

League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report

Name of Agency: Pullman City Council

Date: September 1, 2015

Observer Reporting: Amy Volz

Business pertaining to League program or topic of interest:

Announcements

Pullman Fire Chief Mike Heston reported on the various Washington State fires as well as his and other Pullman Fire Department's staff's involvement. Over 2,000 cases of water had been sent from the Pullman area so far.

Dakota Renz from ASWSU presented on the student group's goals for university-community relations. They are currently working with Pullman Chamber of Commerce. Several of the events described were 30 Days of Pullman in April, Restaurant Week in February, Halloween Carnival, Dance-a-thon, and Humanitas Festival.

Agenda

Eileen Macoll thanked the parties involved in the agreement reached on the Scout House.

A resolution approving the final plat of Whispering Hills West subdivision was approved.

During the pre-budget workshop there was a request for increased funding for staffing for the city IT department, new server technology, and lastly funding for a new fire prevention position.

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

The mayor seems to be mildly annoyed by council members Macoll and Weller wanting to comment on agenda items. It seems odd, to me at least, that this tension between the mayor and the council members is visible to the audience. Macoll and Weller's comments mainly involved clarification questions, comments of gratitude, and follow-up questions from previous projects.

And just as a head's up, there has been some controversy brewing about the mayor and council's lack of comment on the Planned Parenthood fire. Below is a Facebook post to the "Palouse Supporters of Planned Parenthood: from councilmember Weller:

Thank you for adding me to the group. I have seen some discussion here regarding Pullman City Council's and the City's response in relation the the arson. Here is what I can say, as a Pullman City Councilmember I sent an email to both the mayor and city supervisor regarding the possible need for a temporary location. I also discussed how this might be a Human Rights Commission issue, since I

sit on that committee. I was told that the investigation was under way and not to "jump the gun". I'm sure several of you are aware of some of my personal frustration regarding human rights and poverty challenges locally, especially our response to them. It is important to let the city know if you feel this needs to be addressed, especially the council. I work to bring these issues to the front and will continue despite current attitudes, but it needs to come from others as well. I shared donation information when this first happened on my personal page and will continue to speak out on issues such as this and others that affect our community. Thank you again for the invite [Derrick](#), and thank you to everyone for helping out Planned Parenthood and getting this information out there. This is the welcoming and supporting type of group that helps make Pullman great!

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.