MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF PULLMAN
NOVEMBER 18, 2008

Roll Call

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Pullman was held on November 18, 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
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.

Reports

Status of University District Proposal

Mayor Johnson announced that a report is scheduled on the status of the University District proposal. City Supervisor Sherman presented the staff report. There were no questions.

Pine Street Plaza Tree Lighting

Mayor Johnson announced that a report is scheduled on the Pine Street Plaza Tree Lighting. City Supervisor Sherman presented the staff report. There were no questions.

Mayor Johnson adjourned the regular meeting of the City Council to conduct the special meeting of the Metropolitan Park District at 7:33 p.m.

Mayor Johnson reconvened the regular meeting of the City Council at 7:35 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 Wright moved, Councilmember Paul 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 no requests for removal of items for separate discussion.

Councilmember Benjamin moved, Councilmember Paul seconded to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented.

Motion Carried.

Motions

Minutes - November 5, 2008	1.	The Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes of the special meeting of November 5, 2008, and approved them as submitted.
Street Crackfill 2008	2.	The Council accepted as complete the Street Crackfill 2008 contract.
North Grand Path and Maple Street Path Complete	3.	The Council accepted as complete Contract No. 08-05, North Grand Path and Maple Street Path.
Claim for Damages - Roberts	4.	The Council referred a Claim for Damages submitted by Steve K. Roberts, for the Bank of Whitman, for an undetermined amount to the Washington State Transit Insurance Pool (WSTIP).

REGULAR AGENDA

Public Hearing

Final 2009 Budget Hearing	5.	Mayor Johnson announced that a public hearing is scheduled for the final 2009 budget hearing. Finance Director Woo presented the staff report. Mayor Johnson opened the public hearing. Councilmember Waldrop asked if the proposed budget preserved the $100,000 Capital Improvement Program reserve within the General Fund. Finance Director Woo responded. Mayor Johnson closed the public hearing. City Council concurred to proceed with the budget as presented.

Public Meeting

Kopf Annexation Request	6.	Mayor Johnson announced that a public meeting is scheduled on the Kopf annexation request. Planning Director Dickinson presented the staff report. Councilmember Waldrop stated he was pleased with the advancement towards the construction of the Airport Fireflow Project. Councilmember Waldrop made the following motion:

"I move that the City accept the proposed annexation submitted by Keith Kopf, L.L.C., in the Notice of Intent to Annex Real Property filed with the City on September 23, 2008, and that the City give the following annexation instructions:

1. The petitioners shall assume their proportionate share of City indebtedness upon annexation as determined by the City finance director.

2. The petitioners shall accept the assignment of a C3 General Commercial zoning designation for the subject property to become effective immediately upon annexation.

3. Prior to the City Council public hearing on this annexation proposal, the petitioners shall initiate proceedings for annexation to Whitman County Hospital District No. 1A."

Councilmember Paul seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously

Ordinance and Resolution

Ordinance No. 08-19 and Resolution No. R-91-08 - Residential Rental Unit Registration

7. Mayor Johnson announced that an ordinance and resolution had been prepared adopting the Residential Rental Unit Registration. City Attorney McAloon presented the staff report.

Councilmember Weller made the following statement: "As you know I am against the taxation of not only our citizens but businesses. In my opinion this ordinance is an example of that. It is untried and unproven. It may cost more money and time for both the citizens and the businesses. I implore all of us to remember our City mission and vision statement and think about how this will be viewed by respective businesses and those we represent. In my opinion it is fiscally irresponsible to swim in unknown waters in the midst of a global economic storm."

Anita Hornback, 405 NW North Street, reiterated her position on defining the rates based on addresses and the issue of inequity it causes with duplexes and that she did not feel the date-of-birth information on emergency contacts was necessary and it was not included within the ordinance. City Attorney McAloon responded. Ms. Hornback, Councilmembers Heath and Bloom, and City Attorney McAloon discussed the requirement for dates-of-birth on the emergency contacts and the police registration system.

Councilmember Paul stated that he understood the date-of-birth being necessary to distinguish between people with the same name. Councilmember Heath responded. Councilmember Heath stated that the date-of-birth for an emergency contact is not required in the ordinance so it should not be included on the registration form.

Ordinance No. 08-19 by title only reads as follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PULLMAN, WHITMAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON, RELATING TO TITLE 6, LICENSES AND TAXATION, ADDING CHAPTER 6.98 RESIDENTIAL RENTAL UNIT REGISTRATION, AND OTHER MATTERS PROPERLY RELATED THERETO.

Councilmember Heath moved, Councilmember Waldrop seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 08-19. The motion carried six votes aye, Councilmember Weller voting nay.

Resolution No. R-91-08 by title only reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A FEE SCHEDULE FOR RESIDENTIAL RENTAL UNIT REGISTRATION AND RENEWAL REQUIRED PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE PULLMAN CITY CODE 6.98.

Councilmember Heath moved, Councilmember Wright seconded to adopt Resolution No. R-91-08. The motion carried six votes aye, Councilmember Weller voting nay.

