MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF PULLMAN
MAY 12, 2009

Roll Call

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Pullman was held on May 12, 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
Keith Bloom	Councilmember
Ann Heath	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.

Announcements

Mayor Johnson made five announcements. Public Works Director Workman made one announcement describing the accelerated street maintenance plans for 2009.

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

Motion Carried.

Motions

Minutes - May 5, 2009

1. The Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of May 5, 2009, and approved them as submitted.

REGULAR AGENDA

Ordinances

Ordinance No. 09-14 - Restricted Residential Parking Areas

2. Mayor Johnson announced that an ordinance has been prepared relating to parking. City Attorney McAloon presented the staff report. Councilmember Benjamin asked if the specific

reference to the Daily News as the City's official newspaper in Section 2 of the ordinance would cause the need to change ordinances in the future if the official newspaper of the City changes. City Attorney McAloon responded. Councilmember Benjamin asked when the Code would be changed to allow the City entity to initiate restricted residential parking areas. City Supervisor Sherman responded.

Ordinance No. 09-14 by title only reads as follows:

AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO TITLE 12 TRAFFIC, CHAPTER 12.50 RESTRICTED RESIDENTIAL PARKING AREAS; AMENDING PULLMAN CITY CODE 12.50.040 AND PULLMAN CITY ORDINANCE NO. 96-13 §4 (1996) AND OTHER MATTERS PROPERLY RELATED THERETO.

Councilmember Paul moved, Councilmember Benjamin seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 09-14. The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 09-15 - Budget Amendment

3. Mayor Johnson announced that an ordinance has been prepared amending the 2009 budget. Finance Director Woo presented the staff report. Councilmember Benjamin asked for clarification on the sharing of the administrative clerk position. Finance Director Woo responded. Councilmember Benjamin expressed concern with shifting budget appropriations from the savings of one department to the operations of another. Finance Director Woo and City Supervisor Sherman responded. Councilmember Wright noted the budget savings and efficiencies gained by using a permanent position in the Fire Department versus a temporary position. Finance Director Woo responded.

Mayor Johnson opened the item for public comment. City Supervisor Sherman made clarifying comments on the net savings by shifting the permanent employee to the Fire Department.

Ordinance No. 09-15 by title only reads as follows:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 08-23 ADOPTED DECEMBER 9, 2008, AND ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF PULLMAN FOR THE YEAR 2009".

Councilmember Bloom moved, Councilmember Heath seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 09-15. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion

Recycling

4. Mayor Johnson introduced the discussion item. City Supervisor Sherman presented the staff report that included background information and the history of recycling in Pullman.

Devon Felsted, President of Pullman Disposal Service, presented a report that included a description of the current recycling program and a description of co-mingled recycling options and the associated costs. Councilmember Heath asked what companies who buy mixed paper are doing with it since there is no market for it. Devon Felsted responded. Councilmember Bloom asked if mixed paper is considered trash, is the total cost of garbage $99.00 per ton, and what is the cost of co-mingled recycling per ton. Devon Felsted responded to all the questions. Councilmember Weller noted that Pullman citizens are taking

their mixed-waste paper to Moscow and asked what the City of Moscow is paying to process mixed-waste paper. Devon Felsted responded. Councilmember Weller asked for other examples of recycling that isn't accepted with a co-mingled recycling program. Devon Felsted and Mayor Johnson responded. Councilmember Weller noted that the apartment recycling bins often overflow and asked if co-mingled recycling would help alleviate that issue. Devon Felsted responded. Councilmember Benjamin asked if Pullman Disposal Service operates outside the City limits of Pullman. Devon Felsted responded. Councilmember Benjamin asked if the Pullman Disposal customer base stays consistent throughout the year and asked how many customers Pullman Disposal services. Devon Felsted responded. Councilmember Waldrop asked if the fluctuating recycling market and decisions whether to recycle or not have more to do with transportation costs. Devon Felsted responded. Councilmember Waldrop asked for comments regarding success of the 2009 Spring Cleanup. Devon Felsted and Jim Thompson, Pullman Disposal Services, responded. Councilmember Bloom asked what is done with glass recycling since there is no market for it. Devon Felsted responded.

