

League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report

PULLMAN CITY COUNCIL MEETING: JULY 28, 2020

OBSERVER: Libby Walker Length of meeting: 2 hours 10 minutes This was a **zoom meeting** on the City of Pullman You Tube Channel.

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

OTHERS ATTENDING: Dee Stiles-Elliot, City Clerk; Mike Urban, Director of Finance and Administrative Services; Laura McAloon, City Attorney; Kevin Gardes, Director of Public Works; Tony Bean, Executive Director Pullman-Moscow Regional Airport; Adam Lincoln, City Supervisor; Thomas Van Winkle, citizen.

Mayor Johnson:

Asked city residents to fill out the **census** form. The Pullman rate of return is only 56.4%. There are 84 **positive cases of COVID 19** in Whitman County. The Kiwanis are collecting donations for **“Stuff the Bus.”** A city proclamation was issued to recognize the 30th anniversary of the **Americans with Disability Act.**

R. J. Lott was nominated to replace **Pete Dickinson** as the **Director of City Planning**. The nomination was approved unanimously. Lott is from Wenatchee and will start at the end of August.

Mike Urban, Director of Finance and Administrative Services, presented the **financial update for the 2nd quarter of 2020** (through June 30, 2020). The annual city budget is \$23,349,000. The city used \$1,649,000 in reserves to balance the budget. Sales tax revenue was down 20% in April. Property tax revenue for May and June was strong. Private utilities revenue was up over last year. Building permit revenue was down. Transit revenues were down and refunds are requested by WSU and PSD. **Urban** announced that meetings with department heads would take place on August 4th and 6th. A drop of 12-15% is expected in revenue. Pullman has not received any assistance from Washington state. Considerable savings were the result of a reduction of overtime in both the Fire and Police Departments.

Resolution R-50-20 involved acceptance of a U.S. Dept. of Transportation grant to support design and construction of **a new terminal at Pullman Regional Airport**. **Airport Executive Director Tony Bean** explained that this is discretionary money and the maximum that can be applied for is \$20,000,000. This would be a match of the CARES Fund already in place.

New Business:

Council member Al Sorensen pointed out that the **downtown traffic trial** is now 6 weeks old and is not working. The Jersey barriers are problematic as are cars that are sticking out into the traffic. **Kevin Gardes** suggested removing the bike lane on the north side of the street for the remainder of the trial which will allow more room for parking. **Council member Pat Wright** pointed out the irony of creating back in parking to create more parking spaces downtown but actually fewer people are coming downtown because they do not like the back in diagonal parking. **City Supervisor Adam Lincoln** agreed to schedule a Town Hall meeting to gather public input.

Council member Eileen Macoll attended the recent meeting of the **Downtown Business Association** and was upset to see a full-blown proposal for **Pine Street** including parklets, seating, etc. although nothing has been presented to the City Council. **Adam Lincoln** explained that this was an extension of the parklet discussion previously brought to the Council. He agreed that this idea should be tabled as the City does not have resources to move forward.

Citizen Thomas Van Winkle testified that he is very uncomfortable with any idea that Pullman would sanction the **Black Lives Matter** group, which he claimed is a Marxist organization. He suggested as an alternative a statement such as, "We value all lives. You are all welcome here." There was no discussion.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm