

League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report

PULLMAN CITY COUNCIL MEETING: **JULY 14, 2020**

OBSERVER: Libby Walker **Length of meeting:** 1 hour 15 minutes

A **hybrid meeting**: some Council members were physically there and some joined via zoom. All of the public speakers were there in person. Everyone physically there wore masks.

Members present: Mayor Johnson, Council members Wright, Chapman, Parks, Sorensen, Weller, Records.

Members absent: Council member Macoll

Others attending: Adam Lincoln- City Administrator; Mike Urban - Director of Finance and Administration; Laura McAloon - City Attorney; Kevin Gardes - Public Works Director; Clayton Forsman - Deputy Director Public Works; Dee Stiles-Elliott - City Clerk; Warren Ford - owner of O-Ramen; WSU Professor Joe Hedges from Fine Arts; WSU Professor Gilmore from the College of Education; Anthony Haynes - 5th grade teacher in Pullman; Tremaine Gaither - concerned Pullman resident; Jason Kennedy - 7 year resident of Pullman and employee at Black Cypress; Samantha (?) - speaker in favor of mural; WSU student Ivy - speaker in favor of mural.

The meeting began with a **presentation** by members of the **Pullman chapter of Black Lives Matter**. Professor Hedges from WSU explained the positive consequences of a **city mural** - brings people together, encourages civil discourse, good for the economy. Other speakers emphasized that it is time for Pullman to take a stand on the importance of demonstrating that all residents are valued. It was pointed out that both the WSU president and the Pullman Chief of Police support BLM. Seven hundred signatures have already been collected in support of having a BLM mural.

There was overwhelming strong support from the Council members for the idea of a public mural with the exception of Council member Sorensen who was concerned about the precedent that it sets for the city. Mayor Johnson pointed out that it really is an extension of the Welcome Sign at the entrance of Pullman. There was also strong support for a permanent rather than a temporary mural.

Under new business, Laura McAloon pointed out that the Council needs to make a formal motion to refer this issue to the Pullman Arts Commission. Only Council member Sorensen voted no.

Three separate resolutions were passed to authorize **transit access** for the Community Colleges of Spokane, WSU, and the Pullman School District.

Mike Urban presented a resolution authorizing the **extension of the COVID-19 Emergency Payment Program for past due utility payments** until September 30th. It passed unanimously.

Kevin Gardes presented a **right of way agreement** between the City of Pullman and **O-Ramen** which would allow two tables to be set up outside with a capacity of 6 people. The requirement of 4 feet to the curb would be adhered to. There was broad support and some suggestions were offered on how to expand the capacity.

The meeting adjourned at 8:16 PM.