Chris Thomas, SP Recycling, described SP Recycling's process facilities, Thurston County's recycling efforts, and co-mingled recycling. Councilmember Heath asked what SP Recycling is doing with mixed-waste paper. Chris Thomas responded. Councilmember Heath asked what percentage of mixed-waste paper is being used for producing newspaper. Chris Thomas responded. Councilmember Weller noted the list of recycling items that are not allowed under a co-mingled recycling program and asked if cardboard that has food remnants can be recycled such as a pizza delivery box. Devon Felsted and Chris Thomas responded. Councilmember Paul referred to a December 2008 Popular Mechanic magazine article that described the recycling processing equipment. Chris Thomas responded. Councilmember Bloom stated that it is not necessary for the City of Pullman to build a facility as long as it can transport recycling. Chris Thomas responded.

Judi Dunn-Gray, Whitman County Recycling and Waste Reduction Education Coordinator, reviewed the Washington State waste related laws, transfer station operations and statistics, Whitman County recycling revenue and price statistics, a comparison of single-stream versus dual-stream recycling, the Washington Co-Mingled Recycling Improvement Project, and Whitman County's local issues and challenges.

Councilmember Heath left at this point in the meeting, 9:02 p.m.

Councilmember Waldrop asked for examples of how citizens can be less wasteful. Judi Dunn-Gray responded. Councilmember Benjamin asked if the County had considered unattended consequences of co-mingled recycling such as reduction of solid waste revenues. Judi Dunn-Gray and Mark Storey, Public Works Director of Whitman County, responded. Councilmember Benjamin asked if Whitman County prefers increased recycling in spite of the potential revenue reductions on the solid waste side. Mark Storey responded.

Councilmember Weller asked how organic waste is handled by Whitman County. Judi Dunn-Gray and Devon Felsted responded. Councilmember Benjamin noted that there is no charge for yard waste at the Whitman County Transfer Station. Devon Felsted responded.

Rick Finch, WSU Facilities Operations Waste Manager, described WSU's waste management program, WSU recycling, WSU co-mingling recycling process, WSU costs and cost avoidance, and WSU rate structures. Councilmember Waldrop asked Mr. Finch to elaborate on WSU's biological waste program and how it might relate to the City's hospital and doctor's offices. Rick Finch responded.

Public Works Director Workman presented a staff report that included a description of the City's recycling activities and recycling efforts of the Wastewater Treatment Plant. City Supervisor Sherman made comments relating to reducing, reuse, and recycling. Geraldine de Rooy, Library Services Manager, described the Neill Public Library's efforts to eliminate the use of plastic bags for patrons to transport books. Mayor Johnson asked if there were any alternatives for recycled books. Geraldine de Rooy responded. City Supervisor Sherman described the City's Green Team recommendation to find solutions for mixed-waste paper recycling. Elizabeth Siler described a recycling options survey that she conducted that resulted in 84 percent of the respondents being willing to pay for more recycling efforts with the majority favoring co-mingled recycling. Ms. Siler summarized the comments that were received along with the survey.

Brian Bodah, 2290 NE Westwood Drive, stated he thought that any option besides co-mingled recycling is not a viable option for the City because multi-family accounts do not separate recycling so it does not work. Mr. Bodah stated that the simple programs work best. Mr. Bodah commented on cost effectiveness and ethical responsibilities.

Don Orlich, 435 SE Crestview, complimented the City on its snow removal and gravel cleanup efforts and spoke in favor of expanding recycling efforts. Mr. Orlich stated he has noticed a garbage reduction because of his recycling efforts and that he is willing to pay more to expand recycling efforts.

Dorothy Swanson, 1055 NE Creston Lane, commented on reducing, reuse, and recycling and challenged every household in Pullman to use the smallest garbage can service and encouraged the City to expand its recycling efforts.

Eric Johnson, 705 NW Bryant, stated the City needs to find ways to recycle mixed-waste paper and expressed concern with single-stream recycling because of the increased costs, potential job losses, and potential negative environmental impacts. Mr. Johnson urged the City to further explore the environmental impacts of recycling.

Don Orlich urged the City to think about a waste-to-energy program in the long term. City Supervisor Sherman thanked the League of Women Voters for their long involvement with recycling

in Pullman and made closing comments on the issue.

Mayor Johnson asked for updates from Whitman County on the recycling issue. City Supervisor Sherman noted that Whitman County will be making major decisions in regard to recycling and solid waste management in the near future.

NEW BUSINESS

There were no items of new business.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion Carried.

Mayor Johnson adjourned the regular meeting of the City Council at 10:05 p.m.