

League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report

Name of Agency: Pullman City Council Date: Dec. 10, 2019 _

Observer Reporting: Libby Walker Length of Meeting: 1 hour

Members Present: Mayor Johnson, Ann Parks, Pat Wright, Brandon Chapman, Dan Records, Eileen Macoll

Members Absent: Al Sorenson, Nathan Weller - both excused.

Others Present: Daily News Reporter, Alison Munch-Rotolo from School Board, Mr. Scharnhorst from Fire Dept., Chief of Police Gary Jenkins, City Attorney McAloon, other guests

The Hood Street sign was taken down and that family's attorney was present to protest. Duane Brelsford was not there to address this issue. It was delayed until the next meeting.

2020 Legislative Agenda: Some reference to a **South bypass**, but I don't have the background. Eileen argued that the bypass should be listed as a priority issue. Initiative 976 will impact this item. The economic benefits of the bypass need to be determined and stressed in the proposal. Motion to adopt the 2020 Legislative Agenda as amended was approved.

Budget Amendments: Civic Improvement Fund regarding July 4th and Lentil Festival. July 4th costs to City were \$24,000 and Lentil Festival were \$34,000.

The Finance Dept. is short-handed and is requesting an additional position.

Central Business District Code Enforcement by Chief Jenkins. There are 8 vacant businesses- Held's Auto, old Moose Lodge, Banner Bank, Audian Theater, Plasma Center, Evolve Building (several office spaces), Mimosa, and Baskin Robbins. There is a public nuisance code which applies to Mimosa. Apparently, the owners of Mimosa fixed some damaged parts of the building that could have been unsafe. On December 17th, there will be a discussion of a vacant building ordinance.

Opioid Impact: City Attorney Laura McAloon and Chief Jenkins: Pullman is automatically part of a class action suit against opioid manufacturers. In 2017, 47,000 people died nationally from opioids. In Washington state in 2017, there were 742 deaths. Pullman has had an average of 24 opioid overdoses a year since 2016. Thirty-one cases of heroin abuse were investigated in 2018. The Council elected to stay in the class action law suit.

B Street and Harvey Potential City Property Sale. Kevin Gardes. There has been an appraisal of the property. Justin Rodgers wants to buy from the city. He wants to convert an old building from a duplex to a triplex. Brandon Chapman said he appreciates anyone who is committed to making College Hill look better. The Council approved moving forward.

New Business: A resident requested that new business appear at the beginning of the meetings.