MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF PULLMAN
MAY 6, 2008

Roll Call

The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Pullman was held on May 6, 2008, at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers, City Hall, Pullman, Washington with the following present:

Glenn A. Johnson	Mayor
Troy Woo	Finance Director
Francis Benjamin	Councilmember
Ann Heath	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. Councilmember Heath moved, Councilmember Wright seconded to excuse Councilmembers Bloom and Paul from the meeting.

Motion Carried.

Announcements

Mayor Johnson made one announcement.

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 the 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 Waldrop 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. There were none. Councilmember Waldrop moved, Councilmember Benjamin seconded to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented.

Motion Carried.

Motions

Minutes - April 22, 2008

1. The Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of April 22, 2008, and approved them as submitted.

Accounts Payable, Payroll, and Electronic Transfers - May

2. The Council approved disbursements represented by accounts payable checks numbered _____ through _____ totaling $_____ inclusive, payroll checks numbered _____ through _____ totaling $_____ inclusive, and electronic transfers totaling _____ and directed that they be paid upon approval of the Auditing Officer and Audit Committee.

Claim for Damages - McCabe

3. The Council referred a Claim for Damages submitted by Norah McCabe for the sum of $59.83 to the Washington Cities Insurance Authority (WCIA).

Resolutions

Resolution No. R-41-08 - Parks Office Re-Roof

4. Resolution No. R-41-08

A RESOLUTION REJECTING THE BID FOR CONTRACT NO. 08-08, PARKS OFFICE RE-ROOF.

Resolution No. R-41-08 was adopted unanimously.

Resolution No. R-42-08 - Street Crackfill 2008

5. Resolution No. R-42-08

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF STRIPES-A-LOT, LLC FOR STREET CRACKFILL 2008 AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF THE CONTRACT FOR SAID PROJECT.

Resolution No. R-42-08 was adopted unanimously.

Resolution No. R-43-08 - Accelerated Streets Resurfacing 2008

6. Resolution No. R-43-08

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF POE ASPHALT PAVING, INC. FOR ACCELERATED STREETS RESURFACING 2008 AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF THE CONTRACT FOR SAID PROJECT.

Resolution No. R-43-08 was adopted unanimously.

Resolution No. R-44-08 - Water System Telemetry Upgrades

7. Resolution No. R-44-08

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF EMPIRE ELECTRIC, INC. FOR WATER SYSTEM TELEMETRY UPGRADES AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF THE CONTRACT FOR SAID PROJECT.

Resolution No. R-44-08 was adopted unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

Public Hearing

Resolution No. R-45-08 - Transit Development Plan

8. Mayor Johnson announced that a public hearing is scheduled to consider the 2008-2013 Transit Development Plan. Transit Manager Thornton presented the staff report which included ridership statistics for the fixed-route service, a description of the late-night service, Dial-A-Ride ridership statistics, current and recent capital projects for Transit, and future capital projects. Councilmember Benjamin asked for reasons why the ridership levels decreased in 2007. Transit Manger Thornton responded.

Councilmember Bloom arrived at 7:42 p.m. and took part in the remainder of the meeting.

Mayor Johnson asked how the Thatuna Road closure impacted Transit routes. Transit Manager Thornton responded. Mayor Johnson asked if the 2007 injuries and accidents were weather related. Transit Manager Thornton responded. Councilmember Bloom asked if the 2009 Capital Improvement Program for GPS for the fixed-route buses was necessary. Transit Manger Thornton responded. Mayor Johnson opened the public hearing. Councilmember Bloom noted that 9 out of the 18 buses were rated in questionable condition

and noted that the odometer readings on some of those buses were very low. Transit Manager Thornton responded. Mayor Johnson asked how long the transmissions last in Pullman. Transit Manager Thornton responded. Councilmember Weller asked if a cost-benefit analysis had been performed on alternative fuel or hybrid buses. Transit Manager Thornton responded. Mayor Johnson closed the public hearing.

Resolution No. R-45-08 by title only reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION APPROVING A SIX-YEAR TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR CALENDAR YEARS 2008-2013 AND 2007 ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE CITY OF PULLMAN.

Councilmember Waldrop moved, Councilmember Benjamin seconded to adopt Resolution No. R-45-08. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussions

Draft Business Registration Ordinance

8. Mayor Johnson announced that a discussion is scheduled on the draft business registration ordinance. City Supervisor Sherman presented a staff report which included the history of recent and long-term actions related to business registration and described past City Council goals related to business registration. Finance Director Woo presented a staff report on including rental properties with the partnership with the State Master License Service (MLS). Councilmember Weller asked if this registration proposal would require apartment inspections before the registration would be permitted. Finance Director Woo responded. Councilmember Heath stated she was opposed to the MLS application because the City is only interested in collecting emergency contact information and not the private information that is included on the MLS applications. Councilmember Wright expressed concern about owner fees for those owners who have multiple properties and suggested a different plan for those owners of multiple properties and asked if the water billing information could be used to provide emergency contact information. Finance Director Woo and City Attorney McAloon responded. Councilmember Benjamin, City Attorney McAloon, City Supervisor Sherman, and Finance Director Woo discussed cost recovery for the processing of business registrations and methods to reduce the impact of fees on business owners. Councilmember Waldrop expressed concern with registering home occupations because he would like to see business registration have a minimal impact on Pullman businesses. Councilmember Waldrop suggested exempting home occupations and he used musical instruction and e-Bay businesses that occur in Pullman homes as examples.

City Attorney McAloon reviewed the changes to the proposed business registration ordinance and addressed some citizen questions that were submitted in writing prior to the meeting. Mayor Johnson asked if penalties would apply to those businesses who do not provide updates to the emergency contact information. City Attorney McAloon responded. Councilmember Heath expressed concern with the definitions for “business”, “person”, and “advantage” and that she would like

to see the business registration requirements more limited.

