

League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report

Name of Agency: Pullman City Council

Date: July 22, 2015

Observer Reporting: Anne Lewis, Back up

Time: Called to order 6:32 pm; Adjourned 8:18 p.m.

Joint Meeting of Pullman & Moscow City Councils—First time in 10 years!

Pullman- Mayor Glenn Johnson, Council members: Francis Benjamin, Jeff Hawbaker, Eileen Macoll, Al Sorensen, Nathan Weller, Pat Wright. In addition: Gary Jenkins, Mike Heston, Pete Dickinson, Kevin Gardis, Mark Workman.

Pullman- Mayor Bill Lambert, Council members: Art Bettge, Jim Boland, Dan Carscallen, Wayne Krauss, John Weber. In addition: Les McDonald, Gary Needer, Bill Belmont, LeAnn Hubbard.

Absent & Excused: Fritz Hughes, Walter Steed

Summary/ Business pertaining to League program or topic of interest:

1. Marijuana-

Pete Dickinson primarily speaker. Currently liquor control board administers recreational marijuana. 2 of 3 (possible) businesses operating. Someone interested in property at Merman Drive. Currently 0 production/processors in city limits, there are processors in County.

MJs- Gross revenue up each month.

Just Buds- sign issue (see today's article in paper).

Tax structure originally 25-25-25 (grower/district/retailer). Now 37.5% retail only- benefit (more \$) to city.

Police- Enforcement citations down as legal for 21+. Decrease in ability to address marijuana smoke in adjacent housing. N/C traffic incidents. General compliance in not consuming in public. Average age group (unexpectedly) considerably older than 21.

David Duke/Moscow- anticipated negative impact. Hasn't seen impact. Drug arrests down, drug accidents stable.

Alcohol remains major "problem." Some increase with hospital need for people trying marijuana for first time.

2. Water

Both key councilmen absent. Mark Workman spoke. PBAC & University experts working on issue. A consultant has been hired for a fall study to make an “apples to apples” study of options and identify gaps in knowledge

Idaho in process of adjudicating water rights

3. Pullman-Moscow Regional Airport

Both cities voted “yes” for \$ appropriation. This alignment project is the number 1 airport project in 7 states. A safety issue. Hoping to resolve land/appraisals by end of year.

Alaska airlines being supportive and flexible. 737 for Elson Floyd memorial.

? re: partnerships—Whitman Co., Latah Co., Port, Employers(Schweitzer alluded to, but not mentioned specifically)

4. Regional Economic Development

- a. Credits for taking out lawns and zero scaping
- b. Toilet, washing machine rebates still available
- c. Continuation of H2O and airport
more successful with collaboration
Economic decisions as a region v. city by city. Both cities with focuses on success for individual, but growth for each important. Pride of whole region.

5. Regional Emergency Response

- Fire- City with Lewiston Hazmat (didn't reach agreement with WSU)
- Police- Law enforcement assistance, mutual aid agreements

Observations about the participants, conduct, procedures, subjects of discussion, etc. of the meeting:

Frequent references to being glad to get together for first time in 10 years. Much better “feeling” than 10 years ago (for those at both).

Positive relationship between “Fire” departments seemed most genuine and established. Police also noted working together. City Councils noted getting along, better to work together, etc.

Said subtly, but didn't come across as subtle, jabs/allusions to preference to working with Bill Lambert v. “previous Moscow mayor.”

I was personally impressed by Nathan Weller's preparation, questions, and involvement.

Future Meetings: July 28 and August 11, 2015 cancelled. August 18, 2015 Shoreline Master Program Discussion.

Reminders☺

The purpose of the LWV Observer Corp is:

1. To inform local League members about community issues and to promote public interest in local government.
- 2: To alert the League Board to upcoming agenda items on which we have program positions on which we can speak.
3. To identify areas for future LWV study and action.

A LWV Observer is impartial, silent, and respectful. Only ask questions for clarification if appropriate (preferably after the meeting).

Please attach the Agenda and any other materials received at the meeting to your report. Please return your report to the LWV Observer Chair, Anne Lewis, within one week of the meeting.