MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF PULLMAN
FEBRUARY 24, 2009

Roll Call

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Pullman was held on February 24, 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

There were no announcements.

Reports

2008 Police Department Annual Report

Mayor Johnson announced that the 2008 Police Department annual report was presented for questions only. There were no questions on the report.

Stormwater Report

Mayor Johnson announced that a report is scheduled on stormwater. City Supervisor Sherman presented the staff report which included a legislative update and an announcement that City officials would be meeting with the Department of Ecology during the second week of March.

Election of Mayor Pro Tempore and Alternate Mayor Pro Tempore

Mayor Johnson announced that an election for the Mayor Pro Tempore and Alternate Mayor Pro Tempore is scheduled. Councilmember Heath moved, Councilmember Waldrop seconded to elect Councilmember Bloom as Mayor Pro Tempore and Councilmember Wright as Alternate Mayor Pro Tempore. The motion carried unanimously.

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 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 were none. Councilmember Wright moved, Councilmember Bloom seconded to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented.

Motion Carried.

Motions

Minutes - February 3, 2009	1.	The Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of February 3, 2009, and approved them as submitted.
Minutes - February 11, 2009	2.	The Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes of the special meeting of February 11, 2009, and approved them as submitted.
Claim for Damages - Webber	3.	The Council referred a Claim for Damages submitted by Tom Webber for the sum of $880.00 to the Washington Cities Insurance Authority (WCIA).
Claim for Damages - Jensen	4.	The Council referred a Claim for Damages submitted by Erica Jensen for the sum of $1,649.11 to the Washington State Transit Insurance Pool (WSTIP).
Claim for Damages - Fisher	5.	The Council referred a Claim for Damages submitted by Rudy Fisher for the sum of $906.47 to the Washington Cities Insurance Authority (WCIA).
Claim for Damages - Moore	6.	The Council referred a Claim for Damages submitted by Kimberlee Moore for an undetermined amount to the Washington Cities Insurance Authority (WCIA).
Pre-hospital Participation Grant	7.	The Council accepted a 2009 Pre-hospital Participation grant from the State of Washington Department of Health for distribution to trauma verified pre-hospital services for the estimated minimal amount of $1,650.
Public Hearing Date	8.	The Council set March 10, 2009, as the date for a public hearing to consider a petition for annexation of property submitted by Keith Kopf, L.L.C.

Resolution

Resolution No. R-7-09 - Rocky Way Barrier	9.	Resolution No. R-7-09 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF M.L. ALBRIGHT & SONS, INC. FOR THE ROCKY WAY BARRIER AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF THE CONTRACT FOR SAID PROJECT. Resolution No. R-7-09 was adopted unanimously.

Ordinance

Ordinance No. 09-4 - Quit Claim Deed from WSU	10.	Ordinance No. 09-4 AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING A QUIT CLAIM DEED FROM WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY.

Ordinance No. 09-4 was adopted unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

Public Meeting

University District

11. Mayor Johnson announced that a public meeting is scheduled on the University District. Mayor Johnson opened the public meeting. WSU President Floyd read into the record a letter written to the *Daily News* on February 24 from Beth Waddel because it captured the essence of the discussion. President Floyd stated that it wasn't just about the money as the letter stated, it is more about the quality of life for the students. President Floyd stated that WSU is a member of the community and that the proposal before Council was simply to name an area, establish a footprint, and to have citizens establish recommendations for the University District. President Floyd announced that he would be leaving the meeting because of another engagement and to avoid the appearance of influencing the City Council and the citizens. President Floyd thanked the students and the Council for their involvement.

City Supervisor Sherman presented a staff report that included a history of the issue, descriptions of the outline of the footprint, and collaboration of the City, University, and the community.

Mike Gordon, Summit Reality, spoke in opposition to the University District because many rules are already in place to address the issues and that more enforcement is needed.

Loren Adholm, ASWSU, urged for the passage of the University District concept because it would benefit from combining the resources and would provide benefits to more than just students.

Allison Munch-Rotola, 635 NE Illinois, spoke in support of the University District concept by sharing a short story about an unexplained bag of trash.

Preston Nolan, 305 NE Whitman, submitted 300 signatures in opposition to the University District and stated that students need protection from a university president who does not realize the dangers to students and that the student body does not represent the students.

