MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF PULLMAN
MAY 17, 2011

Roll Call

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Pullman was held on May 17, 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
Nathan Weller	Councilmember
Pat Wright	Councilmember

Call to Order

Mayor Johnson called the regular meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Mayor Johnson indicated that Councilmember Waldrop asked to be excused from the meeting. Councilmember Bloom moved, Councilmember Weller seconded to excuse Councilmember Waldrop.

Motion Carried.

Announcements

Mayor Johnson made seven 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 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 from the Council. There were none. Councilmember Bloom moved, Councilmember Benjamin seconded to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented.

Motion Carried.

Motions

Minutes - May 3, 2011

1. The Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of May 3, 2011, and approved them as submitted.

Claim for Damages - Radant

2. The Council referred a Claim for Damages submitted by Nicholas Radant for the sum of $355.91 to the Washington Cities Insurance Authority (WCIA).

Claim for Damages - Salamjohn

3. The Council referred a Claim for Damages submitted by Rouhullah Salamjohn for the sum of $590 to the

Washington Cities Insurance Authority (WCIA).

Airport Grant 4. The Council approved in advance the acceptance of a tentative offer of a 2011 FAA grant, not to exceed $4,264,466, through the Airport Improvement Program (AIP).

Lodging Tax Grant - P-Town Showdown 5. The Council approved a Lodging Tax Grant in the amount of $2,500 for the P-Town Showdown Soccer Tournament.

Lodging Tax Grant - Palouse Summer Series 6. The Council approved a Lodging Tax Grant in the amount of $15,000 for the Palouse Summer Series.

Resolutions

Resolution No. R-31-11 - Stadium Way Fecal Coliform 7. Resolution No. R-31-11

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A CONSENT TO ASSIGNMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF PULLMAN; SIMON SMITH, DBA WORLDTHREE; AND WORLDTHREE, LLC; FOR THE STADIUM WAY FECAL COLIFORM SOURCE IDENTIFICATION PROJECT.

Resolution No. R-31-11 was adopted unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

Motion, Resolution, and Ordinance

Adopt Findings of Fact, Resolution No. R-32-11, and Ordinance No. 11-9 - Military Hill Property 8. Mayor Johnson announced that a motion, resolution and ordinance have been prepared relating to 9.2 acres of property located between NW Guy Street and NW Clifford Street on Military Hill. Mayor Johnson read the following questions:

1. Does any member of this Council have knowledge of having conducted business with either the proponents or the opponents of this zone change?

   All Councilmembers and the Mayor responded no.

2. Does any member of this Council have either a financial or personal interest in the outcome of this proceeding?

   All Councilmembers and the Mayor responded no.

3. Does any member of this Council know whether or not their employer has a financial interest in the area for which this zone change is requested, or has an interest in the outcome of this proceeding?

   All Councilmembers and the Mayor responded no.

4. Does any member of this Council live or own property within 300 feet of the area for which the zone change is requested?

   All Councilmembers and the Mayor responded no.

5. Does any member of this Council have any special knowledge about the substance or the

merits of this proceeding which would or could cause the Councilmember to prejudge the outcome of this proceeding?

All Councilmembers and the Mayor responded no.

6. Is there a member of this Council who believes that he or she cannot sit and hear this matter fairly and impartially, both as to the respective positions of the proponents and the opponents of the requested zone change?

All Councilmembers and the Mayor responded no.

7. Is there any member of the audience who because of the "Appearance of Fairness Doctrine" wishes to disqualify any member of this Council from hearing this matter? If so, please state the name of the Councilmember and the reason or reasons why you believe that Councilmember should be disqualified because of the "Appearance of Fairness Doctrine".

No one responded to this question.

Planning Director Dickinson presented the staff report, going through his memo and the change request from a R1 to an I2 for an area that adjoined the Treatment Plant, ERD facility, and bus warehouse. He indicated that staff was in favor of the proposal.

