

## League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report

Name of Agency: Pullman City Council Date: 12-03-2019  
Observer Reporting: Libby Walker Length of Meeting: 1.45 hours  
Members Present/Absent: \_\_\_\_\_  
Others Present (i.e., media, public): \_\_\_\_\_

This was the joint meeting with ASWSU to discuss topics of mutual interest.

**#1 Issue: Poverty and homelessness.** Jeff Guyette gave a presentation. Pullman is seeing an increase in chronic homelessness. **CAC** helps 626 people with resources related to places to live. He stressed the huge gap between low income people and what is available for them to rent. Poverty rate is now 27.5% - a decrease of several points. Most of the clients at CAC are the working poor. Food insecurity in the county is 18%. Affordable medical and dental healthcare and access to public libraries are mentioned as the three top needs.

**Poverty Awareness Task Force:** Nathan Weller gave the presentation. He stressed that “couch surfing” does not get counted in surveys about homelessness. The “point in time” count takes places in January. Warming shelter last year but none this year.

**#2 Issue: Transportation.** Pullman’s transit manager Wayne Thompson and WSU’s John Shaheen reported. Pullman’s priority is to fine-tune the city routes. After these needs are met, transportation to and from the airport will be addressed - \$242,000. Third priority is a Moscow/Pullman connection. Many issues here. Past history on campus to campus shuttle - ridership was less than 10 and most people were commuters rather than students. According to John Shaheen from WSU, the issue is affordability, not ridership.

A private charter bus ran between the two towns from 1992-2011. Creating a new bus route would cost approximately \$340,000, with half of the cost coming from the federal gov’t.

**#3 Issue:** two WSU Senators presented the topic of **police-student relations**. Pullman black population is 2.7% but black residents were 12.5% of all arrests. Most of the data presented was national and not local.

**#4 Issue:** Gary Jenkins, Chief of Police. **Police training in cultural competency** takes place. Alternative parking during school breaks with code enforcement.

**#5 Issue: Recycling.** Devon Felstad. Co-mingled recycling costs \$152 per ton to dispose of. Plastic bottles #1-7 are OK. Magazines are OK. WSU system is more nimble. It costs more to recycle mixed stream than to landfill it.

Pullman School District: Presentation by Bob Maxwell and Diane Hodge: Election is Feb. 11. **Two replacement levies and one bond**. Levy #1: \$5.2 million; Levy #2: \$200,000 for each of four years. Bond: \$2.78 per \$1000 of assessed valuation. An advisory committee recommended \$15,000,000 20-year bond for expansion of LMS. Also, new HVAC systems for the three elementary schools. LMS is 91 students over capacity. If the bond passes, the capacity will be 850.

I left at 8:45 P.M. The meeting was still ongoing.  
Libby Walker  
Observer Corps member for City Council

**Additional comments/opinions:**

From the D. News on Wednesday: District Court: The City agreed to pay Whitman County \$450,000 to process misdemeanors, gross misdemeanors, and code violations for one year.

I asked Laura McAloon, the City Attorney, about how many Council members we could invite to one of our meetings. It has to be less than 4 because that constitutes a quorum. Therefore, we will only invite Eileen and Ann to our Brown Bag on Dec. 17.