

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF PULLMAN
SEPTEMBER 27, 2011

Roll Call

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Pullman was held on September 27, 2011, 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
Jeff Hawbaker	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. Councilmember Weller moved, Councilmember Benjamin seconded to excuse Councilmember Bloom from this meeting.

Motion Carried.

ASWSU Roll Call

Senator Derrick Skaug called the roll for ASWSU. There were four missing senators.

ASWSU Discussion Items

Public Safety Issue

1. Pullman Police Chief Gary Jenkins went through his memo, highlighting several areas that were of concern to the joint group. First off was the Department of Justice security camera grants. He stated that the grant proposed to address violent crimes and neighborhood disorders through the use of video cameras placed at public locations which experienced a high frequency of those types of incidents. Part of the grant requirement is to enlist a local research partner from the accredited criminal justice education community. The Washington State Institute for Criminal Justice at Washington State University in partnership with the Department of Criminal Justice of Criminology is a sub-grantee and will work in the area of program implementation, crime analysis statistics, and performance measures. He said that research will be conducted to determine where the cameras should be located. A location with a high potential for camera placement is the Adams Mall area of College Hill. He said that the Pullman Police Department plans to hold public meetings to seek input on policies and procedures in an effort to address privacy concerns.

The next item was the College Hill officers. Police Chief Jenkins said that this year the two College Hill officers are Heidi Lambley and Chris Engle and they have been assigned to College Hill full time since the week prior to the WSU school year. Our overall message this year is that we view our efforts on College Hill as three prong: prevention, education, and enforcement.

Next Police Chief Jenkins said that this year they have already experienced two alcohol-related incidents on College Hill involving a WSU student

and a college-age visitor. Both received serious injuries from falls. Both victims were intoxicated and alone. He said that nationwide reports show that hospitalization rates for alcohol overdoses involving young adults, ages 18 to 24, increased 25 percent from 1999 to 2008. Drug overdoses increased 55 percent and combined alcohol and drug overdoses increased 76 percent. He did not have any local data available, however he did know that the blood alcohol content of student-aged alcohol overdose patients locally has been steadily rising over the past few years.

Police Chief Jenkins went through some of the statistics they compiled for the past three years. Then he introduced Nikki Finnestead, the coordinator of Sexual Assault Services for Alternatives to Violence of the Palouse (ATVP), who went through some of the support that they give to the community. Senator Skaug wanted to know what ASWSU could do to help and she responded basically get the word out about the services and the resources that ATVP provides.

Councilmember Weller wanted to know if there were any primary spots on campus where these assaults are more likely to occur. Ms. Finnestead said that most of them occur in dorm rooms and apartments.

Councilmember Benjamin wanted to know if there were any common factors. She indicated the most common factor was alcohol.

Mayor Johnson asked about the "Date Rape" drug. She indicated that wasn't that much of a problem in the area.

Senator Skaug wanted to know how the cameras would be used. Police Chief Jenkins said to address violent crime, identification, and monitoring any large groups that could become unruly. He said they were not going to isolate single individuals.

Transportation
Issues

2. Public Works Director Workman discussed some of the projects that have been completed within the past year. He talked about the North Grand widening, accelerated street resurfacing, the "B" Street Sidewalk Reconstruction, and sidewalk tripping hazards. He said that this year is the second year they have addressed sidewalks on Pioneer Hill.

Councilmember Weller asked about the sidewalks by the Playfields. Senator Ramirez asked about widening the road at Davis Way and Grand.

Transit Manager Thornton gave an update on bus routes and some of successes they have had in changing and modifying some of the routes. He talked about the Express Shuttle, which is new this year. It picks up at four stops: Terre View and Merman, Merman and Valley, middle of Valley, and Providence Court. It only drops off at Martin Stadium. The early results are very good and they are transferring over 400 riders a day with this service. Express buses average 6,000 rides a day.

Senator Skaug asked about the Express One route. Senator Skaug talked about the 100 green bikes that they now have on campus. He asked about increasing City bike lanes. Planning Director Dickinson said, that as part of the master plan,

they had developed a lot of paths and trails connecting across the City and around the City for bike paths. Some of the streets are very small and narrow so a lot of those streets would not be able to facilitate bike paths.