Rick Finch, 800 SW Alcora, spoke in favor of the University District concept for safety reasons.

Nathan Notes stated his fraternity, Farmhouse Frat, is unanimously against the University District because it is too vague.

Derick En'Wezoh, 880 NE Providence Court, spoke in support of the University District because of unsuitable living conditions, fighting, sidewalk issues, sexual assaults, and assaults that need to be addressed.

Kathy Wilson, 330 N. Grand Ave, Suite E, spoke in opposition to the University District because the City already has qualified staff within its

police and planning departments to address issues and that many positive changes have already occurred.
Dan Antoni, 330 N. Grand Ave, Suite A, spoke in opposition of the University District by stating “if it is not broken, don’t fix it” and because the City has adequate policing and planning staff.

Dave Gibney, 760 Reaney Way, stated his primary concern was that the boundaries were cast in stone. Mr. Gibney wished to be involved with the concept but isn’t currently within the boundary. Mr. Gibney also raised concerns with funding because of the current economic challenges.

Bryan Inglin, 725 NE Opal, spoke in opposition to the University District concept because the “empty box” concept is unknown and that the first University District proposal should be considered.

Brian Floyd, 630 NE California, spoke in favor of the University District and stated that the point of the committee would be to present ideas and there would be many benefits to the students of College Hill.

Adam Fry-Pierce, ASWSU vice president, spoke in favor of the University District because there are many serious problems on College Hill that need to be addressed.

Anita Hornbeck, 405 NW North, spoke in opposition to the University District concept because she was concerned about what the City would be agreeing to and financial concerns to make infrastructure improvements. Ms. Hornbeck stated that there are many tools in place currently to help improve College Hill.

Donald Snyder spoke in opposition to the University District concept because there are mechanisms currently in place to address planning and police issues.

Alex Hammond, 110 NE Indiana, spoke in favor of the University District concept by stating voting yes does not tie the City’s hands because of the “empty box” concept and it is an opportunity for all to be involved.

Susan Schultz, 630 NE Oak, spoke in opposition to the University District concept because the problems can be fixed with student involvement and volunteers.

Tina Reity spoke in opposition to the University District because she did not feel the University had the funding available for the concept.

Terry Carlson spoke in opposition to the University District concept because of the many unknowns.

Riley Myklebust, 610 NE Colorado, spoke in favor of the University District because the students need a voice.

Eileen Macoll, 1165 S. Grand Ave., #58, spoke in opposition to the University District proposal because it is a community-based problem and she

does not want to see another layer of bureaucracy created.
Mel Taylor, Executive Director of Real Estate and External Affairs at WSU, stated that WSU is well aware of the financial impacts and that the University is trying to be a partner and not to take over the area.

Brandon Scheller, ASWSU president, spoke in favor of the University District because many students and Greek presidents are in favor and to help improve the safety of students.

Ross Jones, 725 NE Opal, stated that many students disagree with the University District and that if it isn't broken, then don't fix it.

Christopher Howe, 1125 NE Indiana, stated that he, as a student, has not felt heard in the process and that ASWSU is not asking the opinions of those they represent. Mr. Howe urged the Council to vote against the University District.

Megan Patterson, 720 NE Campus, stated that if there was support for this concept it would have passed already and that many students are against it.

David Miehenke, 500 NE Campus, stated that his fraternity president's voice was not heard and that he was against the concept because the Greek community was not properly informed.

Alex Kubie, 500 NE Campus, spoke in opposition to the University District because the alumni do not support it and it is too vague.

Matthew Welborn, 440 NE Maiden Lane, #4, spoke in opposition of the University District concept.

Matt Doumit, 500 NE Campus, spoke in opposition to the University District concept and stated that ASWSU should have gone house-to-house to seek opinions.

Helen Stiller, 935 SE Glen Echo, stated that if she were a Councilmember she would feel uncomfortable voting for an "empty box" concept.

Erica Shoonmaker, 735 NE Monroe, stated she does not feel safe on College Hill and that changes are needed and that the concept is strongly supported by students.

Brian Alkema, 835 NE Illinois, spoke in opposition to the University District concept and stated that he would not renew his lease to live on College Hill.

Jessica Hart stated she felt that there were many forums to help disseminate information to students and urged a yes vote to improve College Hill to combine resources to make improvements and that changes were needed for safety reasons.