Councilmember Weller expressed concern with the amount of information that will be collected by the MLS and asked if the information received from the state would be limited to the police and fire departments. City Attorney McAloon responded. Councilmember Heath, City Attorney McAloon, City Supervisor Sherman, and Finance Director Woo discussed the information collected by the state and the intent to gather additional information for local use. Councilmember Heath asked if the City ordinance could use the same definition for business that is used by the State of Washington. City Attorney McAloon responded.

Kathy Wilson, DRA Real Estate, stated that she already provides the desired information to the City police department and that she has experienced Police notification problems recently. Councilmember Waldrop, Councilmember Heath, Councilmember Benjamin, and Kathy Wilson discussed the number of rental locations managed by DRA Real Estate.

Michael Gordon, Summit Realty, stated he thought public safety issues were already being taken care of and that he had concerns with the per location registration requirement. Mr. Gordon asked why home owners weren't being included in the proposed registration ordinance and that much of the information collected is confidential and that owners would not like the registration posted at the location.

Dan Antoni, Coldwell Banker, stated that the contact information was already being gathered by the fire department during their fire inspections and that he did not support the registration requirement because the costs would be passed on to students and it is a duplicate service.

Anita Hornback, 405 NW North, stated that the registration requirement should only be used to collect emergency contact information, that management companies do currently license with the State MLS, and rather than registering locations that the rental properties should be listed by owner or management company. Councilmember Bloom asked Ms. Hornback if she was currently registered with the MLS. Ms. Hornback responded.

Jean Campbell stated that she uses management companies for her rentals and that she hopes that the management company would be contacted in case of emergency and not the owner, that she felt this was a duplication of service because the fire department currently collects information, and that the City should ask the legislature to allow the water billing information to be used to collect emergency contact information.

Alex Hammond, 1110 NE Indiana, stated that this is an issue of safety for the tenants and that a registration for emergency contact purposes does not seem intrusive for the owners.

Julia Krauser asked if the City could use the information the state currently collects for its registration purposes. Finance Director Woo

responded. Ms. Krauser asked if the information collected by the state could be reduced. City Attorney McAloon responded.

Councilmember Benjamin, Mayor Johnson, City Attorney McAloon, and Police Chief Weatherly discussed the state requirement that owners must be contacted when crimes occur on the premise. Councilmember Wright asked for more information on the contact information that is collected by the fire department during fire inspections. Fire Chief Wilkins responded.

Mayor Johnson asked for Council direction. Councilmember Bloom stated that the Master License Service is too heavy handed and should not be used and that property managers should be contacted and not owners. Councilmember Bloom asked how the City could receive information from the MLS. Finance Director Woo and City Attorney McAloon responded. City Supervisor Sherman described the Whitcom 911 emergency contact form and how Whitcom uses that information and asked for clarification on Councilmember Bloom's position on not using the MLS. Councilmember Bloom responded. Councilmember Bloom stated the registration requirement should be kept to a minimum, that the renewal fee should be lower, and made comments related to affordable housing. Councilmember Waldrop stated he agrees with a minimal impact approach and that the City should proceed cautiously and that the requirements should be limited to those businesses that currently have to register with MLS and that itinerant businesses should be required to register. Councilmember Benjamin spoke in favor of discounting the application fee for those who have multiple locations or that a sliding fee should be used. Finance Director Woo responded. Councilmember Heath stated she does not agree to limit the requirements to current businesses that have to register with the MLS, that there is a need to know all business owners and property owners within Pullman, that the City should proceed with businesses who are currently registering with MLS should continue to do so, and that itinerant and rental properties should register through the police department. Councilmember Weller stated he agreed with Councilmember Waldrop and that the City should add additional registration requirements at a later time if necessary. Councilmember Bloom stated that the requirement should include all businesses and not target certain types of businesses, that a business registration requirement is not unusual, and that the City should use the information as intended. Councilmember Heath clarified that the businesses who currently register with MLS should continue to do so and that all others should be registering with the police department. Councilmember Waldrop and City Attorney McAloon discussed the definition of home occupations and that the contact person resides in the home.

Mayor Johnson asked if the ordinance could define the business definition to include all those who have to register with the MLS. City Attorney McAloon responded. Mayor Johnson stated it is important that the hazardous material information be included in the application for the fire department. City Attorney McAloon responded.

Councilmember Wright made a home occupation clarification. Councilmember Heath stated that she thought the $20.00 proposed fee was reasonable and that there should be a lower renewal fee if there are no changes to the registration information.

Pullman Arts Commission Membership

10. Mayor Johnson announced that a discussion is scheduled on the Pullman Arts Commission membership. City Supervisor Sherman presented the staff report and requested City Council direction on the number of members to the Commission and proposed term limits. Mayor Johnson stated that in the past he has expressed the importance of having the performing arts included on the Arts Commission but was not in favor of increasing the number of members. Councilmember Heath stated the committee works incredibly hard and they may need more people to do additional work. Councilmember Bloom suggested that the committee might be doing too much. Mayor Johnson asked if the committee could enlist volunteers to help with the workload. Councilmember Bloom stated that large committees have inherent problems. City Council concurred to seek further information from the Arts Commission on the issues.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Johnson announced that the Council would adjourn to Executive Session for:

To consider the minimum price at which real estate will be offered for sale or lease.

To discuss the strategy or position to be taken by the City during the course of collective bargaining or grievance proceedings.

Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at 9:21 p.m. and announced that the City Council would recess for five minutes and the Executive Session would last 30 minutes.

Mayor Johnson reconvened the City Council at 10:10 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Wright 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 10:10 p.m.