MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF PULLMAN
MARCH 1, 2011

Roll Call

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Pullman was held on March 1, 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
Keith Bloom	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.

Announcements

Mayor Johnson made three announcements and he introduced Michelle Headon and Britney Damo who are the commodore and vice commodore respectively of the WSU Rowing Team. They requested permission to utilize the South Fork of the Palouse Creek for a floating duck fundraiser that will occur on April 23. The Council, by consensus, gave them permission to use the creek and requested they coordinate with Parks and Rec.

Employee Recognition

Mayor Johnson indicated that due to weather the turnout was low for individuals receiving their awards tonight, but he would get to the individual departments to present them at a later date.

Mayor Johnson presented five awards. To Chris Arvis, ERD, for twenty-five years; Mike Heston, Fire Department, for fifteen years; Scott Kirk, Police, for ten years; Bill Owens, Engineering, for twenty-five years; and Mark Workman, Public Works, for twenty-five years.

Confirmation of Appointment

Mayor Johnson announced that he had appointed David Hoyt to a term on the Arts Commission expiring December 31, 2013. Councilmember Wright indicated that Mr. Hoyt was a painter in his own right and had done the mural for the 2010 Lentil Festival which was selling very well. Ms. Wright indicated she was very grateful to have him on the Arts Commission.

Councilmember Wright moved, Councilmember Bloom seconded to confirm this appointment. The motion carried unanimously.

Report

2010 Census

Mayor Johnson announced that a report is scheduled on the 2010 census data for Pullman. Planning Director Dickinson indicated that the population came in higher than what they had projected. It was 29,799, which was a 20.8 percent increase over the 2000 census. He also indicated that housing was up 27 percent over the same time period.

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 Bloom moved, Councilmember Wright seconded to read the items on the Consent Agenda by title only.

Motion Carried.

City Supervisor Sherman 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. Councilmember Waldrop requested item No. 6 be removed for discussion and Councilmember Benjamin requested item No. 1 be pulled. Councilmember Wright moved, Councilmember Benjamin Wright seconded to adopt items 2 to 5 and 7 to 11 on the Consent Agenda.

Motion Carried.

Motions

Accounts Payable, Payroll, and Electronic Transfers - March, 2011

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 - Erker

3. The Council referred a Claim for Damages submitted by Trenton Robert Erker for an undetermined amount to the Washington Cities Insurance Authority (WCIA).

Lodging Tax Grant

4. The Council approved a Lodging Tax Grant to Palouse Area Club Volleyball in the amount of $1,500 for the PAC-V Volleyball Tournament for Girls.

Lodging Tax Grant

5. The Council approved a Lodging Tax Grant to Palouse Empire Gymnastics in the amount of $5,000 for the USA Gymnastics Region 2 Championships.

Resolutions

Resolution No. R-10-11 - Bleasner Drive Waterline

7. Resolution No. R-10-11

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF MOTLEY-MOTLEY, INC. FOR THE BLEASNER DRIVE WATERLINE PROJECT AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF THE CONTRACT FOR SAID PROJECT.

Resolution No. R-10-11 was adopted unanimously.

Resolution No. R-11-11 - B Street Sidewalk

8. Resolution No. R-11-11

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF ACE ELLIOTT LAND FOR THE B STREET SIDEWALK - ALPHA TO MICHIGAN PROJECT AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF THE CONTRACT FOR SAID PROJECT.

Resolution No. R-11-11 was adopted unanimously.

Resolution No. R-12-11 - Sidewalks 2011

9. Resolution No. R-12-11

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF MOTLEY-MOTLEY, INC. FOR THE SIDEWALKS 2011 PROJECT AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF THE CONTRACT FOR SAID PROJECT.

Resolution No. R-12-11 was adopted unanimously.

Resolution No. R-13-11 - Motorola Solutions

10. Resolution No. R-13-11

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A MUNICIPAL EQUIPMENT LEASE-PURCHASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF PULLMAN AND MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS, INC. FOR THE PURPOSE OF SECURING RADIO EQUIPMENT FOR PULLMAN POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS.

Resolution No. R-13-11 was adopted unanimously.

Resolution No. R-14-11 - Pioneer Center/Fire Station No. 2 EECBG Project

11. Resolution No. R-14-11

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF BROWN CONTRACTING AND DEVELOPMENT, INC. FOR THE PIONEER CENTER/FIRE STATION NO. 2 EECBG PROJECT AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF THE CONTRACT FOR SAID PROJECT.

Resolution No. R-14-11 was adopted unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

Motion

Minutes - February 8, 2011

1. Mayor Johnson announced that this item had been removed from the Consent Agenda at the request of Councilmember Benjamin. Councilmember Benjamin just wanted to point out that in the motions under the Consent Agenda it listed the meeting of February 8 as a special meeting and it was a regular meeting. He did say that the minutes themselves did indicate regular.

Councilmember Bloom moved, Councilmember Paul to adopt the minutes of the regular meeting of February 8, 2011. The motion carried unanimously.

