

League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report

PULLMAN CITY COUNCIL MEETING: FEBRUARY 9, 2021

OBSERVER: Libby Walker LENGTH OF MEETING: 1.5 hours.

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

OTHERS: Laura McAloon, City Attorney; Dee Stiles-Elliott, City Clerk; Kevin Gardes, Public Works Director, Mike Heston, Fire Department Chief; Gary Jenkins, Police Chief; Michael Thompson, Transit Manager; Joanna Bailey, Neill Public Library Director and staff to the Arts Commission; Jeri Harris, Chair of the Pullman Arts Commission; Clayton Forsmann, Deputy Public Works Director.

MAYOR JOHNSON: Mayor Johnson announced that 7500 **vaccines** have been issued in Whitman County and 8,000 more were received last week.

POLICE CHIEF GARY JENKINS gave the **COVID update**. Whitman County will finish vaccinations for Tier 1B this week end. There have been four cases of the COVID variant in Western Washington. Pullman HS students will return to class on March 1st. Pullman is not mandating that all employees be vaccinated. COUNCILMAN WELLER asked if first responders who have not been vaccinated are allowed to interact with vulnerable populations. The answer was yes. FIRE CHIEF MIKE HESTON reported that 60% of fire personal have been vaccinated.

COUNCIL MEMBER BRANDON CHAPMAN was **elected Mayor Pro Tempore** and COUNCIL MEMBER AL SORENSEN was elected Alternate Mayor Pro Tempore. COUNCILMAN DAN RECORDS nominated them both. There were no additional nominations.

COUNCIL MEMBER DAN RECORDS was selected to represent the Council on the **Downtown Pullman Association Board**. He was selected because of his expertise in accessibility issues. COUNCIL MEMBER ANN PARKS was also interested but withdrew her self-nomination.

TRANSIT MANAGER WAYNE THOMPSON reported on the **four-year transit asset management plan**. Pullman will continue to purchase electric buses and vans every other year.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPUTY DIRECTOR CLAYTON FORSMANN reported that **cleanup of contaminated soil** from an old city fuel site will continue. Pullman will reimburse the Washington State Department of Ecology up to \$1,000 for this work.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR KEVIN GARDES presented a resolution approving a contract between the City and Parametrix, Inc for **design work regarding road improvements at the airport** for a maximum of \$124,860 to be completed by August of 2021. Whitman County will be responsible for design work of their share of the road which is east of the Airport to Highway 270. There is no guarantee that the two designs will be identical. Pullman's share of the road will definitely be multi modal. The Port of Whitman County will be asked if they want to be included.

The motion to authorize the **Pullman Arts Commission** to create the "**Pullman Window Walk 2021**" was introduced by JOANNA BAILEY, DIRECTOR OF NEILL PUBLIC LIBRARY AND STAFF TO THE

PULLMAN ARTS COMMISSION but the main presentation was made by JERI HARRIS, CHAIR OF THE ARTS COMMISSION.

There were **many questions raised**. COUNCIL MEMBER EILEEN MACCOLL thought the timeline is too tight and that there is too much emphasis on WSU involvement. She wanted to delay until May. The project was to be launched tomorrow with art to be selected and installed by April 3, 2021 and remain up until April 28, 2021. MS HARRIS reported that all downtown businesses had been contacted about willingness to participate. COUNCIL MEMBER AL SORENSEN disputed this fact. COUNCIL MEMBER BRANDON CHAPMAN thought artists younger than 18 should be included. It was decided that 3 art students from LMS and 3 from PHS would be selected and included. The committee that makes up the jury will look for family friendly art, but there was no definition of this term in the packet. COUNCIL MEMBER RECORDS objected to this fact.

A motion was made by COUNCIL MEMBER RECORDS to **approve the project with three changes**: incorporate a **youth category**; ensure that **all downtown businesses are contacted**; and develop a **criteria for selection** of art. COUNCIL MEMBER PARKS original motion to approve the proposal without these additions failed. She immediately moved approval of the new motion; COUNCIL MEMBER WRIGHT seconded. The vote was 6:1 with COUNCIL MEMBER SORENSEN voting nay.

Both COUNCIL MEMBERS WRIGHT AND PARKS pointed out that Art Fest was not micromanaged by the Council and that if this is the intent of the Council, there was no need to have an Arts Commission.

One council member was needed to be selected to serve on the jury to select the art pieces. COUNCIL MEMBER RECORDS nominated COUNCIL MEMBER MACCOLL. Three members abstained. When COUNCIL MEMBER MACCOLL voted for herself to fill this position, the vote was 4:3 to approve her. COUNCIL MEMBERS WRIGHT, PARKS, AND SORENSEN abstained.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.