MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF PULLMAN
APRIL 22, 2008

Roll Call

The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Pullman was held on April 22, 2008, at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers, City Hall, Pullman, Washington with the following present:

Ann Heath	Mayor Pro Tempore
Troy Woo	Finance Director
Francis Benjamin	Councilmember
Keith Bloom	Councilmember
Bill Paul	Councilmember
Barney Waldrop	Councilmember
Patricia Wright	Councilmember

Call to Order

Mayor Pro Tempore Heath called the regular meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Councilmember Waldrop moved, Councilmember Wright seconded to excuse Councilmember Weller from the meeting.

Motion Carried.

Announcements

City Supervisor Sherman made an announcement regarding Mayor Johnson's condition and thanked the community for all of their support. Mayor Pro Tempore Heath made four announcements.

Reports

Whitman County's Car Crushing Event

Parks Superintendent Davis introduced Michael Baker from the Whitman County Solid Waste Division. Mr. Baker gave a description of the car crushing event. Councilmember Benjamin asked for clarification that there would be no costs to the car owners and that the cars would be picked up. Mr. Baker responded. Councilmember Paul asked how the car title issue would be addressed in the case of abandoned vehicles. Mr. Baker responded.

Nuisance Ordinance Enforcement

Police Chief Weatherly presented a staff report which included a summary of the activity relating to parties, noise, and garbage.

Community Improvement Representative Steve Murphy presented a staff report that included a description of enforcement relating to garbage, vegetation, and sidewalk clearance.

Mayor Pro Tempore Heath thanked Police Chief Weatherly, Sergeant Sam Sorem, and the rest of the police department for their proactive approach in enforcing the nuisance ordinance. Councilmember Waldrop noted the high number of repeat violations and asked if legislation could be crafted to address properties with multiple violations by abating the property. City Attorney McAloon responded. Councilmember Waldrop suggested that the City Council look for the means to severely stiffen penalties for repeat violations. City Attorney McAloon responded. The City Council concurred.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Approval of Recommendations of Consent Agenda Items

CONSENT AGENDA

City Attorney McAloon reviewed the items on the

Consent Agenda with the Council and audience. She 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 Paul 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 Pro Tempore Heath asked if there were any requests for removal of items from the Consent Agenda from either the Council or audience. Councilmember Paul requested that item No. 4 be removed for separate discussion. Councilmember Paul moved, Councilmember Benjamin seconded to adopt items 1 through 3 and 5 through 8 on the Consent Agenda.

Motion Carried.

Motions

Minutes - April 8, 2008

1. The Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of April 8, 2008, and approved them as submitted.

Minutes - April 15, 2008

2. The Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes of the special meeting of April 15, 2008, and approved them as submitted.

Claim for Damages - Bloodsworth

3. The Council referred a Claim for Damages submitted by Mary Bloodsworth-Lugo and Carmen Lugo-Lugo for the sum of $18,835.61 to the Washington Cities Insurance Authority (WCIA).

Change Order on Police Department Security Improvements

5. The Council ratified Change Order NO. 1 to Contract No. 07-12, Police Department Security Improvements.

Resolutions

Resolution No. R-36-08 - Surplus Property

6. Resolution No. R-36-08

A RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN PROPERTY SURPLUS TO THE NEEDS OF THE CITY OF PULLMAN AND AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OR DESTRUCTION OF SAID PROPERTY.

Resolution No. R-36-08 was adopted unanimously.

Resolution No. R-37-08 - Sidewalk Infilling

7. Resolution No. R-37-08

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF ACE ELLIOTT LANDSCAPING FOR SIDEWALK INFILLING - 2008 AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF THE CONTRACT FOR SAID PROJECT.

Resolution No. R-37-08 was adopted unanimously.

Resolution No. R-38-08 - McKenzie/ Church Streets Sewer Replacement

8. Resolution No. R-38-08

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF ACE ELLIOTT LANDSCAPING FOR McKENZIE/CHURCH STREETS SEWER REPLACEMENT AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF THE CONTRACT FOR SAID PROJECT.

Resolution No. R-38-08 was adopted unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

Motions

Change Order On North Grand 600 Block Building Demolition

4. Mayor Pro Tempore Heath announced that this item had been removed from the Consent Agenda at the request of Councilmember Paul. Councilmember Paul wanted it noted for the record that the contractor for the building demolition on Grand was hampered because of the storage of railroad cars and that he would be bringing this issue up during new business.

Councilmember Paul moved, Councilmember Waldrop seconded to ratify Change Order No. 1 to Contract No. 07-18, North Grand 600 Block Building Demolition. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearings

Resolution No. R-39-08 - Transit

9. Mayor Pro Tempore Heath announced that a public hearing is scheduled to approve changes to the Transit 2008 summer service. Fixed-Route Service Coordinator Chris Mitchell presented the staff report which included a description of the changes that were made in the prior year and a description of the proposed changes. Mayor Pro Tempore Heath opened the public hearing. There were no comments from the public. Mayor Pro Tempore Heath closed the public hearing.

Resolution No. R-39-08 by title only reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION APPROVING CHANGES TO SUMMER 2008 PULLMAN TRANSIT FIXED-ROUTES.

Councilmember Bloom moved, Councilmember Waldrop seconded adopt Resolution No. R-39-08. The motion carried unanimously.

Open and Continue Public Hearing on Pullman Transit's Development Plan and 2007 Annual Report

10. Mayor Pro Tempore Heath announced that a public hearing was to be opened and continued on Pullman Transit's 2008-2013 Transit Development Plan and 2007 Annual Report. Public Works Director Workman requested that the hearing be continued to May 6, 2008, because the development plan was not completed.

Mayor Pro Tempore Heath opened the public hearing. There were no comments. Mayor Pro Tempore Heath closed the public hearing.