Councilmember Weller thought there had been no input from the trailer park. Planning Director Dickinson indicated that the notices had been put out and they did not participate in the public hearings.

Councilmember Benjamin complained about dust. Planning Director Dickinson agreed there was dust, but it appeared to be coming from the road which was gravel rather than from anything that the City was doing.

Councilmember Paul commented that the area really was not suited for housing overlooking the Wastewater Treatment Plant and the noise from the buses and City operations.

Councilmember Weller wanted to know if other industrial users could go in that area. Planning Director Dickinson indicated that they could, but that was probably not going to happen since the City had it for future expansion of City facilities.

Councilmember Bloom moved, Councilmember Wright seconded to adopt the Findings of Fact and Conclusions.

Resolution No. R-32-11 by title only reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE OFFICIAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN MAP OF THE CITY OF PULLMAN FROM LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL TO INDUSTRIAL FOR THE REAL ESTATE HEREIN DESCRIBED CONSISTING OF APPROXIMATELY 9.2 ACRES LOCATED BETWEEN NW GUY STREET AND NW CLIFFORD STREET ON MILITARY HILL.

Councilmember Benjamin moved, Councilmember Bloom seconded to adopt Resolution No. R-32-11. The motion carried unanimously.

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

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONE CLASSIFICATION FROM R1 TO I2 FOR THE REAL ESTATE HEREIN DESCRIBED CONSISTING OF APPROXIMATELY 9.2 ACRES LOCATED BETWEEN NW GUY STREET AND NW CLIFFORD STREET ON MILITARY HILL.

Councilmember Wright moved, Councilmember Benjamin seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 11-9. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussions

Code Enforcement Update

9. Mayor Johnson announced that a code enforcement update is scheduled. City Supervisor Sherman presented the staff report and briefly went through his memo. He then turned it over to Parks Superintendent Alan Davis in place of Steve Murphy. Parks Superintendent Davis presented a couple of highlights of Steve Murphy's memo. He also mentioned that volunteer applications to help seniors with snow removal are being taken for 2011-2012 snow season.

Councilmember Paul asked about trash on move out by college students from their apartments. Parks Superintendent said that it is much improved from prior years.

Planning Director Dickinson talked about the Planning Department code enforcement. He indicated that they had 23 violations this past year as compared to 15 the previous year. He also praised better coordination with the City and being more proactive in citing violators.

Building Inspector Greg Colvig went through his memo. He indicated that for 2010 there were 16 requests for life and safety inspections; 13 had been resolved. For the current year two inspections had been received. Both of these requests were received in April. One had been resolved and they were still working on the other. Mayor Johnson asked of clarification on life safety issues. Mr. Colvig indicated that would be exposed wires, unsanitary plumbing, and items of that nature.

Councilmember Weller appreciated his efforts in this area.

Public Works Director Workman went through Rob Buchert's memo on stormwater related code enforcement. He indicated two new chapters had been added to the Pullman City Code. In 2010 stormwater staff responded to two significant illicit discharge incidents. One involving vandalism of a restaurant where a container of oil had been overturned and one involving a residential illicit connection. Staff also performed 155 documented construction erosion control inspections.

Councilmember Bloom indicated that the City ball fields could use pet waste disposal containers and wanted to see what could be done to get a few more of these containers along the trails. Parks

Superintendent Davis indicated that they are looking at disposable plastic bags from the grocery stores to place out for individuals to take care of that.

Police Chief Jenkins stated that he had already gone through this report a month before, but he had a couple of items to note. He stated that nuisance complaints were up mainly because of a more proactive approach to the nuisance ordinance. Councilmember Benjamin asked about registration of the residential rental units. He wanted to know how that compared with the census figures for the total rental units. Planning Director Dickinson indicated that information was not available at this time.

Mayor Johnson asked about taxi licenses and how long it would take to get a license. Police Chief indicated anywhere from three to five weeks depending on information provided and whether the detective had time to process it.

