

League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report

PULLMAN CITY COUNCIL MEETING:

JANUARY 26, 2021

OBSERVER: Libby Walker

LENGTH OF MEETING: 1 HOUR 50 MINUTES

Attending: Mayor Glenn Johnson, Council members Brandon Chapman, Ann Parks, Eileen Maccoll, Pat Wright, Al Sorensen, Dan Records, and Nathan Weller.

Others: Mike Urban, City Administrator; Laura McAloon, City Attorney; Dee Stiles- Elliott, City Clerk; Keven Gardes, Public Works Director; Mike Heston, Fire Department Chief; RJ Lott, Planning Director; and Jeremy Moore, Senior Building Inspector.

MAYOR JOHNSON: Announcements. There is a **16% increase in COVID vaccine supply to Whitman County. WSU plans to return to in-class teaching** in the fall of 2021. Public participation is encouraged in the **Pullman Comprehensive Plan Survey**: Deadline of Feb. 15.

MAYOR JOHNSON: Confirmation of the appointment of MIKE URBAN as City Administrator. Approved.

REGULAR AGENDA:

JEREMY MOORE, SENIOR BUILDING INSPECTOR. An ordinance related to **changing building codes** in Pullman was presented. Council member Chapman asked about **affordable housing** and the impacts of the changes. Moore explained that costs of building are increasing due to supply and demand and the code changes. Council member Weller was concerned about **increasing poverty** in Pullman.

KEVIN GARDES, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR. The Toole Design Contract is a professional services agreement to **study bicycle and trail availability in Pullman**. The total cost is \$73,914. A steering committee will be formed. The study will be completed by the end of 2021. Kevin Gardes will be the project manager. The last study was done in 1996. Public input will be gathered through workshops, a survey, and a steering committee which will serve as an advisory group.

RJ LOTT, PLANNING DIRECTOR. SynTier Engineering applied to subdivide nine acres into eight lots on **property south of South Grand Avenue and Fairmont Drive**. This area is part of the South Grand Avenue Business Park and would be used for commercial purposes. The preliminary plat was approved but there were concerns about flooding and impacts on traffic.

MIKE URBAN, CITY ADMINISTRATOR: **Chamber of Commerce contract** for tourism through June 30, 2021. The contract was amended to require monthly reports of how **Lodging Tax** expenditures were spent. The Lodging Tax Advisory Committee must approve all expenditures before they go to the City Council.

MIKE HESTON, FIRE DEPARTMENT CHIEF: Two **grant applications to FEMA were approved**. If received, they will be used for overtime expenses and certification of four inspectors.

RJ LOTT: **two annexations to City of Pullman.**

*Bishop-Crithfield annexation would involve **119 acres on South Grand** and be zoned C-3 for general commercial. If and when the South Bypass is built, it would bisect the property.

*Nelson Partners Annexation involves **48 acres at Johnson Road and Bishop Boulevard** to be zoned R3- **medium density residential**. (29 units per acre.) There were concerns about the impact of the South Bypass and the **impact of additional traffic on Johnson Road**. Council member Wright pointed out that the traffic issue was raised the last time a developer wanted to build on Johnson Road. Possible mitigation would involve a traffic light on Johnson.

Both annexations were approved by the Council.

RJ LOTT: update on **Comprehensive Plan**. The Comprehensive Plan will be submitted to the Planning Committee in February or March. It will be presented to the City Council in April or May. There weren't any questions.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.