

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF PULLMAN
FEBRUARY 20, 2008

Roll Call

A special meeting of the City Council of the City of Pullman was held on February 20, 2008, at 5:30 p.m. in Room 518 of the CUE, WSU Campus, Pullman, Washington with the following present:

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

Call to Order

ASWSU Vice-President Tommy Simmons called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. The City of Pullman Council, ASWSU Executive, and ASWSU Senators performed a self-roll call.

REGULAR AGENDA

Discussion Items

College Hill On-Street Parking Proposal 1. City Supervisor Sherman presented a staff report which summarized the recommendations and benefits of the permit program as suggested in the Nelson/Nygaard study. City Supervisor Sherman described existing parking permit programs, concerns that have been raised by students, and the recommendation of WSU President Floyd to make the parking proposal a long-term goal because of the proposed University District concept. City Supervisor Sherman described actions taken by the City Council since the October 9, 2007, ASWSU joint meeting and asked for feedback on the proposal.

Senator Cifuentes stated he wanted to improve safety and the quality of life on College Hill but was concerned with the fees that are being suggested that would require residents to pay to park in front of their own houses and that the program should target commuters. Senator Cifuentes asked if the proposed rates were different for residents and commuters, if current permit programs required a fee, and if they did are they different than the current proposal. City Supervisor Sherman responded to all questions. Senator Cifuentes asked if commuters would be able to find parking and if the parking proposal would be different under the proposed University District. Mayor Johnson and City Supervisor Sherman responded.

Senator Canode asked if any of the proposed parking fees would fund snow removal. City Supervisor Sherman responded. Senator Canode asked if the empty lot located on Maple could be used for parking. Public Works Director Workman stated that lot is not owned by the City or WSU.

Senator Lambert pointed out that if each member of the sororities and fraternities were issued parking permits as suggested by the

Nelson/Nygaard study that 2000 extra cars would be parked on College Hill. City Supervisor Sherman and Mayor Johnson responded.

Senator Davis and John Shaheen, Director of Parking, Transportation, and the Visitor Center discussed the potential of building a parking garage.

Councilmember Heath, City Supervisor Sherman, and Mel Taylor, Executive Director of Real Estate and External Affairs at WSU, discussed existing resident parking and the storage lot concept. Senator Cifuentes stated that ASWSU, City of Pullman, and the WSU administration have a good relationship, he expects the relationship to help solve the parking problem, and that he would like to be involved with the solution. Vice-President Simmons and Milton Lang, Associate Vice President at WSU, responded. Mel Taylor stated that the University District will be a joint zoning area to help pool City and University resources. Senator Semon asked if the number of permits issued would correlate with the number of parking spaces available. Mel Taylor responded. Mayor Johnson described the University District concept that is used by the City of Seattle and University of Washington.

Housing Issues 2.
Rental Inspections

City Supervisor Sherman presented the staff report that described the rental inspection history, the current inspection program, and the four alternatives chosen by the City Council for potential rental inspection programs. City Supervisor Sherman stated that a public meeting would be conducted on March 4 on the issue. Senator Cifuentes stated he was concerned with an inspection program because it would increase housing costs and that the City should work on improving existing programs. He asked what the rental inspection fee would be. City Supervisor Sherman, Finance Director Woo, and Councilmember Heath responded. Senator Hung asked if there is any way to provide more public information about the City's current safety inspection program. City Supervisor Sherman responded. Councilmember Paul stated that spring is a good time to provide public information because many leases are signed by students during the spring. Councilmember Weller stated that it is important to provide education and information to students. Councilmember Heath stated she was pleased to hear WSU is open to developing a housing office to provide information to students and stated that students need to educate themselves on the issue as well.

Shawn Hoey, Director of Campus Relations, provided information on the upcoming "Housing Fair" and asked if the City would like to have a booth at the "Housing Fair". Mayor Johnson stated the City would be happy to provide inspections forms for students. Senator Hussaini asked how to educate campus residents who are about to leave the resident halls and rent off-campus. Director of Campus Relations Hoey responded. Senator Lambert asked for clarification that the "slumlord" ordinance was the same as the Pasco program. City Supervisor Sherman and Mayor Johnson responded. Mel Taylor described the plan for the University District housing office and

stated that students have rights and they should exercise them. Milton Lang stated that WSU wanted to partner with the students and that it would be proactive on these types of issues to help provide students with a good experience at WSU. Senator Driscoll asked if the inspections could take place prior to students signing leases. Mayor Johnson responded. President Webster stated that students need to know that the City isn't the enemy and the best timing for providing public information on the issue is when students are leaving for the school year prior to them signing new leases.

Street Cleaning

Senator Canode asked why gravel is used during the winter. Public Works Director Workman responded. Senator Canode asked how does the City prioritize streets when plowing and noted that Merman Drive had problems this year. Public Works Director Workman responded. Senator Hung asked if salt was an option for keeping the roads clear. Public Works Director Workman responded. Senator Hung noted that many cars get plowed in during the winter and asked if there is any way to alleviate that problem. Public Works Director Workman responded. Senator Lambert noted that the snow was piled up on sidewalks in certain intersections because of the plowing and asked if there is any way to alleviate that problem. Public Works Director Workman responded. Senator Semon noted that the traffic light at Stadium Way and Grand would not change during certain times and wondered if the problem was related to snow removal. Public Works Director Workman responded. Councilmember Weller noted that landlords should be handling the shoveling during the winter and residents should notify the landlord if there are problems.