Ordinances

Ordinance No. 08-20 - Tax Levy

8. Mayor Johnson announced that an ordinance had been prepared adopting the tax levy for collection in 2009. Finance Director Woo presented the staff report. There were no questions of his report.

Ordinance No. 08-20 by title only reads as follows:

AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE AMOUNT OF TAX LEVY FOR THE YEAR 2008 FOR COLLECTION IN 2009 TO RAISE REVENUE TO MEET ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES AND ESTABLISHING THE SPECIAL LEVY TO MEET GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND INDEBTEDNESS.

Councilmember Paul moved, Councilmember Benjamin seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 08-20. The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 08-21 - EMS Levy

9. Mayor Johnson announced that an ordinance had been prepared fixing the amount of tax levy for collection in 2009. Finance Director Woo presented the staff report. There were no questions on his report.

Ordinance No. 08-21 by title only reads as follows:

AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE AMOUNT OF THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE (EMS) TAX LEVY FOR THE YEAR 2008 FOR COLLECTION IN 2009 TO RAISE REVENUE TO MEET ESTIMATED EMS EXPENDITURES.

Councilmember Waldrop moved, Councilmember Benjamin seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 08-21. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolutions

Resolution No. R-92-08 - Snow Emergency

10. Mayor Johnson announced that a resolution had been prepared authorizing the Public Works Director to declare a snow emergency. Public Works Director Workman presented the staff report. Councilmember Bloom asked for an explanation on implementation specifically when dealing with winter break and towing issues. Public Works Director Workman responded. Councilmember Heath asked if any snow emergencies would have been declared last year and how many times a snow emergency would have been declared. Public Works Director Workman responded. Councilmember Bloom stated that last year's snow made for parking difficulties and asked if City lots could be used temporarily while snow is removed and if a hiatus on the parking restrictions could be declared. Public Works Director Workman responded. Councilmember Benjamin asked how big of an area would be included in the snow emergency declaration. Public Works Director Workman responded. Councilmember Benjamin asked if there were certain areas of the City that have problems each year with snow congestion and parking. Public Works Director Workman responded. Councilmember Benjamin asked if there would be issues with contacting car owners within the 24-hour period and noted if there would be contact problems relating to winter breaks and vacations. Public Works Director Workman responded.

City Attorney McAloon noted that the resolution allows for a parking lot restriction hiatus. Resolution No. R-92-08 by title only reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS OR HIS DESIGNEE TO DECLARE A SNOW EMERGENCY WHEN DEEMED NECESSARY AND ADVISABLE FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENSURING THE SAFE PASSAGE OF VEHICLES ON CITY STREETS.

Councilmember Bloom moved, Councilmember Wright seconded to adopt Resolution No. R-92-08. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. R-93-08 - Bad Debts

11. Mayor Johnson announced that a resolution had been prepared declaring certain accounts receivable as bad debts. Finance Director Woo presented the staff report. Councilmember Bloom asked who pays for the bad debts. Finance Director Woo responded. Mayor Johnson asked for confirmation that credit ratings are impacted when accounts receivable are sent to collection agencies. Finance Director Woo responded. Councilmember Heath asked for an explanation on why there are utility bills on the bad debt list. Finance Director Woo responded. Councilmember Waldrop and Finance Director Woo discussed requiring closing agents to pay utility bills at the time of property closings.

Mayor Johnson asked for a status update on the effectiveness of the new ambulance software. Finance Director Woo responded. Councilmember Benjamin asked if any of the write-off list included amounts that insurance companies refuse to pay. Finance Director Woo responded. Councilmember Bloom asked what constituted a $2,000 ambulance transport fee. Finance Director Woo and Mayor Johnson responded. Councilmember Bloom noted that other City customers pay for these bad debts.

Resolution No. R-93-08 by title only reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE DUE TO THE CITY OF PULLMAN TO BE BAD DEBTS AND REMOVING SAID ACCOUNTS FROM THE ACTIVE ACCOUNTING RECORDS OF THE CITY.

Councilmember Waldrop moved, Councilmember Benjamin seconded to adopt Resolution No. R-93-08. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion

Labor Contract With Pullman Police Officers' Guild

12. Mayor Johnson announced that a motion is requested ratifying a labor contract with the Pullman Police Officers' Guild. City Supervisor Sherman presented the staff report which included a description of the contract provisions and the financial impact. Councilmember Bloom complimented Human Resources Manager Karen Sires for her work in negotiating this contract.

Councilmember Waldrop moved, Councilmember Bloom seconded to ratify the contract. Councilmember Paul stated that the increases are difficult to approve during the tough economic times and that the other groups have yet to be adjusted and expressed concern of the City's ability to pay

the salary adjustments. City Supervisor Sherman responded. The motion carried six votes aye, Councilmember Paul voting nay.

NEW BUSINESS

There were no items of new business.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Bloom 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 8:33 p.m.