MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF PULLMAN
JANUARY 20, 2009

Roll Call

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Pullman was held on January 20, 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
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 Councilmember Paul from the meeting.

Motion Carried.

Announcements

Mayor Johnson made three announcements including an introduction of the new Library Services Director Geraldine de Rooy. Library Services Director de Rooy briefly introduced herself by describing her background.

Confirmation of Appointment

Arts Commission

Mayor Johnson announced that he had appointed Mike Yates, 3784 Prune Orchard Rd, Colfax, to a term on the Arts Commission expiring December 31, 2011. He introduced Mr. Yates to the Council and audience. Councilmember Bloom moved, Councilmember Heath seconded to confirm the appointment.

Motion Carried.

Reports

Wellness Program Annual Report

Mayor Johnson announced that the Wellness Program annual report was available for questions. There were no questions on this report.

Stormwater Report

Mayor Johnson announced that a report is scheduled on stormwater. Public Works Director Workman presented the staff report. There were no questions on this 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 Bloom 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. Councilmember Waldrop requested that item No. 1 be removed for separate discussion. Councilmember Weller moved, Councilmember Waldrop seconded to adopt items 2 through 4 on the Consent Agenda.

Motion Carried.

Motions

Claim for Damages - Mower	2.	The Council referred a Claim for Damages submitted by Kimberly W.D. Mower for the sum of $764.59 to the Washington Cities Insurance Authority (WCIA).
Claim for Damages - Heritage Realty	3.	The Council referred a Claim for Damages submitted by James Branson for Heritage Realty for the sum of $1,699.61 to the Washington Cities Insurance Authority (WCIA).
Paramedic Services Agreement	4.	The Council approved a Paramedic Services Agreement with Pullman Regional Hospital.

REGULAR AGENDA

Motion

Minutes - January 6, 2009	1.	Mayor Johnson announced that this item had been removed from the Consent Agenda at the request of Councilmember Waldrop. Councilmember Waldrop requested two changes to the minutes from January 6. Councilmember Heath made one correction. Councilmember Waldrop moved, Councilmember Heath seconded to approve the amended minutes of January 6, 2009. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussions

University District	5.	Mayor Johnson introduced WSU President Elson Floyd. President Floyd presented a report on the University District which included an outline of the proposed boundaries of the University District area, a chronology of events, and asked the Council to forget the interlocal agreement and begin new with his empty-box metaphor. President Floyd suggested establishing a jointly-appointed committee of stakeholders to help plan this concept and that all of the concepts come before the City Council. President Floyd stated his goal was the full engagement of the community and stakeholders on the issue. Councilmember Heath asked for a boundary clarification on the map that President Floyd presented. President Floyd and Executive Director of Real Estate and External Affairs Mel Taylor responded. Councilmember Weller apologized to Mel Taylor because the audience during the last University District discussion was not polite. Councilmember Weller stated that he appreciated Mr. Taylor's efforts and President Floyd's efforts to help make the community better and that if the

City and University work together anything can be accomplished. Councilmember Weller stated he was in favor of a joint committee but had concerns with the wording in the letter addressed to the City Council because he feels the City Council should hear all input and not just approved suggestions related to the University District. Councilmember Weller described many College Hill improvements that have been accomplished without the University District and that he was not in favor of more legislation but would rather see more enforcement on the current legislation.

Councilmember Benjamin stated he appreciated the efforts to improve the College Hill area and asked if state law required an interlocal agreement for WSU to commit funding toward this project. President Floyd and City Attorney McAloon responded.

Councilmember Waldrop stated he thought the first University District discussion made a great meeting and thanked the students for their involvement. Councilmember Waldrop stated he thought the District was a laudable plan to help improve College Hill and compared the University District concept to the Central Business District. Councilmember Waldrop commended President Floyd, Mel Taylor, and Bobbie Ryder for their efforts on the project. Councilmember Waldrop shared comments from his constituents that stated that they either don't want to see a district or that they don't want an intervention to the current process. Councilmember Waldrop said he appreciated the willingness of WSU to commit assets toward the process and that he had no position on the proposed process change since his contacts are saying the process is fine.

Councilmember Heath thanked President Floyd for his interest, leadership, and the good relations between the City and WSU. Councilmember Heath stated that WSU did have a financial involvement in both the College Hill Study and the Parking Study. Councilmember Heath asked if the City did not agree with the designation of the boundary or the University District label, would cooperation be diminished. President Floyd stated that WSU will be a full and complete partner.

