MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF PULLMAN
FEBRUARY 8, 2011

Roll Call

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Pullman was held on February 8, 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
Pat Wright	Councilmember

Call to Order

Mayor Johnson called the regular meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Mayor Johnson announced that Councilmember Weller was attending a City 09 meeting at Colfax and he might be late, but he asked for a motion to excuse him. Councilmember Bloom moved, Councilmember Benjamin seconded to excuse Councilmember Weller from the meeting.

Motion Carried.

Councilmember Weller arrived at 7:50 p.m.

Announcements

Mayor Johnson made one announcement.

Election of Mayor Pro Tempore and Alternate Mayor Pro Tempore

Councilmember Wright nominated Councilmember Weller as Mayor Pro Tempore. Councilmember Waldrop seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Waldrop nominated Councilmember Hawbaker as Alternate Mayor Pro Tempore. Councilmember Benjamin seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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 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. There were none. Councilmember Paul moved, Councilmember Wright seconded to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented.

Motion Carried.

Motions

Minutes - January 25, 2011	1.	The Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of January 25, 2011, and approved them as submitted.
Accounts Payable, Payroll, and Electronic Transfers - February, 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.
Mader Annexation Public Hearing Date	3.	The Council set March 1, 2011, as the date for a public hearing to consider a petition for annexation of property submitted by Steve Mader and Travis Willson.
Claim for Damages - Crate	4.	The Council referred a Claim for Damages submitted by Rhonda Sue Crate for the sum of $119.66 to the Washington Cities Insurance Authority (WCIA).
Pre-hospital Participation Grant	5.	The Council accepted a 2011 Pre-hospital Participation grant in the amount of $1,800 from the State of Washington Department of Health to help augment the cost of medical equipment.
FEMA Grant for Fire Dept.	6.	The Council accepted a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in the amount of $152,000 for an air compressor, filling station, and exhaust system for each fire station.
Transit Break Facility	7.	The Council ratified Change Order No. 1 on Contract No. 10-08, Transit Break Facility.

Resolutions

Resolution No. R-6-11 - Fire Agreement with Palouse	8.	Resolution No. R-6-11 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF PULLMAN AND THE CITY OF PALOUSE AND RURAL FIRE DISTRICT #4 FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES. Resolution No. R-6-11 was adopted unanimously.
Resolution No. R-7-11 - Missouri Flat Creek Pedestrian Bridge	9.	Resolution No. R-7-11 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF R.T.I. FABRICATION FOR THE MISSOURI FLAT CREEK PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF THE CONTRACT FOR SAID PROJECT. Resolution No. R-7-11 was adopted unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

Presentation

Arts Commission	10.	Mayor Johnson announced that a presentation is scheduled from the Arts Commission to seek approval for a mural to be painted in the Pine Street Plaza. Pat Siler, the painter, showed the painting to the Council and audience. Mayor Johnson asked Anna-Maria Shannon, Chair of the Arts Commission, if she was going to seek a Lodging Tax grant.

Anna-Maria Shannon stated that she did not think so. She was lining up a National Endowment of the Arts (NEA) grant and figured that they had a good chance of getting funding from them. She is also looking at grants from businesses.

Councilmember Waldrop asked if the Arts Commission approved the drawing. Anna-Maria Shannon stated that the Arts Commission had approved the drawing and this is the type of art they are looking for. It is perfect in that the mural shows the type of activities that they have in the plaza.

Councilmember Paul thanked Anna-Maria Shannon and the Arts Commission for their efforts and Pat Siler for his time and talents that are donated. Councilmember Waldrop moved, Councilmember Benjamin to accept the mural. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing

Resolution No. R-8-11 - Shopper Shuttle

11. Mayor Johnson announced that a public hearing is scheduled on termination of the Shopper Shuttle. Transit Manager Rod Thornton presented the staff report. He went through the history of the Shopper Shuttle to include the statistics they have compiled since they started in June 2010 through January 2011. During that time the average rides per day was 13.4. The shuttle operated Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. He believed that since the ridership was so small, it should be terminated as it is costing us approximately $151 per week plus benefits and fuel to operate the service. Fixed-route riders cost us $1.88 per ride and the shopper shuttle costs $6.00. Transit Manager Thornton indicated that the hours that had been planned for the Shopper Shuttle would go to Dial-A-Ride which had seen its activity and numbers moving up.

