MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF PULLMAN
JULY 7, 2009

Roll Call

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

Glenn A. Johnson	Mayor
Jane Joyce	Deputy City Clerk
Francis Benjamin	Councilmember
Keith Bloom	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. Councilmember Wright moved, Councilmember Bloom seconded to excuse Councilmembers Heath and Waldrop from this meeting.

Motion Carried.

Announcements

Mayor Johnson made three announcements.

Report

Fireworks Enforcement

Mayor Johnson announced that a report is scheduled on fireworks enforcement. Police Chief Weatherly presented a staff report which included statistics on fireworks enforcement. Mayor Johnson asked why only one enforcement action was taken for 2009. Chief Weatherly responded.

Fire Chief Wilkins presented a staff report and stated that Pullman is one of 64 Washington jurisdictions that places restrictions on fireworks. He stated that the Fire Department sent out patrols on July 3 and 4.

Councilmember Bloom stated that the stands did a good job of informing people about the hours that fireworks were allowed. He stated that this year was less disruptive than previous years. Mayor Johnson stated it was quieter in his neighborhood.

Ray Lindquist stated that for the past five years he has operated the fireworks stand at Dissmores. This will be his last year of operating the stand because of changes that were made to the ordinance. It is not a business friendly situation. He requested the Council reconsider the new fireworks restrictions.

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 Paul 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 from either the Council or audience. There was none. Councilmember Bloom moved, Councilmember Wright seconded to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented.

Motion Carried.

Motions

Minutes - June 30, 2009

1. The Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of June 30, 2009, and approved them as submitted.

Accounts Payable, Payroll, and Electronic Transfers - July, 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.

REGULAR AGENDA

Discussions

Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination (IDDE) Ordinance

3. Mayor Johnson announced that a discussion is scheduled on an Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) Ordinance. Stormwater Services Program Manager Buchert presented the staff report. He advised that several pages of the draft ordinance were missing from the packet and copies of the missing pages had been passed out to the Council and audience. He stated the deadline to have this ordinance in place is August 16, 2009.

Councilmember Paul asked about the definition for stormwater on page 4, item 10. Councilmember Bloom and Stormwater Services Program Manger Buchert responded. Councilmember Benjamin asked how springs that develop from over watering would be handled and how to identify what is a spring. Stormwater Services Program Manager Buchert stated he has a map listing the natural springs in Pullman. Councilmember Benjamin asked if a prohibited discharge occurs, will it result in a fine. Stormwater Services Program Manager Buchert responded. Public Works Director Workman stated that the City can identify natural water from City water.

Councilmember Benjamin asked if the ordinance makes fundraising car washes illegal. Stormwater Services Manager Buchert responded and stated that the City will work with organizations so they can still have car washes. Mayor Johnson asked how this will affect the permanent car washes in Pullman. Stormwater Services Manager Buchert stated that the water goes into the sewer system,

not storm drains. Councilmember Benjamin asked how this will effect car dealerships. Public Works Director Workman responded. Stormwater Services Manager Buchert stated the City wants to work with everyone to find solutions, not to give fines.

Councilmember Bloom stated that the Department of Ecology has been heavy-handed about stormwater but there are positive elements to the ordinance. He stated it is an unfunded mandate. Councilmember Bloom, Stormwater Services Manager Buchert, and Public Works Director Workman discussed dechlorinated spa or swimming pool discharges, prohibited discharges, and littering violations that can't be enforced.

Councilmember Paul asked about putting stormwater in the sanitary system. Public Works Director Workman responded and stated that placing stormwater in the sanitary system is costly. Councilmember Benjamin and Public Works Director Workman discussed requiring citizens to change practices, and how the leaf pickup and winter gravel will effect stormwater. Councilmember Benjamin stated that a guideline for practices would help. Public Works Director Workman stated that prohibited practices are listed in the ordinance.