Fire Prevention Officer Dragoo went through his report. He stated that the numbers for 2010 were very similar to 2009 for business inspection. For fraternities and sororities inspected in 2010, the number of violations were double what they were in 2009.

City Supervisor Sherman wrapped up the discussion indicating that the Government Access Channel 13 provided timely and helpful hints for when items that needed to be taken care of for compliance with City Codes, i.e. snow removal. He also commended the staff for the job well done in reducing all the complaints and compliance with City Codes.

City Attorney McAloon said that the nuisance code was put into effect in 2004-2006, and revised in 2006 and 2007. She said during the 2006-2007 years, she usually handled one or two nuisance complaints a week and last year she had a total of about five. Great improvement has been made in this area.

Councilmember Paul just wanted to make people aware that when they are hauling waste they need to have it covered. Lawns and weeds can only be a certain height and they need to be mowed. He also indicated there is a lot of glass breakage around Colorado Street.

Councilmember Weller stated that at the parks, especially McGee Park, there is a lot of garbage overflowing the receptacles. Parks Superintendent Davis said that with the summer increased staffing they will have better control of keeping on top of the situation. A lot of that trash is individuals dumping their trash in Park receptacles rather than using their own containers.

Pullman Ward Realignment Update

10. Mayor Johnson announced that an update is scheduled on the Pullman ward realignment. City Supervisor Sherman was requesting guidance on how to proceed with complying with the legal requirements that City Attorney McAloon had gone through in her memo and discussion with the Council. He also went through the history of the 2000 realignment which was coordinated with the County in setting up the ward and precinct lines. Planning Director

Dickinson had a PowerPoint presentation of the existing ward lines and the proposed ward lines that had been worked out by Michol Ann Jensen. City Supervisor Sherman had three proposals set for the Council and how to proceed with this option. Option 1 was to proceed with the realignment recommended by Michol Ann Jensen based on her analysis of the figures. Option 2 was to join Whitman County in accepting the draft interagency agreement from Washington State University which would cost us somewhere in the vicinity of $18,000 plus. Option 3 was to purchase GIS software which allows us to redraw wards lines and precinct lines in coordination with Whitman County. The Council was in favor of Option 1, seeing as the work had been done at no additional cost.

Councilmember Weller said it was an amazing job and with costs being as they are in trying to save any money possible he preferred Option 1.

Councilmember Benjamin asked that with the County changing precincts, would there be costs involved. City Supervisor Sherman had indicated that there is still the possibility that we might have to pay for some of the precinct realignment from the County. City Attorney McAloon noted that her reading of the law indicated that might not be the case, but she is checking with the State to see if that is in fact true.

Councilmember Paul requested clarification on the precinct and wards as there was a remark that there is only one person that was registered in a precinct and he wanted to make sure that was not the same as the ward. Planning Director Dickinson said that it wasn't.

Councilmember Bloom agreed with Councilmember Weller that we are tightening our belts and we need to save every nickel that we can. He also agreed with Option 1.

Council decided to proceed with Option 1.

Pullman-Colfax Rail Line

11. Mayor Johnson announced that a discussion is scheduled on the Pullman-Colfax Rail Line. City Supervisor Sherman presented the staff report and went through some of the history of the railroad line in relation to other lines that the City has participated in. He requested that the statement they had prepared to send to Scott Witt, the State Rail and Marine Director, that the City be authorized to sign the statement to express our support for the rail service within our area. And if the line between Pullman and Colfax is pulled to preserve the rail corridor, then using the rail bed as a connecting path between Pullman and Colfax. There are no commitment of any funds, it is just support for the idea.

All Councilmembers were in agreement with sending the letter.

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 review the performance of a public employee.

Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at 8:58 p.m. There was one 30 minute extension. At 10:02 the Executive Session ended.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion Carried.

Mayor Johnson adjourned the regular meeting of the City Council at 10:02 p.m.