

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF PULLMAN
JUNE 8, 2010

Roll Call

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Pullman was held on June 8, 2010, 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
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. Councilmember Bloom moved, Councilmember Waldrop seconded to excuse Councilmember Benjamin from the meeting.

Motion Carried.

Announcements

Mayor Johnson made 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 Bloom 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 Wright moved, Councilmember Bloom seconded to adopt the Consent Agenda.

Motion Carried.

Motions

Minutes - May 18, 2010

1. The Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of May 18, 2010, and approved them as submitted.

Accounts Payable, Payroll, and Electronic Transfers - June, 2010

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 Dam- 3. The Council referred a Claim for Damages submitted
ages - Forar by Marcie L. Forar for the sum of \$300 to the
Washington Cities Insurance Authority (WCIA).
- Neill Public 4. The Council recommended to the Pullman Community
Library Monetary Funds Advisory Committee that it fund a Neill
Request from Shirrod Public Library request of \$8,031 for Shirrod Family
Family Memorial Fund Memorial Fund monies for the Neill Public Library
Shirrod Heritage Addition.

Resolutions

- Resolution No. 5. Resolution No. R-40-10
R-40-10 - Easement
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COMPENSATION FOR AND
ACCEPTING AN ACCESS AND UTILITY EASEMENT FROM MEJ,
L.L.C., A WASHINGTON LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY.
Resolution No. R-40-10 was adopted unanimously.
- Resolution No. 6. Resolution No. R-41-10
R-41-10 - Greenhouse A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS
Gas Emissions REDUCTION POLICY FOR THE CITY OF PULLMAN.
Reduction Policy
Resolution No. R-41-10 was adopted unanimously.
- Resolution No. 7. Resolution No. R-42-10
R-42-10 - Washington A RESOLUTION RATIFYING AN APPLICATION FOR A
State Public Works TRUST FUND
Trust Fund CONSTRUCTION LOAN FOR THE WASTE WATER TREATMENT
Construction Loan PLANT SECONDARY PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT.
Resolution No. R-42-10 was adopted unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

Public Hearing

- Resolution No. 8. Mayor Johnson announced that a public hearing is
R-43-10 - Transit scheduled on the Transit Senior Shuttle Service.
Shuttle Service Transit Manager Thornton provided the staff
report. He went through the steps they had gone
through since the April 27 meeting when they were
instructed to come back with some alternatives to
ending the Senior Shuttle. Transit Manager
Thornton stated that he had met with
representatives of Pioneer Square, Senior Living
Center, and the Senior Center. He had also taken
input from Transit staff. Everyone understood
that operating the current Senior Shuttle was not
justified due to cost and low ridership. They came
up with five different options from the
discussions. The recommendation was Option 1,
which was to operate the shuttle four hours per
day, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 to 2.
Councilmember Bloom wanted to know the time cycle
for the shuttle option. Transit Manager Thornton
stated it was about every 45 minutes.
Mayor Johnson opened the public hearing.
Paulette McCollum, Pioneer Center, agreed with
discontinuance of the Senior Shuttle and agreed
with the Shopper Shuttle, Option 1, with the
exception that she thought it should be expanded
another two hours.

Jennifer Sule, Pioneer Center, stated she was in favor of Option 1. She thought that they needed to advertise and market it in the community papers and on radio to preclude some of the problems they had with the Senior Shuttle awareness.

Isabell Eirich, Pioneer Center, is in favor of the Shopper Shuttle.

Mayor Johnson closed the public hearing.

An individual in the audience wanted to know if there would be an age limit on the Shopper Shuttle as there is on Dial-A-Ride. There is no age restriction. Transit Manager Thornton stated that the Dial-A-Ride age restriction of at least 65-years of age needs to be discussed at a future date, to look at lowering the age restriction for those below 65 with disabilities. Councilmember Weller congratulated Transit Manager Thornton on his leadership. He also wanted to know how much it would cost to add two hours to the route. Transit Manager Thornton responded approximately \$100 an hour. Councilmember Bloom also praised Transit Manager Thornton for his work in putting this together. His question was if there is an age limit on the Shopper Shuttle. Transit Manager Thornton said there was none.

