience.

Janice Brown stated she was concerned about the taxi drivers and felt they should have to pass a background check. She stated she disagrees with Senator Horton's comments about shovels and rakes being checked out to students. When students move here they are young adults and they should purchase their own shovels and racks.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Weller 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 10:09 p.m.