College Hill Study Status

3. Planning Director Dickinson presented the staff report which included a summary of the Studio Cascade Study, the Neighborhood Enhancement Strategy known as "College Hill Tomorrow" and stated that the College Hill Study would incorporate the University District concept. Milton Lang stated he would be glad to provide help with the study. Bobbie Ryder, Capital Programs, described the "Move Out & Pitch In" program. Senator Solemsaas asked if the problem with theft that occurred last year was going to be addressed this year. Ms. Ryder responded.

Pullman Transit

4. Transit Manager Thornton presented the staff report which included a description of the challenges with this year's snow and ridership statistics. Senator Hung asked if there were plans to purchase hybrid buses. Transit Manager Thornton responded. Senator Hung asked if costs were not an issue if hybrids would be a good option in Pullman. Transit Manager Thornton responded. Senator Lambert asked if there were any plans for articulated buses so that more riders could be transported at once. Transit Manager Thornton responded.

Councilmember Benjamin, Transit Manager Thornton, Senator Semon, and John Shaheen discussed the potential to use a broadcast system or the WSU alert system to notify riders of Transit delays. Senator Stolk asked if the Transit information could be broadcast at the stops. Transit Manager Thornton responded. Brandon Scheller, ASWSU

Chief of Staff, described the potential for a referendum that would increase Transit fees by \$15.00 and would provide Thursday late-night service, Sunday service, and more express service. Senator Canode stated that the fee increase would help deal with the over-crowding problem and that there was a lot of interest from her constituents. Senator Canode asked why some Express Route buses drive past stops without picking up riders. Transit Manager Thornton responded. Senator Semon asked if students could call in and receive route information. Transit Manager Thornton responded. Senator Hung asked if there was a permanent fix to the funding issue for Transit rather than asking the students for fee increases. Transit Manager Thornton responded.

Proposed Fighting 5.
Ordinance

Police Chief Weatherly presented a staff report which included crime statistics, a description of enforcement issues, and a summary of the fighting ordinance. Senator Cifuentes stated he supported the fighting ordinance. Mayor Johnson noted that one of the more dangerous areas for fighting is the Adams Mall parking lot and that fighting is a ridiculous problem. Senator Hung asked if bouncers at bars would be exempt from the ordinance. Police Chief Weatherly responded. Councilmember Weller asked if the jurisdiction of the ordinance would expand into private residences and if it would cover the entire City and not just College Hill. Police Chief Weatherly and City Attorney McAloon responded. Milton Lang stated that fighting is unacceptable and asked if the statistics show that when these types of ordinances are adopted the incidents go down. Police Chief Weatherly responded. Senator Stolk asked what the fine amount was for the third offense. Police Chief Weatherly responded. Councilmember Wright asked since the fighting ordinance violations were civil infractions if there were any options for misdemeanor compromises. Police Chief Weatherly and City Attorney McAloon responded.

Sexual Assault
and Women Safety
Program

6. Councilmember Waldrop thanked the community for a successful sexual assault forum and stated that the forum is being replayed on cable and that CDs are available. Police Chief Weatherly stated it was a unique forum and he was proud to be a part of it. Senator Semon announced that WSU was enrolling women for a self-defense class and introduced one of the trainers from the RAD training. The trainer provided a description of RAD which is "rape aggression defense". Senator Semon stated that the cause would be promoted heavily and asked for City Council feedback. Councilmember Heath asked if the class would be available to younger non-WSU students. Senator Semon responded. Mayor Johnson stated that this type of class sends a strong message to the community. Senator Davis stated she had concerns with the cost of the program and asked what was being done to lower the cost and if donations would help. Senator Semon, Vice-President Simmons, and the RAD instructor responded. Senator Cifuentes stated he wanted to express his appreciation for support of the program and thanked Chief of State Scheller, President Webster, Vice-President Simmons, and the rest of the ASWSU Executives for their support. Councilmember Waldrop stated that the common thread in sexual assaults is alcohol and warned students to be aware of drinking and suggested

that during events that they have sober folks to observe the happenings of the event.

Library Services Director Pieron stated that a two-day commitment for the RAD training was too long and suggested having shorter classes spread over more days. The RAD trainer responded. Senator Davis asked if there would be group discounts available for the RAD training. Senator Semon responded. Chief Weatherly stated that he is familiar with the RAD training, that it teaches more than self-defense, and that he fully supports it. Senator Semon asked for a show of hands for those attendees of the meeting who were not aware of the program prior to tonight's meeting.

**Closing
Announcements**

Various City Councilmembers and ASWSU Senators made closing announcements supporting the joint meeting. Mayor Johnson thanked ASWSU for their cooperation and the good communications. Senator Hung thanked Senator Cifuentes for his work in making the joint meeting possible. President Webster commented on the false rumors about the negative relationship with the City of Pullman and WSU students and that the joint meeting shows the cooperation between the two bodies.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice-President Simmons adjourned the meeting at 8:11 p.m.