Councilmember Waldrop thanked Transit Manager Thornton for his work and stated he would like to revisit this issue in about six months to see whether to expand the service hours or to cut the service back. Councilmember Paul wanted to know the turnaround time. Transit Manager Thornton responded it was 45 minutes.

Councilmember Bloom moved, Councilmember Weller seconded to adopt the Shopper Shuttle with a two-hour extension. The motion failed to pass with all Councilmembers voting nay.

Councilmember Waldrop moved, Councilmember Bloom seconded to terminate the Senior Shuttle and adopt the Shopper Shuttle with a review in two months to see if the hours should be expanded. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussions

Solid Waste 9. Mayor Johnson announced that a discussion is
Collection Issues scheduled on solid waste collection issues. City Supervisor Sherman presented the staff report and mentioned some of the problems they have had on College Hill and invited Devon Felsted of Pullman Disposal to discuss the situation. Mr. Felsted stated there had been talk about moving it to Monday. He said that was a possibility, but it would effect service in other areas. He suggested going to roll out carts on the College Hill area like there are on all the other hills. He felt moving to Thursday would not achieve what the Council was looking for and using the roll carts was a possible solution.

Councilmember Waldrop asked about twice-a-week service. Devon Felsted stated that was possible but there would be additional costs. Councilmember Paul asked about moving it to Tuesday. Devon Felsted felt that this really was not going to help with the problem.

City Supervisor Sherman introduced Steve Murphy, Community Improvement Rep. Mr. Murphy, at a earlier Council meeting, had been in favor of moving pickups to Thursday, but after thinking about it a lot more he thought it would be better to go with larger trash receptacles (roll outs) and see how things settle out after that. If there are still problems they can revisit the issue and decide on another course of action.

Economic Outlook 10. Mayor Johnson announced that a discussion is scheduled on the economic outlook. City Supervisor Sherman briefly went over some key points of recent items with the economy. He introduced Professor Jeffrey LaFrance of WSU.

Professor LaFrance stated that he felt that the worst was over. He stated there are five main drivers in our area economy. They are agriculture, WSU, Schweitzer Engineering, service industries, and housing and construction. He felt we would be trending more sideways for the next two to three years in these areas. He stated that housing went through rapid growth from 1997 to 2004 and then from 2004 to 2008 it started to slow down and right now the home prices in the Pacific region are around the 2005 level. He felt that a housing price depression would continue for the next few years.

In agriculture, Southeast Asia and China amounted to about 9 to 10 percent growth in agricultural commodities imports, primarily in corn. China is a net importer of rice. Velocity in agriculture as well as for all commodities is a result of inventory levels that are down to such a low level, actually levels not seen since 1937, that any minor glitch in the system will cause considerable price swings. During 2005-2008 the commodity prices went ballistic, but they are back to normal range.

He stated that unemployment is at a 30-year high. It is at 1982 or 1983 levels. Manufacturing and wages are on a 35-year decline after 65 years of steady increases. Councilmember Paul asked about Australian and Canadian wheat and if it affected us. Mr. LaFrance stated that Canadian wheat is a hard wheat made for breads where we are producing soft wheat. He did say that Australian wheat was more like our wheat but they have had seven years of drought and the yields are still low.

Councilmember Waldrop wanted to know if the start of the housing problem was the reinvestment act during the 90s. Professor LaFrance stated no, that actually it was the change for the capital gain rates on the lifetime exclusion. This had been in effect during that time, increasing limits from the \$125,000 to \$500,000 limit which sparked people turning over their houses, escalating the cost of housing. He also indicated, for the first time, that we have seen income rising, but consumption levels actually running flat. Councilmember Paul asked what caused this. Professor LaFrance stated it was primarily savings or reducing debts. Mayor Johnson thanked Professor LaFrance for his presentation.

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 now adjourn to Executive Session for:

Conferring with legal counsel representing the City concerning potential litigation or litigation that the City reasonably believes may be commenced by or against the City, the governing body, or a member acting in an official capacity.

Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at 8:47 p.m. and announced that the City Council would reconvene in open session in approximately one hour. At 9:52 p.m. the Executive Session was extended for an additional twelve minutes.

Mayor Johnson reconvened the regular meeting at 10:04 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Bloom 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 10:04 p.m.