Councilmember Wright thanked WSU for the time and effort on the project and asked why the north side of Stadium Way was not included within the proposed boundary because the student population is just as great on that side of Stadium Way and how will this be viewed in the future. President Floyd responded.

Mayor Johnson asked for Council's direction on the issue. Councilmember Wright proposed that the issue be considered during goal setting. City Supervisor Sherman suggested holding a public hearing or discussion some time in February. Councilmember Waldrop stated it is important to recognize the hard work that has been accomplished, so he is in favor of addressing the issue sooner rather than later. Councilmember Benjamin stated he felt that goal setting was too late and that he was interested in the staff perspective as well as additional citizen input. Councilmembers Bloom and Heath

suggested the issue be discussed sooner rather than later. City Supervisor Sherman suggested that the discussion take place on February 24. The City Council concurred with February 24. President Floyd clarified his request that the City Council help with the name or label for the concept and footprint only and that any recommendations for improvements to the concept come before the City Council. Mayor Johnson thanked President Floyd and his staff for everything that has been accomplished so far.

Certified Local Government Program

6. Mayor Johnson announced that a discussion is scheduled on the Certified Local Government Program. Planning Director Dickinson presented the staff report. Councilmember Benjamin asked if there was an expectation that the proposed area would have more or less of the normal property concerns that other Certified Local Government Programs have seen. Planning Director Dickinson responded. Mayor Johnson asked who the Ad Hoc Committee members were. Planning Director Dickinson responded. Mayor Johnson thanked the Ad Hoc Committee members for serving.

Councilmember Bloom commended the Ad Hoc Committee and thanked them for the information. Councilmember Bloom stated that not all old buildings hold historical significance and asked how the owners of an old building without historical significance would be protected. Planning Director Dickinson responded. Councilmember Bloom asked if the notification requirements would be the same as the notification requirements elsewhere in the City Code. Planning Director Dickinson responded. Councilmember Bloom suggested that the suggested commission size of nine be reduced because coordinating the schedules of nine commission members would be difficult and suggested that a five-member commission be established. Councilmember Benjamin expressed concern with a five-member commission because he thought it should have more of a cross section of expertise. Councilmember Waldrop asked how the historic district would reconcile with affordable housing and asked if that would be in conflict with affordable housing. Planning Director Dickinson responded.

Mayor Johnson suggested that comments on the ordinance be taken page-by-page. Councilmember Waldrop asked for explanation on the cost definition on page 4, paragraph 8. Planning Director Dickinson responded. Councilmember Waldrop suggested that the commission consist of seven members on page 7, section 2a. Councilmember Benjamin asked if the commission members should be restricted to Pullman residents on page 7, section 2b. Councilmember Heath and City Attorney McAloon discussed the terms used for removal of commission members on page 8, paragraph d. Councilmember Weller asked if it were possible for the Council to approve demolition requests. City Attorney McAloon and Planning Director Dickinson responded. Mayor Johnson asked if the City Council could serve as the Appeal Board. City Attorney McAloon responded. Councilmember Weller expressed that constituents would not be heard by the City Council if the commission makes the decisions. City Attorney McAloon responded. Councilmember

Benjamin asked for an explanation on the quasi-judicial rules. City Attorney McAloon responded. On page 12, paragraph c, Councilmember Waldrop asked if the voters within the boundaries of the district be owners or by building. Planning Director Dickinson responded. Councilmember Heath stated that the determination of who receives a vote is an important one and the City Council should determine that rule and not the proposed commission. City Attorney McAloon responded. Councilmember Waldrop asked if there was a better way to define “ordinary repair” on page 13, section 3b. Councilmember Bloom stated that painting is considered an “ordinary repair” under the ordinance. Planning Director Dickinson responded.

Planning Director Dickinson noted concern that only an owner can petition for removal from the register on page 13, section 4. Councilmember Waldrop noted that on page 14, section 16.60.060 there was no definition for “alter”. Councilmember Heath asked when a building permit was required as it relates to “ordinary repair” and stated she would like to hear further recommendation on what is considered “ordinary repair”. Planning Director Dickinson responded.

Councilmember Waldrop suggested that only the applicant can petition for more time on page 17, section b. Councilmember Waldrop suggested that the first full sentence on page 18 be deleted to help keep the process timely. Councilmember Bloom asked for clarification that the total extension could equal 90 days. Planning Director Dickinson responded. Councilmember Waldrop expressed concern with the process evolving which would result in demolitions being delayed. Councilmember Waldrop asked if there were any industry standards for determining whether a property is too costly to restore so demolition should be granted. Planning Director Dickinson responded. Councilmember Bloom stated he thought the City should encourage deconstructing and salvage instead of demolitions. Councilmember Waldrop suggested that properties tagged as a nuisance should be exempted from the Certified Local Government Program. Councilmember Bloom suggested that the City Council have override authority when nuisance issues are involved. City Attorney McAloon responded. Councilmember Wright asked if the ordinance should include language to protect current legislation in the cases of nuisances. City Attorney McAloon responded.

