MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF PULLMAN
JANUARY 6, 2009

Roll Call

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Pullman was held on January 6, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers, City Hall, Pullman, Washington with the following present:

Glenn A. Johnson	Mayor
Troy Woo	Finance Director
Francis Benjamin	Councilmember
Ann Heath	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 Wright moved, Councilmember Benjamin seconded to excuse Councilmembers Bloom and Paul from the meeting.

Motion Carried.

Announcements

Mayor Johnson and Public Works Director Workman made three announcements related to snow removal, snow load conditions, and potential flooding. Councilmember Heath asked if the City could maintain a list of snow removal services for the public. Mayor Johnson and City Supervisor Sherman responded.

Report

2009 Goal Setting

Mayor Johnson announced that a report is scheduled on 2009 goal setting. City Supervisor Sherman presented the staff report.

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 Benjamin 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 from either the Council or audience. There were none. Councilmember Weller moved, Councilmember Benjamin seconded to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented.

Motion Carried.

Motions

Minutes - December 9, 2008	1.	The Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of December 9, 2008, and approved them as submitted.
Accounts Payable, Payroll, and Electronic Transfers - January, 2009	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 - Penkacik	3.	The Council referred a Claim for Damages submitted by Jason Penkacik for an undetermined amount to the Washington Cities Insurance Authority (WCIA).
Claim for Damages - Neace	4.	The Council referred a Claim for Damages submitted by Calvin Neace for an undetermined amount to the Washington Cities Insurance Authority (WCIA).
Claim for Damages - Hornfelt	5.	The Council referred a Claim for Damages submitted by Dan and Karen Hornfelt for an undetermined amount to the Washington Cities Insurance Authority (WCIA).
City Playfields Lighting Complete	6.	The Council accepted as complete Contract No. 07-05, City Playfields Lighting.
Pullman City Hall Plaza Reconstruction Complete	7.	The Council accepted as complete Contract No. 07-19, Pullman City Hall Plaza Reconstruction.
WASPC Equipment Grant Agreement	8.	The Council authorized a Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) Equipment Grant Agreement.

REGULAR AGENDA

Town Hall Meeting

Mayor Johnson asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Steve Hailey.

Overview of 2009 Legislative Session (9.)

Senator Schoesler stated it was good to be conducting the town hall meeting and it is beneficial to hear the City's issues before the legislative session begins. Senator Schoesler compared the upcoming session to the 1981-1982 session when the country was in a severe recession. Senator Schoesler noted that there is currently only one legislative representative that served the 1981-1982 session. Senator Schoesler stated any issue that is before the legislature will have to make a strong case before it is funded and that the budgeting approach will be the priorities of government.

Representative Schmick stated that the state is hearing many horror stories and they are beginning to come true and agreed that the state's budget situation will be a priorities of government approach. Representative Schmick stated that items will be eliminated if they are not necessary. Representative Schmick stated that historically the 9th District has not supported tax increases and he will keep that in mind as he enters the session. Representative

Schmick encouraged the public to submit their input because he wants to serve them best.

Issues of Interest to the City of Pullman

10. Councilmember Waldrop thanked Senator Schoesler for his experience and stated that he will look forward to his leadership. Councilmember Waldrop spoke in support of funding for City infrastructure and the regional airport. Councilmember Waldrop stated that funding is needed for small non-hub commercial airports and that the Pullman-Moscow Airport could be designated as a critical transportation facility which would free up funding.

Councilmember Benjamin stated that the stormwater regulations that have been forced upon cities will result in increased costs for its citizens.

Mayor Johnson stated stormwater was an example of a state and federal unfunded mandate.

Councilmember Weller noted that stormwater regulations now are only the beginning because many more will be impacted in the future.

Councilmember Benjamin stated that agricultural areas may be impacted in the future. Councilmember Wright noted that in many cases undeveloped properties are not levied stormwater fees therefore it discourages development.

Councilmember Heath stated she strongly opposes anything that limits the attorney-client privileges. Senator Schoesler asked for examples of recent bills that have the potential to limit the client attorney privilege. Councilmember Heath noted that the taping of executive sessions as one example.

Mayor Johnson asked for support on the Pullman/WSU Water Reuse project. Senator Schoesler responded by stating that the water reuse project should be eligible for the federal stimulus list and the state capital budget so there is more than one option for funding for this project.

Issues of Interest to Area Cities and Towns

11. Mike Echanove, Palouse Mayor, stated that infrastructure was key to economic success, praised the work of the Transportation Improvement Board, spoke about the importance of the backfill funding because it is unrestricted, spoke in support of the water reuse project and streamlined sales tax, and gave examples of projects that have been funded by the CERB Board.

Mayor Johnson congratulated Mayor Echanove on his recent award.

Ted Maxwell, Mayor of Malden, thanked the legislators for the opportunity to meet and gave an example of a tire cleanup project that the state is helping Malden with. Mayor Johnson asked Mayor Maxwell to describe Malden’s state auditor costs. Mayor Maxwell provided costs and audit experience information. Mayor Johnson and Mayor Maxwell discussed wastewater treatment fines and water-testing costs.

Russ Rickett, Mayor of Oakesdale, spoke in support of Mayor Echanove’s comments regarding the Transportation Improvement Board, backfill

funding, and infrastructure needs. Mayor Rickett asked what sense of direction do the legislators feel the stimulus funding will be going. Senator Schoesler stated there is a need to pass an early stimulus package in order to have those projects make the 2009 construction season. Mayor Rickett asked if the projects would be limited to "shovel ready" projects or would they go beyond to other projects that aren't ready to go. Senator Schoesler responded.

