

## League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report

### PULLMAN CITY COUNCIL MEETING: NOVEMBER 17, 2020

OBSERVER: Libby Walker      Length of meeting: 2 hours 50 minutes

Members present: Mayor Glenn Johnson, Council members Pat Wright, Ann Parks, Dan Records, Nathan Weller, Al Sorenson, Eileen Macoll, and Brandon Chapman.

Other present: Mike Urban, Finance Director and interim City Supervisor; Gary Jenkins, Police Chief; Jennifer Hackman, Economic Development Manager; Francis Benjamin, president of Pullman Kiwanis.

Mayor Johnson shared a **memorial for Bill Gaskins**, a former City Council member, who recently passed away.

Francis Benjamin presented a **donation from Pullman Kiwanis for Mary's Park**. This is the second donation from the club for this park. (no amount shared.)

**Public hearing on the Mayor's budget:** Two local residents asked that more pickle ball courts and lights be developed at Sunnyside Park so that tournaments could be held here.

Jennifer Hackman requested \$4,000 to **hire a marketing firm** for design work on a packet of information that can be given to development companies.

She would provide the script. Some council members asked if this would be enough money and what the deliverables would be. There was no formal vote to approve.

**Chamber of Commerce contract:** There was a long discussion of the Chamber contract with the city. Clearly some council members question what the City is getting for the money involved in the contract. There are no performance metrics. The contract is 10 years old and gets renewed every year. Council member Chapman suggested that the contract should be revamped. Council member Parks suggested a meeting with the Chamber to discuss the contract. Tempers flared. It was agreed that the contract would be presented at the January Council meeting and amendments suggested based on Council input.

**COLAs:** 2% cost of living raises were discussed for non-represented staff. The total cost was approximately \$200,000.

The **1% increase in property tax, emergency medical services tax, and Metropolitan Park District tax** was presented by Mike Urban. The total cost per \$1,000 of a home's assessed value is less than four cents. This increase will result in about \$7 million in revenue in 2021.

Mayor Johnson mentioned several times that he is concerned about the fact that Mike Urban now has two full time jobs. Mike seems to be handling the additional responsibility OK. The search for a **new city supervisor** is on hold until virus rates are down, according to the Mayor. There will be a national search.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50.

Submitted by Libby Walker

Note: This was the first meeting I've attended when I've seen some tempers flare. I think everyone is tired.