Jessica Landen, Regents Hill Hall, stated she is more fearful on the campus proper than other areas of College Hill.

Joshua Meyer, 1365 NE Brandi Way, spoke in favor of the University District because the "empty box" concept is better than "empty hope".

Jessica Moore spoke in support of the University District because of the safety and quality of life issues.

Paul Dec, 715 NE California, stated that commitment and passion alone will not make improvements and that early success will breed future success.

Mayor Johnson thanked everyone for their testimony and their cordial behavior. Councilmember Bloom asked if the Greek students and chapter members were aware of the Panhellenic and IFC councils. Brian Floyd responded by saying his chapter president was available, was informed, and was in support of the concept. Matthew Welborn stated that his fraternity president had other commitments during that time. Riley Mykelbust stated that initially the IFC was against but revoted after they were informed and the vote had changed. Dan Antoni stated that his alumni association was against the University District.

Councilmember Weller stated there needs to be an emphasis on cooperation and that will continue no matter what the outcome of the University District concept is, that he only had one call in support of the University District, and he stated that the dialogue needs to continue.

Councilmember Benjamin stated that he hoped that this discussion was heard by the groups because everybody needs to be a part of this solution.

Councilmember Paul noted that there is more to the City than just the College Hill district and described the City's ward system.

Councilmember Waldrop thanked the community for its involvement and input and stated that this is an example of the democratic process. Councilmember Waldrop stated that he thought that there were many organizations that the students can be involved with on College Hill and that we may be suboptimizing the efforts on College Hill. Councilmember Waldrop listed and described the various organizations that have been formed on College Hill and that these organizations are looking for student involvement. Councilmember Waldrop stated that he has concerns about adding layers of bureaucracy and in the past issues like this have been deferred for more input so he has fears that if the University District is approved then there would be further delays before action is taken.

Councilmember Benjamin expressed concern with the boundary recommendation because it creates isolated islands and has an overlap with the historic district. Councilmember Benjamin asked if this designation was really the best option or if more input was needed. Planning Director Dickinson responded. Councilmember Benjamin asked if it were better to consider the issue without boundaries. Planning Director Dickinson responded.

Councilmember Wright expressed her appreciation for all that attended, stated that regardless of what happens that the status quo is no longer

acceptable, and there was a need to start holding groups accountable for their actions. Councilmember Wright stated there are existing groups who are untapped resources and that there were public works safety inspections available for substandard housing.

Mayor Johnson noted that many students do not complain of substandard housing until the spring as they are leaving because they feel intimidated by landlords. Public Works Director Workman responded. Mayor Johnson noted that there is documentation called the “Renters Bill of Rights” available for the public.

Councilmember Bloom stated that he became involved with the City Council because of student complaints of living conditions, that the problems are not new, change must occur, and that many groups on College Hill don’t cooperate with each other. Councilmember Bloom stated he would be supporting the University District.

Councilmember Heath thanked President Floyd and WSU for their interest in making improvements on College Hill and stated that she has been involved with College Hill for a long time. Councilmember Heath stated that she felt students should be more involved with all issues because students, in many cases, are the basis to the problems but don’t share their voices when a decision is to be made on College Hill. Councilmember Heath stated she was not in favor of the University District because the boundary of the University District is useless without an interlocal agreement and that College Hill should be addressed as a whole. Councilmember Heath stated that personal responsibility is important for both the students and landlords.

Councilmember Weller stated that he liked the committee concept and that change is needed. Councilmember Weller stated that the “empty box” is not a proposal but the committee can develop the proposal.

Councilmember Benjamin stated he thought there were three issues merged within the concept: the interlocal agreement, the committee, and the University District footprint. Councilmember Benjamin suggested starting with the committee.

Councilmember Heath stated that President Floyd has asked the Council to vote on this footprint and that he should have an answer. Councilmember Waldrop asked if the City would have authority to enter a property if a nonresident of the property signed an affidavit concerning the living conditions. City Attorney McAloon responded.

Councilmember Bloom moved, Councilmember Benjamin seconded to approve the concept of a University District. The motion failed two to five with Councilmembers Bloom and Benjamin voting yea.

Mayor Johnson announced the City Council would take a five-minute break at 9:32 p.m.

Mayor Johnson reconvened the meeting at 9:37 p.m. Councilmember Heath left the meeting at this point due to illness.