Mayor Johnson asked for the status of the railroad project in Oakesdale. Mayor Rickett responded.

Issues of Interest to the Public

12. Sue Armitage, president of the Pullman League of Women Voters, stated that the League of Women Voters have sent their priorities to the legislators for the upcoming legislative session. Ms. Armitage expressed concern for the Governor's proposed cuts to education and health care because of the devastating impact. Ms. Armitage urged the legislators to support education funding and to develop a different plan of funding for K through 12. Ms. Armitage described the health care crisis that is occurring.

Councilmember Waldrop asked if one of the causes of the health care crisis comes from the mandates that are driving doctors out of the state. Senator Schoesler responded by stating Washington state has the largest number of medical mandates in the nation, so there is little competition in the state. In Washington 18-34 year old people are the largest group of uninsured because their insurance needs are different than older generations, so they choose not to pay or can't afford the more expensive policies. Mayor Johnson stated that hospitals are under mandates that require them to serve all that come through their doors and expressed that the Certificate of Need requirement should be removed so that the community could help serve their citizens better.

Councilmember Benjamin asked the legislators if there were any pitfalls with the legislature taking short-term actions to address the current budget crisis and what types of things should be encouraged by the legislature. Senator Schoesler responded.

Dave Gibney, 760 Reaney, thanked the legislators for the opportunity to speak at the town hall meeting. Mr. Gibney stated he thought there was a good chance that the budget would be a cooperative effort this session, discussed the differences of stormwater issues between the east side and the west side of the state, and asked for funding support for nonprofit organizations such as Palouse Industries and education, especially in regards to the community colleges of Spokane who are conducting classes at Gladish. Mr. Gibney described Gladish's grant application efforts and discussed Senate Bill 5018 relating to historical preservation. Senator Schoesler responded. Mr. Gibney noted that Representative Bill Grant from the 16th legislative district recently passed away and noted that the east side of the state has recently lost influential representation.
Mayor Echanove asked for an update on the Eastern

Washington railroads. Senator Schoesler and Representative Schmick responded.

City Supervisor Sherman made closing comments which included asking for support of education because of its impact to the City of Pullman. Representative Schmick said that he appreciates all the public comments and asked the City Council to pass on a list of mandates that should be eliminated. Mayor Johnson responded.

Senator Schoesler stated he appreciated the town hall meeting and the Friday Chamber of Commerce conference calls because of the useful information they provide.

Mayor Johnson closed the town hall meeting by thanking the legislators for their time.

Mayor Johnson announced the City Council would break for five minutes. Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at 8:43 p.m. Mayor Johnson reconvened the meeting at 8:54 p.m.

Ordinance and Resolution

13. Councilmember Heath stated that she felt the stormwater issue should be deferred because of the absence of two Councilmembers and the City Attorney and that there should be a solid analysis of the undeveloped property issue. Councilmember Heath moved to defer the ordinance and rate resolution to February when all of the Councilmembers would be present and the City Attorney will be present. Councilmember Waldrop spoke in support of Councilmember Heath's statement and asked if it was possible to meet on January 27. Councilmember Benjamin noted that he would be unavailable on February 10. City Supervisor Sherman suggested that the issue be considered on February 3. The Council concurred. Councilmember Weller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolutions

Resolution No. R-2-09 - Stormwater

14. Mayor Johnson announced a resolution had been prepared relating to stormwater and petitioning the governor for relief. Councilmember Weller complimented the wording of the resolution. Councilmember Heath asked if City Attorney McAloon had approved the resolution. Mayor Johnson responded.

Resolution No. R-2-09 by title only reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION RELATING TO STORMWATER AND PETITIONING THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON FOR RELIEF.

Councilmember Waldrop moved, Councilmember Wright seconded to adopt Resolution No. R-2-09. The motion carried unanimously. Councilmember Waldrop asked that a copy of the resolution be sent to the legislative representatives.

Resolution No. R-3-09 - Lost Trail Townhomes Sub-division Final Plat

15. Mayor Johnson announced that a resolution had been prepared adopting the final plat of Lost Trail Townhomes Subdivision. Public Works Director Workman presented the staff report. There were no questions of his report. Resolution No. R-3-09 by title only reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FINAL PLAT OF LOST TRAIL TOWNHOMES SUBDIVISION AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND FINANCE DIRECTOR TO SIGN THE FINAL PLAT.

Councilmember Waldrop moved, Councilmember Benjamin seconded to adopt Resolution No. R-3-09. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Waldrop spoke in appreciation of the snow removal efforts by City staff and stated they are doing a great job. Public Works Director Workman responded.

Jo Mark, 1165 S. Grand, asked if goal-setting proposals could be submitted online. Ms. Mark asked if the Transit department was included in goal setting. Mayor Johnson responded. Ms. Mark suggested that there be a small bus sent around the City to pick up citizens so they could attend the City Council meetings. Mayor Johnson responded.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Johnson announced the City Council would adjourn to Executive Sessions for:

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

Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at 9:06 p.m. and announced the Council would return after a five-minute break and a thirty-minute Executive Session.

Mayor Johnson reconvened the meeting at 9:41 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Benjamin 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 9:42 p.m.