Councilmember Benjamin moved, Councilmember Wright seconded to continue the hearing to May 6, 2008. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution

Resolution No. R-40-08 - Filing of Applications with Federal Transit Administration

11. Mayor Pro Tempore Heath announced that a resolution had been prepared for the filing of applications with the Federal Transit Administration. Public Works Director Workman presented the staff report. Councilmember Benjamin asked if the federal earmarking of funds was similar to what occurred with the bus replacement in 2005. Public Works Director Workman responded. Councilmember Bloom asked when the deadline was for the applications. Public Works Director Workman responded.

Resolution No. R-40-08 by title only reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF APPLICATIONS WITH THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION, AN OPERATING ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, FOR FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED BY 49 U.S.C. CHAPTER 53, TITLE 23 UNITED STATES CODE AND OTHER FEDERAL STATUTES ADMINISTERED BY THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION.

Councilmember Waldrop moved, Councilmember Bloom seconded to adopt Resolution No. R-40-08 by title only.

Motion

2008 Goals

12. Mayor Pro Tempore Heath announced that the 2008 City Council goals were ready for adoption. City Supervisor Sherman presented the staff report and thanked everyone in the community for their input on the goal process.

Councilmember Waldrop moved, Councilmember Benjamin seconded to adopt the 2008 City Council goals. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussions

Pullman Arts Commission

13. Mayor Pro Tempore Heath announced that a discussion is scheduled on the Pullman Arts Commission. Anna-Maria Shannon, Chair of the Pullman Arts Commission, presented a report which included a request to expand the Pullman Arts Commission from seven to eleven members and descriptions of the commission's accomplishments, goals, and current and future projects planned by the Pullman Arts Commission. Councilmember Waldrop thanked Ms. Shannon for all of her efforts, expressed his support for the proposal to paint the area surrounding Reaney Pool, and suggested that the possibility of painting murals on the steel buildings on North Grand Avenue be explored. Ms. Shannon responded. Councilmember Benjamin suggested that murals be considered on the backs of the building along the Pullman Riverwalk. Ms. Shannon responded.

Mayor Pro Tempore Heath thanked Ms. Shannon for her efforts and noted that the caliber of the commission is very high and asked for City Council concurrence for staff to bring back legislation that would increase the size of the Pullman Arts Commission. City Council concurred. Ms. Shannon made closing comments.

Draft Parks and Recreation Five-Year Plan

14. Parks Superintendent Davis presented the staff report. Councilmember Bloom noted that the plan did not adequately address funding issues for various projects, that he was unsure about disrupting Lawson Gardens by building a structure within the gardens, and that he supports the overall plan. Parks Superintendent Davis responded. Councilmember Paul thanked Parks Superintendent Davis and the rest of the Parks and Recreation staff for their work on the plan and that he especially appreciated the history and vision that is included within the plan. Councilmember Waldrop noted the outdoor spray pool project within the plan and suggested this

would be a great project for private donations. Councilmember Benjamin asked what the long-term plans were for Woodcraft Park. Parks Superintendent Davis responded. Councilmember Bloom asked if the Parks Department has had the opportunity to explore organic impacts relating to fertilizers and pesticides. Parks Superintendent Davis responded.

High Street Tree

15. Parks Superintendent Davis presented the staff report. Councilmember Waldrop noted that the pavement surrounding the tree is not conducive for tree growth. Parks Superintendent Davis responded. Councilmember Benjamin stated he liked the idea of moving the holiday tree lighting to a more visible spot. Councilmember Bloom stated it is a shame to lose the greenery in the downtown area. Parks Superintendent Davis responded.

Mayor Pro Tempore Heath urged the community to imagine the space and help develop a redesign of the area.

2008 First Quarter Financial Summary

16. Mayor Pro Tempore Heath announced that a discussion is scheduled on the 2008 First Quarterly Financial Summary. Finance Director Woo presented the staff report. Councilmember Benjamin asked for comments relating to the revenues generated from the high energy costs through this winter and how that offset the high cost of snow and ice removal within the street department. Finance Director Woo responded. Councilmember Bloom asked for comments relating to the building permit issuance activity so far through the first quarter of 2008. Finance Director Woo and Public Works Director Workman responded. Councilmember Wright asked what types of instruments were utilized by the City of Pullman for the investment of excess funds. Finance Director Woo responded. Mayor Pro Tempore Heath asked what sort of impact the new WSU CUB restaurants would have on sales tax. Finance Director Woo, Councilmember Wright, and Councilmember Bloom responded.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Paul stated his concern relating to the railroad cars that are being stored on the tracks on North Grand and how that impacted the Grand Avenue building demolition. Councilmember Paul asked how long this railroad car storage would occur and suggested that the City Council conduct a discussion in the future to see if there is anything the City can do to alleviate the issue. City Council concurred. City Supervisor Sherman described recent discussions with the railroad regarding the issue and noted the rents the railroad receives from the storage of those railroad cars. Councilmember Paul suggested the City needs to send a strong message in opposition to the storage. Councilmember Benjamin asked if any taxes were earned on the rent received from the storage of those railroad cars and if there were any opportunities to pass legislation to enact taxes on those rentals. City Supervisor Sherman responded.

Professor Rahmani described his desire to help improve the building and planning environment within the City of Pullman which may include the initiation of design review boards and he would like to help strengthen the relationship between

WSU and the City in regards to building and planning. Professor Rahmani stated he hoped that he would be given a chance to have this discussion with the City Council at a future public meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Waldrop moved, Councilmember Bloom seconded to adjourn the regular meeting of the City Council.

Motion Carried.

Mayor Pro Tempore Heath adjourned the regular meeting of the City Council at 8:57 p.m.