Councilmember Benjamin asked if the City Council, through its adoption of this proposed ordinance, would be assigning its authority on other legislative issues. City Attorney McAloon responded. Mayor Johnson asked if the Council wanted to proceed with a public meeting on the Certified Local Program in the future. City Council concurred. Planning Director Dickinson asked the Council for guidance on the proposed fees for the Certified Local Government. Councilmember Waldrop stated that the proposed fees looked fine. Councilmember Bloom noted that the proposed fees were lower than the fees of other jurisdictions. Councilmember Heath stated that the potential conflicts with other City Codes and ordinances should not be an issue since

section 16.60.020 section 3 states that the promotion of public health and safety are the minimum requirements.

Transit Reorganization

7. Mayor Johnson announced that a discussion is scheduled on a Transit reorganization. Human Resources Manager Karen Sires presented the staff report. Mayor Johnson asked what the financial impact would be of the additional positions. Human Resources Manager Sires responded. Councilmember Bloom asked for a best guess as to the financial impact. Transit Manager Thornton responded. Councilmember Bloom asked if the proposed reorganization would be efficient enough to justify the additional costs. Human Resources Manager Sires responded. Mayor Johnson asked for an explanation of the federal requirement for providing Dial-A-Ride operations. Transit Manager Thornton responded. Councilmember Bloom asked if the Transit system could utilize local taxi services to cover the minimal number of Dial-A-Ride transports during the late hours of operation. City Attorney McAloon responded. Councilmember Benjamin asked what efficiencies have been experienced due to the implementation of the Dial-A-Ride scheduling software. Transit Manager Thornton responded.

Councilmember Benjamin asked what kinds of savings might be realized when the scheduling software is operating fully. Transit Manager Thornton responded. Councilmember Benjamin asked if there was an increase to Dial-A-Ride ridership because of the current economic situation. Transit Manager Thornton responded. Councilmember Waldrop asked what source of funding would be used to pay for the proposed positions. Transit Manager Thornton and City Supervisor Sherman responded. Human Resources Manager Sires asked that the City Council approve the new positions. Mayor Johnson asked if the City Council could approve the positions under a discussion item. City Attorney McAloon responded.

Councilmember Waldrop moved, Councilmember Benjamin seconded to create the proposed positions at Transit. The motion carried unanimously.

Electronic Payments

8. Mayor Johnson announced that a discussion is scheduled on electronic payments. Finance Director Woo presented the staff report. Councilmember Bloom asked if the automated clearinghouse payment dates could be aligned with the largest employer within the City, WSU, paydays which are the 10th and 25th. Councilmember Weller noted that the proposed automated clearing dates don't reconcile with Schweitzer Engineering's paydays either. Finance Director Woo and Councilmember Wright responded. Council concurred to begin automated clearinghouse payment options after the bank testing is complete. Finance Director Woo asked for City Council direction on hiring a security vendor to help with further developing credit card and debit card options. Councilmember Waldrop asked what the City's volume of payments is and for a description of the desires of the customers. Finance Director Woo responded. Councilmember Waldrop asked if the students would prefer an online payment option. Finance

Director Woo responded. Mayor Johnson noted that there is a current bill pay option within customers' banks. Finance Director Woo responded. Councilmember Benjamin noted that the banker online options do inform customers that there will be a delay to the payments. Finance Director Woo and Mayor Johnson responded.

Councilmember Waldrop stated that if the online payment option is what the public wants, the City should consider providing that service and to split the cost among the different payments because of the efficiencies that would be gained. Councilmember Benjamin asked if credit card capabilities would alleviate the ambulance writeoffs. Finance Director Woo responded. Councilmember Heath asked when the City would have to address the Parks and Recreation data security standards issue. Finance Director Woo responded. City Council concurred to seek the advise of a security vendor before proceeding with credit card and debit card payment options.

NEW BUSINESS

There were no items of new business.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Conferring with legal counsel representing the City concerning potential litigation that has been specifically threatened to which the City, the governing body, or a member acting in an official capacity is, or is likely to become, a party, 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 9:57 p.m. and announced the Council would take a five-minute recess and the Executive Session would last twenty minutes.

Mayor Johnson reconvened the meeting at 10:37 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Weller 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 10:37 p.m.