Public Works Director Workman talked about lighting on the campus areas and said that they have a group that goes out to monitor all the light locations, starting next week, to make sure that any that need to be replaced or repaired are taken care of. He stated that this is done on a monthly basis.

Senator Smith asked about the bus service to Moscow. Bridgette Brady of WSU responded that the route costs \$140,000 and they were looking at a 5 to 8 percent increase from Wheatland for 150 riders: 100 WSU students and 50 staff and faculty. It is a matter of economics why they had to cut it. She also talked about the three Zipcars they had on campus and stated that they really have no control over how many more they will put in. It is a matter of economics of the organization that owns the cars, but so far they have been very successful for the students using them.

City Supervisor Sherman talked about the mass transit connection between Pullman and Spokane. Questions were raised about a connection between Pullman and Seattle. He said that even though this is something that would be great to have, it would be far down the road before any sort of light rail or high-speed rail would be in place between those cities.

Solid Waste
Issues

3. Devon Felsted, president of Pullman Disposal, talked about several issues. He was questioned about the success of weekly collection recycling on College Hill. He said that with the collection process, they still have a way to go. People still bring containers out after the trucks have left the area. The Spokane Solid Waste facility will be operational in 2013, however he said that there were several companies from the west side of the state that were actually coming over to collect recyclables because the rates have gone up so high.

Councilmember Benjamin asked about landfill rates. He heard that they are nine times higher than Spokane. Mr. Felsted mentioned that Whitman County is \$99 per ton for normal trash and Spokane is slightly higher. Construction demo material runs at \$79 a ton where Spokane is \$9 a yard. He figured out that it was about 4 yards to a ton so Spokane at \$36 per ton is considerably cheaper.

Councilmember Waldrop asked about how the roll carts have affected the trash up on College Hill. Mr. Felsted mentioned that they are fine, but they are still putting garbage in other containers and as a result they are getting hit with some higher charges. They just haven't learned to live within the capacities.

Senator Taylor wanted to know why there are not many public cans up on the campus. Mr. Felsted mentioned there are approximately seven. Councilmember Benjamin thought that there are less than were there before.

Planning Issues 4. Planning Director Dickinson talked about the Pullman 2020 process which is basically determining the type of government that you would like for Pullman in the future. He talked about the problem with landlord-tenant concerns and the housing conditions. He said that the students are able to submit forms and have those disputes checked out by the City. Senator Skaug asked if these inspection forms were online. Planning Director Dickinson said that they weren't, but it is something that we should get on there.

ASWSU Issues 5. ASWSU President Riley Myklebust said that volunteer hours have increased for graffiti removal. On February 15 they are having a housing fair and on February 24 they are having a multi-cultural event. He said that even though they are from the University they are also part of the City and are part of the community.

Councilmember Paul stated that he liked the comment about community.

Councilmember Benjamin said that he respected them for their involvement in the community. Councilmember Weller commended him for all his valuable service to the City.

Senator Smith discussed events they have had at the Park and the SEL Center. Senator Cockburn said that they will be updating their Senator bylaws to correspond with the results of the changes from the last election. Senators now represent houses or residence halls and will be representing various colleges. Senator Ramirez said that with the changes to colleges the senators will still be working with the housing units to make sure they know they are part of the process.

Other Issues 6. City Supervisor Sherman talked about economics and higher education. He went through his memo. He referenced President Floyd's letter, that over the past four years WSU has realized a budget reduction of 52 percent or \$231,000,000 and they now have 500 fewer employees. He said an article in the *Spokesman-Review* on September 16 stated that with the economic recovery described as a mirage in the desert and a projected gap between income and spending at \$1,400,000,000, State officials began setting the stage Thursday for a special legislative session to find ways to cut more from the budget. The Mayor met with the Governor the day of the Council meeting and she said that the situation is four times more likely to be more negative in the November revenue forecast than what it is now. City Supervisor Sherman also noted that of the \$36,000,000,000 budget, the Governor really only controls 8.78 percent of that and they will have to cut approximately 23 percent or \$2,000,000,000 from that amount.