Councilmember Benjamin, Public Works Director Workman, and Mayor Johnson discussed washing personal cars. City Supervisor Sherman talked about the progress the City of Pullman has already made. Councilmember Benjamin talked about last Sunday's storm and if procedures already put into place had helped reduce the backup at the storm drains. Councilmember Benjamin asked if the program will help reduce flooding. Stormwater Services Manager Buchert stated the City is still developing its program.

Councilmember Weller asked if we are still working with WSU on stormwater. Stormwater Services Manager Buchert responded.

Stormwater Services Manager Buchert asked for the public to give comments on the ordinance.

Dave Gibney, 760 Reaney Way #2H, stated he feels that paragraph 4 of the ordinance should have a whereas stating that Pullman is required to enact this ordinance.

Solar Powered Street Lights

4. Mayor Johnson announced that a discussion is scheduled on solar powered street lights. City Supervisor Sherman presented the staff report. Councilmember Weller also presented a staff report and talked about a solar light project in Moscow and grants for Green Technology.

Paul Kimmel, Avista Regional Business Manager, introduced Dave Holmes of Avista. Mr. Holmes discussed the history of Avista, energy load and resources, and Washington State RPS compliance. Councilmember Weller asked about LED technology. Mr. Holmes responded. Councilmember Weller stated that Mr. Holmes should go to Moscow and view the solar project. Mr. Holmes stated that solar is based on time, motion, and how long they run them. He discussed panels, batteries, and weather regarding solar.

Mayor Johnson talked about a solar test site in Orlando, Florida, he had viewed and discussed using LED lights for taxiway lights at the Airport. He advised the Airport kept burning out the LED lights and the FAA is allowing them to replace the LED with quartz. Mr. Holmes and City Supervisor Sherman discussed using solar in the future, planning for solar, and the cost of solar lighting.

Whitman County Humane Society Request

5. Mayor Johnson announced that a discussion is scheduled on a request from Whitman County Humane Society. City Supervisor Sherman presented the staff report and stated that the Humane Society has made two requests. The current contract expires on July 31, 2009, and they are requesting it be renewed until December 31, 2009, at the current rate. The second request is to raise the rate to $4,000 a month effective January 1, 2010. City Supervisor Sherman asked the Council if they would like a presentation from the Humane Society at the July 21, 2009, meeting or would they prefer a presentation during budget discussions.

Councilmember Paul stated that the Humane Society does a wonderful job but he does not see how we can grant an increase with current economic conditions. Councilmember Wright stated that we should defer the presentation until September.

John Thielbahr, 1320 NW Orion Drive, speaking for the Whitman County Humane Society, stated that waiting until September to do a presentation would not impact their planning. He advised that the Humane Society has not raised the fee since 2000 and they have saved the City money. The City currently pays for water and utilities at the current shelter.

Councilmember Bloom stated that two questions are being asked by the Humane Society. He feels that we should renew the current contract to the end of December 2009. He stated the Humane Society does an outstanding job but now is not a good time to approve rate increases. It should be considered with the budget process.

Councilmember Benjamin stated the increase should be considered in September. He would like the rates for how much the City has been paying in utilities and asked if Whitman County has a contract. Mr. Thielbahr and a representative of the Humane Society in the audience responded.

Councilmember Weller stated that the increase should be considered with the budget. He also stated the Humane Society does a good service.

Mayor Johnson stated the second request will be considered in the fall and stated that the Humane Society does a great job. Chief Weatherly stated that the Humane Society has done a fantastic job and he will look at his budget for cost savings.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Paul suggested that everyone take their personal cups with them when traveling. This will make for less containers being thrown out.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Johnson announced that the Council would adjourn to Executive Session for:

To receive and evaluate complaints or charges brought against a public officer or employee and 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 8:59 p.m. and announced that the Council would take a five-minute recess and return after a fifteen-minute Executive Session. Mayor Johnson reconvened the meeting at 9:28 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion Carried.

Mayor Johnson adjourned the regular meeting of the City Council at 9:28 p.m.