

League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report  
Pullman City Council: Feb. 26, 2019  
Submitted by Libby Walker

Present: Glenn Johnson, Ann Parks, Dan Records, Eileen Macoll, Nathan Weller, Al Sorenson, Brandon Chapman, Pat Wright

Recognition of Fire Chief Mike Heston for an award he recently earned- Chief Fire Officer.

Presentations:

Paul Kimmell from Avista: "Smarter Together" This involves grid modernization and "smart meters." One advantage is quicker responses to outages and faster access to energy usage by customers. Installation in Pullman in mid May. Customers will receive letters from Avista about this.

District Court update:

Kevin Gardes presented his memo on costs of the Court staying in current building. \$50,000 is the approximate cost. Includes utilities, water, sewer, custodial work, plus overhead. Unpredictable major building repairs are also a factor.

Ned Warnick, Architect from Design West, presented the second memo. Current state standards would involve more dedicated space, which can be accommodated. The challenge has to do with security like separate access for judges and separate waiting areas for adversaries. The weapons screening requirement will require a reconfiguration of the lobby and the addition of a security officer as well as three security zones any time staff from the District Court are in the building which will disrupt some of the public business functions.

There was a discussion among the Council members about comments they are hearing from the public about the location of District Court and whether they were misled when the bond was presented to the voters.

A joint meeting will be held with county officials to discuss the issue of the location of the District Court.

115 SW Center Street Rezone from R2 to C3. Planning Director Pete Dickinson reported that staff does not recommend approval. An automotive service business has already been operating there. Vote was to approve staff recommendation; Brandon Chapman voted against.

I left at 8:30 and missed the discussion of reducing the speed limit on Main St. Apparently no vote was taken at the meeting. The issue was tabled.

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