Mayor Johnson opened the public hearing.

Tom Sterling requested as to how funds would be transferred. Transit Manager Thornton indicated there would be no funds transferred, just the hours would be reallocated to Dial-A-Ride.

There was no further discussion and Mayor Johnson closed the public hearing.

Resolution No. R-8-11 by title only reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TERMINATION OF THE PULLMAN TRANSIT SHOPPER SHUTTLE SERVICE AND REALLOCATION OF ITS OPERATING HOURS TO THE DIAL-A-RIDE SERVICE.

Councilmember Benjamin, Councilmember Bloom seconded to adopt Resolution No. R-8-11. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion, Resolution, and Ordinance

Adopt Findings Of Fact and Conclusions, Resolution No. R-9-11, and Ordinance No. 11-4 -

12. Mayor Johnson announced that a resolution and ordinance have been prepared relating to amending the official comprehensive plan map and zone classification for approximately 16,696 square feet located at 730 and 732 NW Ritchie. Planning Director Dickinson presented the staff report and

Ritchie Street

went through some of the background of what was being requested. He made a point that the Planning Commission and Planning staff recommended the proposal be approved.

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

Resolution No. R-9-11 by title only reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE OFFICIAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN MAP OF THE CITY OF PULLMAN FROM COMMERCIAL TO LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL FOR THE REAL ESTATE HEREIN DESCRIBED CONSISTING OF APPROXIMATELY 16,696 SQUARE FEET LOCATED AT 730 AND 732 NW RITCHIE STREET ON MILITARY HILL.

Councilmember Waldrop moved, Councilmember Bloom seconded to adopt Resolution No. R-9-11. The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 11-4 by title only reads as follows:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONE CLASSIFICATION FROM C3 TO R2 FOR THE REAL ESTATE HEREIN DESCRIBED CONSISTING OF APPROXIMATELY 16,696 SQUARE FEET LOCATED AT 730 AND 732 NW RITCHIE STREET ON MILITARY HILL.

Councilmember Bloom moved, Councilmember Wright seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 11-4. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussions

Current Economic Conditions

13. Mayor Johnson announced that a discussion is scheduled on current economic conditions. City Supervisor Sherman presented the staff report. He started with the national economic conditions. He indicated that the economists, according to USA Today, are a little more optimistic about the recovery than they were a few months ago. When asked to predict, nine out of ten economists say they are more optimistic than three months ago, according to a USA survey of 46 economists conducted January 13 to 19. He also cited an article in *The Spokesman-Review* that we had the best month US factories had in nearly seven years, brightening the outlook for job growth. Companies are exporting more construction and mining equipment. Americans are buying more cars, appliances, and computers. Although the rosy economic projection is extremely welcome news, the Washington State Economic Revenue forecast has adopted a more wait-and-see attitude. They are quoted as saying “we continue to assess progress one month at a time”. There has been a slow trickle of positive economic news since our last update even if the after effects of the great recession continue to weigh down a recovery. Job growth remains weak, construction is in shambles, and the financial markets remain nervous. As for the State of Washington, since the November forecast, the State’s economy has added 1,000 private sector jobs per month. This is about the same rate we have seen since last June. The process is too slow to reduce the State’s unemployment rate which remained at 9.2 percent in December. On a more positive note, they have seen a decline in the number of initial claims for unemployment

insurance in Washington. So the economy in Washington is still bad. How bad is Washington's budget situation compared to other states? According to an article in the *Evergreen Freedom Foundation* for fiscal year 2011, Washington is the third largest deficit as a percentage of its budget in the nation. Only Illinois and Arizona are in worse shape.

