

## League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report

Name of Agency: Pullman City Council

Date: 9/15/2020

Observer Reporting: Karyn Hardy Length of meeting: 2 ½ hours

Members Present: Mayor Glenn Johnson, Council Members Brandon Chapman, Eileen Macoll, Ann Parks, Dan Records, Nathan Weller, Pat Wright, Excused from meeting, Al Sorensen

Others Present: Dee Stiles-Elliot, City Clerk; Mike Urban, Director of Finance & Administrative Services; Laura McAloon, City Attorney; Adam Lincoln, City Administrator; Kevin Gardes, Public Works Director; Mike Heston, Chief Fire Officer; Gary Jenkins, Police Chief; Whitcom Executive Director, Wendy Berrett

### Business pertaining to League Positions or topics of interest:

• Meetings continue to be broadcast over **Pullman's You Tube Channel** respecting COVID 19 Stay Home Stay Safe, public questions and comments required submission by 5 pm 9/15. One public comment discussed during the meeting. To view:

<https://go.boarddocs.com/wa/pullman/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BR9UH97B1305#>

Meeting was called to start at 7 p.m. and roll was called. All but one council member were present.

Several **announcements** made.

- Mike Heston discussed **fire trucks sent to aid fighting fires** in Colfax, Malden, (122 structures destroyed), Wawawai; a car wreck in Dusty; fire in Green Hollow. He stated this is necessary as resources are very tight in Eastern Washington.
- Gary Jenkins explained that the **new Senior Center was set up as an evacuation center**, but Red Cross decided that Rosalia would be a better place to set up operations so the center was not needed past 6 pm. Later in the discussion, Chief Jenkins explained that Red Cross is not placing people in congregate living situations but instead is assisting with hotel rooms.
- Mayor Johnson discussed **Governor Inslee's visit to Whitman County**, WSU, and Malden. Council member Parks reported on **fire relief fund** to assist fire victims through our local United Way, who coordinated other organizations and funds. [whitmanunited.org](http://whitmanunited.org)
- Member Weller asked about homing people with dogs as he has seen a couple of **unhomed people** in Pullman, not necessarily in this position specifically due to the fires.
- Mayor Johnson added that **Community Action is also making some transitional housing** available.
- Washington State Transportation commission met today by zoom.
- **City Administrator Adam Lincoln is leaving** for a job in Pascoe in October.
- **Census numbers**, City of Pullman 59; Whitman County 67  
Washington State 70 percent, **second highest rate response rate in the nation.**

**Presentation by Wendy Berrett, new Executive Director of Whitcom** as of July 1st. Ms Berrett worked at Whitcom for 20 years as dispatcher. She will continue to work on budgetary issues. Whitcom will be dipping into reserves.

[https://go.boarddocs.com/wa/pullman/Board.nsf/files/BTBUPG7D0302/\\$file/Whitcom%20Fee%20Model%202020.pdf](https://go.boarddocs.com/wa/pullman/Board.nsf/files/BTBUPG7D0302/$file/Whitcom%20Fee%20Model%202020.pdf)

**Consent agenda items 1-4 were unanimously approved, including item 4 stating "a public hearing be held on September 29, 2020 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, Pullman, Washington, to consider the Six-Year Transit Development Plan for 2020-2025 and the 2019 Transit Annual Report for the city of Pullman."**

**Regular Agenda consisted of 5 items.** Public was allowed to comment during Council meeting for each of these motions, ability for public to comment publicized on Board Docs, social media, local newspapers, city website. No public comment was received for these agenda items.

Motion to approve was carried for items 1 and 2 for **Capitol and Transportation Improvement.**

Item 3. Health and Sanitation. **Nuisance Party Code.** This code to amended to raise the fine of attendees and hosts of gatherings consisting of more than 10 people from 150 dollars to 250 dollars for first violations, and raising the fine for subsequent offenses to 500 dollars. Motion carried.

Item 4. An ordinance **denying the proposal to amend the zone classification from R3 to R4 for real estate between NW Ritchie street and Nye street.** Motion carried, reclassification was denied.

Item 5. Monies from the original allotment of **CARE\$ Act**, (Pullman received \$1,038,600.00) to be spent by November 30, on an additional **sterilizer**, and **remote sending units** for remote reading of utilities. Motion approved.

**Discussion and public comment by a community member** regarding additional **CARE\$ Act** money in the amount of \$538,000.00. Council member Macoll stated her disappointment over the idea that a memo sent out spending additional CARE\$ dollars disregarded the direction of the City Council. **Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Government Affairs Specialist Hailey Lewis, stated on behalf of SEL, that using federally funded dollars to market tourism to a COVID hotspot is not the best use of these grant dollars. In the opinion of SEL, using these CARE\$ dollars to provide free testing to those in our community who cannot afford the 100.00 dollar fee to be tested is a better use of these funds, using the example that 30,000.00 dollars spent on marketing Pullman businesses could provide 300 tests to members of our community, and that a better marketing campaign should be the example Pullman sets in taking care of our citizens.**

**Process and Protocol:** Participants were polite. Council members seemed well informed.

**Your additional comments/opinions:**

Mayor Johnson was very complimentary toward Chief Jenkins' leadership of the Pullman Police Force. The force has issued tickets in multiple instances to those community members and students who hold gatherings with more than 10 attendees during this pandemic.

**Interesting note**, during the discussion regarding nuisance parties, Council Member Weller asked about businesses (bars and restaurants) who are not requiring patrons to mask. Chief Jenkins explained that this is not the purview of the local police department, that they file a complaint to the appropriate regulatory agency of the State of Washington.

During the Nuisance Party discussion, Council member Records brought up a very good point: if Pullman Police are to fine nuisance party goers, and the party goers, because they do not want to be fined, scatter before the police are able to get their contact information, how will the health department **conduct contact tracing?** Chief Jenkins acknowledged this is a challenge.

Meeting adjourned at 9:24 pm, meeting scheduled for Tuesday September 29, 2020 has been cancelled.