Paymentus Agreement

6. Mayor Johnson announced that this item had been removed from the Consent Agenda at the request of Councilmember Waldrop. Councilmember Waldrop just wanted to point out that we had been going on for a long time trying to get a system to give our customers the ability to pay online with a credit card and he is happy to see this. He thanked Finance Director Mulholland and asked him to talk some about it.

Finance Director Mulholland went through some of the items that were included in his memo on the procedure we had done and individuals we had talked to in trying to get this payment plan set up. In talking with other cities they indicated that Paymentus “walks their talk” so implementation should not be a problem. We should be up and running anywhere from four to six weeks. Councilmember Waldrop moved, Councilmember Weller seconded to approve a City no cost Master Services Agreement with Paymentus to provide telephone and internet ability for our customers to pay Utility and Ambulance billings. The motion carried

unanimously.

Councilmember Weller indicated that he was happy to see that we were finally going to be able to get this on our website. This is something that he has been interested in for government for a long time.

Public Hearing

Ordinance No. 11-5 - Mader Annexation

12. Mayor Johnson announced that a public hearing is scheduled on an ordinance annexing property to the City. Planning Director Dickinson presented the staff report and went through the steps that we have gone through in the process to get to this particular point. The action requested was to accept public comment, adopt findings of fact and conclusions, and move to approve or disapprove by ordinance the proposed annexation.

Mayor Johnson opened the public hearing. No one requested to speak. Mayor Johnson closed the public hearing.

Councilmember Weller moved, Councilmember Paul seconded to adopt the Findings of Fact and Conclusions. The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 11-5 by title only reads as follows:

AN ORDINANCE ANNEXING TO THE CITY OF PULLMAN CERTAIN CONTIGUOUS REAL PROPERTY LOCATED ADJACENT TO THE NORTHWEST BOUNDARY OF THE CITY, BOUNDED ON THE EAST BY STATE ROUTE 27 AND ON THE WEST BY BRAYTON ROAD.

Councilmember Waldrop moved, Councilmember Benjamin seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 11-5. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussions

Electrical Inspections

13. Mayor Johnson announced that a discussion is scheduled on electrical inspections. Public Works Director Workman presented the staff report on the history of electrical inspections in the area. He indicated that L&I had been performing these since the mid-to-late 1970s. He indicated that for a long period of time this created no problems, but for the last several years there have been several complaints primarily with the timeliness of inspections. There has been more of the attitude of “they will get to it when they get to it” and it will sometimes take from two days to fourteen days to get an electrical inspection accomplished. The primary concern is that the emphasis now was issuing citations rather than perform inspections. His recommendation was to move to have electrical inspections moved to the City. The process will take some time and at the current economic levels it probably could not be accomplished. His initial analysis was we could possibly loose anywhere from $10,000 to $40,000 a year on the City doing electrical inspections.

Councilmember Bloom thought that we could partner with WSU and his feelings on L&I were the same in that they had been good, but recently they now have a different attitude.

Councilmember Paul liked Councilmember Bloom’s approach. Councilmember Waldrop agreed with

moving the permitting to the City. He also indicated that maybe some of those analysis dollars could be reduced if we were also to perform the same services throughout the County, but they would definitely like us to move forward and to continue to try to get this to happen since it was one of the Council goals.

Councilmember Wright wanted to know why L&I took it over to begin with. Public Works Director Workman had no clear idea.

George Kunkle, a general contractor who also owns an electrical company, said that historically things were good with L&I, but over the last few years the timeliness in inspections has just gone down. They have taken weeks to get out to do the inspections which then ties up the other contractors. He has one tied up for GFI fault protector and he has been waiting for an inspection for a week. They need the inspection before they can put up the dry wall. Mr. Kunkle was in favor of putting it back under local control and having the City do the electrical inspections.

Greg Nolan said primarily it is a time and coordination issue. He said it is a timing issue of getting the inspectors there to inspect and once again running ten to fourteen days behind. Mayor Johnson asked how things are in Idaho. Mr. Kunkle said it was a lot easier. Mr. Nolan is in support of the City becoming the electrical inspector.

Greg Harrison said the primary problem with L&I is that they are not part of the local community. As he put it, “they are trying to bring a Tumwater philosophy to a Hooper, Washington mentality” and it is just not working. Once again, there is no tie into the local community and they spend time waiting for them to come for inspections.

John Clancy, Pullman Heating and Electric, echoed the same problems with waiting ten to fourteen days to get inspected. He also indicated that L&I seemed to be more into harassment and trying to issue citations than doing inspections. He also was in favor of going local with the inspections.

Council generally thought that Public Works Director Workman should continue to pursue whatever it takes to get this moving. This problem has been noted to the legislators a year ago and apparently nothing has been corrected. They wanted Public Works Director Workman to move on with this.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Johnson asked if there was any new business from either the Council or audience. There was none.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Johnson announced that the Council would adjourn for five minutes and reconvene in Executive Session which would last about 30 minutes.

Mayor Johnson announced that the Council would adjourn to 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 and to review the performance of a public employee and to consider the selection of a site or the acquisition

of real estate by lease or purchase.

Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at 8:22 p.m. There were two 15 minutes extensions. The meeting ended at 9:26 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion Carried.

Mayor Johnson adjourned the regular meeting of the City Council at 9:26 p.m.