As for the City of Pullman, an article in the *Moscow-Pullman Daily News*, WSU's Chief Budget Officer John King said the State appropriation at WSU have been lowered by $133,000,000 since June of 2009. Obviously budget cuts of this magnitude have a major negative impact on WSU and the community. WSU set an enrollment record this semester. They had 18,805 students at the Pullman campus, which was a .7 percent or 130 students over spring of 2010. Testimony for the committee said that Washington is third from the bottom in State cost per degree. Washington spends about $33,000 per degree or certificate earned. The national average is more than $46,000. Aside from the budget cuts, SEL is constructing a $10 million, 90,000 square-foot, three-story building in Pullman to house 200 new employees. With the opening of the Super Walmart in October, we are now seeing a surge in our sales tax received from the general merchandise category. The building sector construction continues to still be in a malaise compared to past years. Last year we issued 37 single-family permits. This was the lowest number of single-family permits issued since 1993. The total building permit evaluation for 2010 was $17,482,408 which is the lowest building permit evaluation since 1999. Through the end of January we are behind last year's permit totals. We have issued $529,208 permit evaluation compared to $859,469 last year.

Financial Update

14. Mayor Johnson announced that a financial update is scheduled. Finance Director Mulholland pointed out a few highlights in his memo. Revenues came in at $14,312,826 which is $262,541 below last year's actual or 1.8 percent and $369,388 below the amended budget which is 2.5 percent. Expenditures came in at $15,363,716 which was $317,394 above last year's actual or 2.1 percent. He then addressed Attachment "A" of the preliminary revenue, expenditures, cash position for 2010. He indicated the numbers on the side were the beginning cash estimates that were made for the preliminary 2010 and mid-year projections. The amended 2010 budget used the actual beginning cash. He indicated from the 2011 budget estimate for 2010 when it was made we came in approximately $105,000 more in revenue and about $57,000 less in expenditures. The net result of all this is that when the budget was put together we anticipated an ending cash of $1,885,807. The ending cash or the beginning cash for 2011 looks to be $2,083,702. The $1,885,807 would have resulted in an ending 2011 cash of 6.88 percent after CIP set asides. The $2,083,702 balance would result in 8.14 percent. In order to obtain a 13 percent balance at the end of 2011 we would need either to have increased revenues or a decrease expenses by a combined total of about $777,000 to accomplish that. He also went through a few specific highlights and the actual ending figures for property and sales taxes. The overall collections, as well as highlighting departments

with the best savings on the budget totals as compared to actual, as well as the ones that had the worst. He also reminded these were initial projections and we are still not closed at this time, although we anticipate being closed by the end of the month which would put us about two months ahead of where we were last year at this time. He also indicated they still have to have a review of these numbers by the State Auditors.

2011 Legislative Priorities

15. Mayor Johnson announced that a discussion is scheduled on the 2011 Legislative priorities. City Supervisor Sherman asked Councilmember Weller, who had sent an e-mail, to go through a couple of suggestions he had. Councilmember Weller said that we need to emphasize e-government advantages, but he did say there are some drawbacks. City Supervisor Sherman also asked about the volunteer portion. Councilmember Weller did say that the State should recognize volunteers and volunteer organizations that contribute to the State.

Councilmember Waldrop recommended moving Priority No. 7 up to No. 1, then revising No. 10. The A Section would reduce soaring energy costs by amending the 2006 Renewal Energy Initiative to include Washington's abundant hydro power as a renewable source.

The B Section would be to oppose the Washington Ethanol 15 mandate.

Mayor Johnson thought that the order should remain the same. No. 1 strongly supports funding the Public Works Trust Fund because without it, then the Stormwater Treatment would be extremely difficult to comply with the issues.

Council also recommended that the list be trimmed down so they could get it on one side of the page with some of the detail pulled out for this particular point in time.

2011 Goal-Setting Process

16. Mayor Johnson announced that a discussion is scheduled on the 2011 Goal-Setting process. City Supervisor Sherman had distributed the goal-setting books for this year and indicated the time and place of the goal-setting meeting which is March 12 at 9 a.m. at the Fireside Grille.

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.

Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m. At 9:10 p.m. the Executive Session was extended for 20 minutes. Mayor Johnson reconvened the regular meeting at 9:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion Carried.

Mayor Johnson adjourned the regular meeting of the City Council at 9:30 p.m.