Ordinances

Ordinance No. 09-5 - Monetary Donation

12. Mayor Johnson announced that an ordinance had been prepared accepting a restricted donation. Library Services Director Geraldine de Rooy introduced the item and introduced Library Technician James Morasch and Library Assistant Joanna Bailey. James Morasch presented the staff report on Ordinance No. 09-5.

Ordinance No. 09-5 by title only reads as follows:

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING A RESTRICTED MONETARY DONATION FROM THE BIBLIOGRAPHICAL CENTER FOR RESEARCH, ON BEHALF OF THE GATES FOUNDATION, TO THE CITY OF PULLMAN FOR REPLACEMENT OF PATRON INTERNET COMPUTERS AT NEILL PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Councilmember Benjamin moved, Councilmember Wright seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 09-5. The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 09-6 - Monetary Donation

13. Mayor Johnson announced that an ordinance had been prepared accepting a donation. Library Assistant Joanna Bailey presented the staff report. There were no questions on the staff report.

Ordinance No. 09-6 by title only reads as follows:

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING A MONETARY DONATION FROM INLAND NORTHWEST COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FROM THE THOMAS C. AND WINIFRED NEILL ENDOWMENT FUND TO THE NEILL PUBLIC LIBRARY TO BE USED FOR GENERAL SUPPORT OF THE LIBRARY.

Councilmember Bloom moved, Councilmember Benjamin seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 09-6. The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 09-7 - Restricted Donation

14. Mayor Johnson announced that an ordinance had been prepared accepting a restricted donation. Library Assistant Joanna Bailey presented the staff report.

Ordinance No. 09-7 by title only reads as follows:

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING A RESTRICTED MONETARY DONATION FROM INLAND NORTHWEST COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FROM THE ROBERT AND ANNA NEILL LIBRARY FUND TO BE USED FOR ENLARGEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF NEILL PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Councilmember Wright moved, Councilmember Weller seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 09-7. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution

Resolution No. R-8-09 - Purchase of Property

15. Mayor Johnson announced that a resolution had been prepared authorizing and directing the purchase of property. Public Works Director Workman presented the staff report. Mayor Johnson noted that this purchase was for future

expansion and that the City should not miss this opportunity. Public Works Director Workman responded.
Resolution No. R-8-09 by title only reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE PURCHASE OF PROPERTY FROM DAVID R. BROWN AND LAURIE A. BYERS-BROWN.

Councilmember Benjamin moved, Councilmember Weller seconded to adopt Resolution No. R-8-09. The motion carried unanimously.

Motions

Funding Request 16. Mayor Johnson announced that a motion is requested authorizing a funding request from the Shirrod Family Memorial Fund for $45,109 for Heritage Addition design and furniture and to pay for the City's Government Buildings annual charges for building maintenance. Library Services Director de Rooy introduced the item. Library Assistant Joanna Bailey presented the staff report. City Supervisor Sherman stated it was important to recognize generous citizens and that the maintenance component of this funding request was a condition of the original donation. Library Assistant Joanna Bailey described the interior design project.

Councilmember Wright moved, Councilmember Weller seconded to authorize the funding request. Councilmember Paul thanked the public for its generosity and stated this was one of the reasons this community is great. The motion carried unanimously.

Pullman Fresh Food Market Project 17. Mayor Johnson announced that a motion is requested authorizing the submission of a grant application to the Inland Northwest Community Foundation for the Pullman Fresh Food Market project. City Supervisor Sherman presented the staff report and introduced Tammy Lewis. Tammy Lewis, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce, presented a report that described the grant and the fresh food market. Mayor Johnson asked what date the fresh food market would begin. Tammy Lewis responded. Councilmember Weller stated this was a great idea and good investment and asked if there were any plans to expand the fresh food market to include arts and crafts. Tammy Lewis responded.

Councilmember Paul stated this was a great idea and asked if WSU was providing the space for free. Tammy Lewis responded.

Councilmember Weller moved, Councilmember Benjamin seconded to authorize the submission of the grant. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussions

2009 Property Tax 18. Mayor Johnson announced that a discussion is scheduled on the 2009 property tax. Finance Director Woo presented the staff report. Mayor Johnson commented on Pullman's larger share of the accessed valuation within Whitman County.

NEW BUSINESS

There were no items of new business.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Paul 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 10:10 p.m.