Acting Fire Chief Heston gave a brief report on the calls to campus this year compared to last year. 70 percent of the total calls are student-related and a large percentage of the increase is a result of an increase in the recent freshman class. Total calls increased 23 percent from the same time last year. The WSU campus calls increased 30 percent however there is a 41 percent increase in EMS calls. In the northeast area, calls increased by 8 percent, so the total for WSU and EMS is a 15 percent increase. He also talked about the synthetic

drugs and the adverse reactions that they have on the students.

There was also a brief discussion on the benefits of getting students to register to vote in Pullman. Councilmember Weller noted that to have a local voice, you need to register here.

At 9:06 p.m. the ASWSU joint meeting concluded. The Mayor put a five-minute delay until the start of the regular session which started at 9:13 p.m.

Announcements

There were five announcements.

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 Weller seconded to read the items on the Consent Agenda by title only.

Motion Carried.

City Attorney Werst 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 the Council. Councilmember Paul moved, Councilmember Benjamin seconded to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented.

Motion Carried.

Motions

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| Minutes - Sep-
tember 20, 2011 | 7. | The Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of September 20, 2011, and approved them as submitted. |
| Palouse Basin
Water Summit Payment | 8. | The Council authorized the payment of \$500 as the City's financial contribution to the 7 th Annual Palouse Basin Water Summit. |

REGULAR AGENDA

Motion

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| Interlocal Agree-
ment with City of
Spokane | 9. | Mayor Johnson announced that an interlocal agreement has been prepared with the City of Spokane for legal services for the Civil Service Commission. City Attorney Brian Werst went through the reason we needed to approve an interlocal agreement to provide legal services to the Civil Service Commission. It is primarily because of the conflict of interest with our City Attorney not being able to give legal advice to the Civil Service Commission and then also provide legal advise to the City when the two conflict. In order to eliminate any conflict, they put the interlocal together. Councilmember Weller brought up a couple of items that needed clarity. It appears that the contract auto renews itself and there is just one individual listed who is going |
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to provide services and he wanted an option of other individuals, if she was not able to do so. Councilmember Benjamin was concerned because there was no cap on payment. City Attorney Werst said that caps might hinder action.

It was decided that the interlocal needed some additional work and clarification and that it would be taken care and brought up to the October 11 meeting.

Discussions

2011 Goal Status 10. Mayor Johnson announced that a discussion is scheduled on the 2011 goals. City Supervisor Sherman said that he had updated where we're at for several of the goals that the City Council adopted and asked if there was any discussion needed on any of the items. There was none.

Transportation Commission Meeting Report 11. Mayor Johnson announced that a discussion is scheduled on the Transportation Commission meeting report which Councilmember Paul had attended on September 20 and requested the opportunity to report on the meeting.

Councilmember Paul stated that the Palouse Region consists of the four Counties in the southeastern corner of Washington State including Asotin, Columbia, Garfield, and Whitman. He said that all the public works directors were also at the meeting. They had three primary issues: the lack of funding, roads are falling into disrepair and becoming unsafe, and a multimodal transportation system (barge, rail, and road) must be maintained for the economic well being of the region.

Councilmember Waldrop was concerned that air was not mentioned as part of that. He said barge and railroad are obviously necessary, but they are old issues dating over 100 years ago and we need to also be concerned with the effects of air in the transportation mix.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Johnson asked if there was any new business from either the Council or audience. Councilmember Benjamin wanted us to look at the stormwater regulations to see if we could make changes to the required number of parking spaces, or if the business could use parking lots of other businesses that had availability such as churches that only are used normally just on weekends. He wanted some type of review and a report brought to Council.

Planning Director Dickinson said they are in the code and it does allow for sharing of spaces so they will look at if something can be done in relation to the code.

Executive Session

At 9:39 p.m. the meeting was adjourned to an Executive Session for the purpose of:

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

The City Council will reconvene in open session in approximately 20 minutes. There were three extensions totaling 20 minutes. The Executive Session ended at 10:22 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Wright moved, Councilmember Weller seconded to adjourn the regular meeting of the City Council.

Motion Carried.

Mayor Johnson adjourned the regular meeting of the City Council at 10:22 p.m.